



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Date: Thursday, June 12, 2025
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Committee Room
262075 Rocky View Point
Rocky View County, AB T4A 0X2

Pages

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Note: a meeting of the ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee will be held following the Agricultural Service Board meeting

B. UPDATES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- | | |
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| 1. March 13, 2025 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes | 2 |
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D. APPOINTMENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. 10:00 AM - 4-H Presentation | 8 |
|--------------------------------|---|

Presenter: Braden Isley

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Agricultural Fieldman Report | 9 |
| 2. Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Update | 11 |
| 3. Resolution Response Grading Report | 25 |
| 4. Agricultural Master Plan Update | 72 |
| 5. Upcoming Events | 74 |

F. FARM MEMBER REPORTS

- | | |
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| 1. Farm Member Reports | |
|------------------------|--|

G. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agricultural Service Board will be held on September 18, 2025.

H. ADJOURN THE MEETING



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025

9:00 A.M.

Committee Room
262075 Rocky View Point
Rocky View County, AB T4A 0X2

Present: Councillor G. Boehlke, Chair
Deputy Reeve D. Kochan (arrived at 9:28 a.m.)
Councillor S. Wright
Member T. Birchall
Member T. Eklund (participated electronically)
Member T. Fehr

Absent: Member A. Bates, Vice-Chair

Also Present: K. Lines, Manager, Agricultural and Environmental Services
M. Chilakos, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services
D. McNaughton, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services
L. Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services
A. Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services
M. Mitton, Legislative Officer, Legislative Services
M. Nakonechny, Legislative Officer, Legislative Services

A Call Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Deputy Reeve Kochan was not present when the meeting was called to order.

B Updates/Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Member Fehr that the March 13, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting agenda be approved as presented.

Carried
Absent: Deputy Reeve Kochan

C-1 January 16, 2025 Agricultural Services Board Meeting Minutes

MOVED by Member Eklund that the January 16, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Carried
Absent: Deputy Reeve Kochan



E-1 Agricultural Fieldman Report

Kristyn Lines, Manager with Agricultural & Environmental Services reported the following:

- 1) The Provincial ASB Committee has now posted the 2025 resolutions on their website <https://agriculturalserviceboards.com>. Fourteen resolutions were debated and nine were passed at the ASB Provincial Conference. Letters will be delivered to the Federal and Provincial governments, and their responses will be posted on the website as soon as they are received.
- 2) Agricultural & Environmental Services is actively recruiting and interviewing for our seasonal positions. We are currently recruiting for Mowing Operators, Spraying Operators, Weed Inspectors, a Crop Inspector and a Seasonal Administrative Clerk. The postings will remain open until suitable candidates have been found for all positions. The seasonal positions will start on May 12, 2025, with the exception of the mowers who will start on May 26, 2025.
- 3) Registration is open for farms wanting to share their agriculture story with consumers during Alberta Open Farm Days. Farms wishing to participate have until April 30, 2025, to register. This year's event will run province wide the weekend of August 16 and 17, 2025. This is a collaborative, province wide, two-day event that gives Albertans an opportunity to experience the farm and understand where their food comes from. Farms can register online at <https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-farms/>
- 4) Phase 2 of public engagement on the revised Agriculture Master Plan has concluded. The second round of engagement included an online survey and Community Conversations hosted in Madden, Indus, Jumping Pound and Irricana.
 - i. Phase 2 of engagement took place from December 27 to February 7, 2025, with the goal of allowing the community to review and validate proposed actions outlined in the draft Agriculture Master Plan.
 - ii. The County visited four communities to host over 100 participants for a community workshop where participants reviewed and discussed the proposed initiatives in small, facilitated groups with workbooks.
 - iii. Additionally, participants shared their feedback online through a survey.
 - iv. In total, 135 residents provided a combined 1078 comments during their review of the draft plan.
 - v. Including online contributions, residents spent a collective 177 hours engaging on the draft plan.

MOVED by Member Birchall that the Agricultural Fieldman report be received for information.

Carried
Absent: Deputy Reeve Kochan



E-3 Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family Report

Deputy Reeve Kochan arrived to the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Kristyn Lines, Manager with Agricultural & Environmental Services reported the following:

Administration reviews nominees annually and recommends their selection to the Agricultural Service Board. When multiple farm families are nominated in one year, they are carried forward to the following year for consideration again.

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the Agricultural Service Board selects the farm family recommended by Administration, with the announcement of the recipient at the annual agricultural tour on July 24th, 2025.

Carried

D-1 Understanding Groundwater – Surface Water Connection for Watershed Stewardship

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer with Agricultural & Environmental Services introduced Dr. Masaki Hayashi, Professor in the Department of Earth, Energy, & Environment at the University of Calgary who reported the following:

Surface water is always connected to groundwater and as such, they need to be understood as a single resource in the context of integrated watershed management. Most of the water flowing in creeks are sourced by headwater springs in small tributaries feeding the creek. Therefore, flow rates in creek and groundwater levels in local aquifers are closely connected. Therefore, for the effective stewardship of watersheds within Rocky View County, it is important to monitor groundwater level in local aquifers.

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Understanding Groundwater – Surface Water Connection for Watershed Stewardship report for information.

Carried

The Chair called for a recess at 10:10 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:15 a.m.



E-2 Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Update

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer with Agricultural & Environmental Services reported the following on behalf of Kellie Jackson with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation:

- 1) Regulated Weed Review
 - a) The Weed Review Committee has met 6 times to review all the survey responses from invited stakeholders, including municipalities, on currently regulated and potentially regulated weed species. The engagement input from the committee will be utilized to inform the recommendations that will be put forward to the Minister for decision. It is anticipated that the work of the committee will be complete this Spring/ Summer.
- 2) Seed Plant Inspections
 - a) AGI is working to improve the clarity of the product verification check criteria by engaging Fieldmen and Alberta Seed Processors Association managers. A virtual meeting is planned for late March to address issues and improve the inspection process. Updates will be finalized by summer 2025.
- 3) 1080
 - a) Karen Wickerson (AGI) is working with PMRA and Health Canada to identify the required labelling requirements for 1080 that will allow for the redistribution of 1080. Karen will provide details once finalized.
- 4) Insect Management Specialist
 - a) Amanda Jorgensen has joined the Crop Assurance Branch as an Insect Management Specialist at CDCN. She brings experience from AAFC in Beaverlodge and will contribute to insect pest forecasts and surveys for Alberta producers and municipalities.
- 5) Mature Asset Strategy
 - a) GOA ministries, RMA, producer groups, landowner groups - surface rights association, land, the property rights tribunal and industry representatives have collaborated on managing oil and gas liabilities due to aging energy infrastructure. A draft report is under review, with a final version expected for Cabinet consideration this spring and a legislative bill in the fall.

MOVED by Member Birchall that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Report for information.

Carried



E-4 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report

Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services; Matthew Chilakos, Agricultural Services Officer; Delaney McNaughton, Agricultural Services Officer; Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer; and Ashley Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer, provided the Board with the Agricultural Services Annual Report.

MOVED by Member Fehr that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Agricultural Service Board Annual Report for information.

Carried

E-5 Upcoming Events Report

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer with Agricultural & Environmental Services reported the following upcoming events:

The events below are identified for the Board's information.

1. Foothills Forage and Grazing Association AGM, High River [March 14](#)
2. Advancing Women in Agriculture conference, Calgary [March 16-18](#)
3. Biochar: A Game-changer for soil health & sustainability, virtual [March 17](#)
4. Canola Leaders Event, Edmonton - [March 18 & 19](#)
5. Beef Cattle Research Council Winter [Webinar Series](#)
 - a. Parasite Management: The Ins & Outs of External & Internal Parasite Mgt [March 19](#)
6. AgKnow Winter Webinar Series – Women & the Intergenerational Transfer of Family Farms [March 26](#)
7. FCC Young Farmer Summit – virtual [March 26](#)
8. Agricultural & Environmental Services workshop list

MOVED by Member Birchall that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Upcoming Events Report for information.

Carried

F Farm Member Reports

Trevor Birchall:

- With the warmer weather calving season has begun in the area
- Hot topic is the dryness – everyone is hoping for more moisture
- The impact of tariffs has made everyone jittery – not only tariffs from the United States, but also China



Travis Eklund:

- Gophers are up and the first calves are out
- Weed control with woody species has been an issue, as they cannot be sprayed without a permit. There is a movement to shift from range improvement to range restoration. Some are trying to make it easier for producers on leased land to control woody species such as snowberry.
- Communicated with a real estate agent who is seeking out agricultural producers to purchase dirt from new developments. Soil quality is unknown, and the real estate agent was evasive when asked about soil testing and separation from clay.
- The province has created a program to hunt elk out of season if there is an elk conflict. There was an impression that the elk population has been in decline and fewer tags have been issued. However, this does not appear to be the case, as approximately 1000 elk have been spotted in Jumping Pound along Highway 1. The elk population is not expected to decline under the new program and will allow producers to shoot legally if the elk is a nuisance.
- At the provincial ASB conference, many were discussing biosolids (dried waste from sewage plants). In Texas, there has been a lawsuit against a producer who has been fertilizing with biosolids, allegedly contaminating neighbours' farms, resulting in livestock deaths and water pollution.

Tricia Fehr:

- Gophers are up
- Tariffs are causing concern, and everyone has been very cautious
- Attended University of Calgary conference focused on water and irrigation. There is a plan to add 30,000 acres of irrigation within the Western Irrigation District, diverting from the Rosebud River.

H Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Agricultural Service Board meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025.

I Adjourn the Meeting

MOVED by Member Fehr that the March 13, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned 11:27 a.m.

Carried

Chair or Vice-Chair

Chief Administrative Officer or
designate



Agricultural Service Board

Subject:	4-H Report
Date:	June 12, 2025
Presenter:	Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services
Department:	Agricultural & Environmental Services

REPORT SUMMARY

Agricultural Services Administration on behalf of the Rockyview 4-H District will provide an overview of the enhancements 4-H clubs in the district have been able to achieve through sponsorship provided by Rocky View County. Braden Isley, senior 4-H member with the Bow Valley 4-H Beef club will be presenting to showcase one of the life skills 4-H provides to youth.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agricultural Service Board receive the 4-H Report for information.

BACKGROUND

Implementation of recommendations from the Agriculture Master Plan resulted in financial support to 4-H clubs throughout the County. Funding was targeted to each of the 12 (twelve) traditional clubs and 2 (two) intro to 4-H clubs for advertising, meeting space rental, district events and for two annual scholarships in the district. In addition, workshops and judges for various events were offered, as well as links to the 4-H website.

DISCUSSION

Through the County's contribution, 4-H clubs have undertaken several enhancements. A representative of the Rockyview 4-H District has provided an overview of how the County's funding is being utilized and will be presented by Agricultural Services Administration. As well, a Club Member will be providing the ASB with a presentation.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration has no alternate direction for the Board's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.



Agricultural Service Board

Subject:	Agricultural Fieldman Report
Date:	June 12, 2025
Presenter:	Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services
Department:	Agricultural & Environmental Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides updates on Agricultural & Environmental Services matters since the last update provided on March 13, 2025.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agricultural Service Board receives the Agricultural Fieldman for information.

BACKGROUND

Program highlights within Agricultural & Environmental Services since the last meeting.

DISCUSSION

1. Seasonal Staff
 - The Agricultural Services seasonal team, including Weed Inspectors, a Crop Inspector, Mower Operators and Equipment Operators, have commenced their summer term.
 - These positions support the County's operational programs including weed inspection and control, inventorying and inspections of canola fields, roadside mowing operations, and roadside/ municipal lands vegetation management throughout the County.
2. Roadside Weed Control Program
 - Herbicide applications on County roads follow a three-year rotational cycle.
 - In 2025, roadside ditches in Division 5 are scheduled for inspection and targeted spot treatments to manage prohibited noxious and noxious weeds.
 - The roadside spray program is scheduled to begin mid-June, subject to weather and operational conditions.
 - Operators will also target roadsides with kochia on the east side of the County.
3. 2024 ASB Grant Reporting
 - Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation (AAI) released the 2024 online ASB Grant Reporting system earlier this spring.
 - Rocky View County Administration has submitted the grant report and is currently completing the 2024 Statement of Income and Expenditures.
 - Reporting is required to ensure transparency and continued eligibility for ASB Grant funding.

4. 2025- 2029 ASB Grant Approval

- The County's 2025–2029 ASB Grant Application has been approved.
- Rocky View County will receive continued funding through both the Legislative Stream and the Resource Management Stream.
- This funding supports core programming in weed control, pest surveillance, extension services, and resource stewardship initiatives.

5. 2025 Crop Reporting

- As of May 27, 2025 provincial seeding for major crops has progressed to 90 per cent complete. Regionally, the South is furthest ahead at 97 per cent complete, followed by the Northwest at 93 per cent, Central at 89 per cent, Northeast at 86 per cent and Peace at 84 per cent.
- Despite this progress, moisture levels have declined largely due to dry winds. Without adequate moisture this could become a concern for sustained crop and pasture development.
- To [Read the latest crop report](#), see the linked report.
- For moisture updates, [Read the latest update](#).

6. ASB/ADM Spring Town Hall

- The Spring Town Hall with Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) John Conrad was held virtually on June 4, 2025.
- Key updates from Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation and stakeholder engagement priorities were discussed.

7. Central Region ASB Chairmen's Meeting

- The Central Region ASB Chairman's Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 13, in Botha, Alberta.
- Agenda items include discussion and grading of the 2025 Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Responses.
- County Administration and the ASB Chair will attend and provide a follow-up report, including grading outcomes, to the ASB in Fall 2025.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration has no alternate direction for the Board's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.



Agricultural Service Board

Subject:	Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Update
Date:	June 12, 2025
Presenter:	Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services
Department:	Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

REPORT SUMMARY

Kellie Jackson, Strategic Evaluation Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation will provide the Board with an Update

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agricultural Service Board receives the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Update Report for information.

BACKGROUND

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AAI) transitioned the Agricultural Service Board Key Contact Program to a Regional Liaison approach. The intent of the program remains the same and serves to promote open and effective communication between ASB's and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.

DISCUSSION

Highlights:

1. 2025–2029 ASB Grant

- Once an application is approved by the ASB Program, it is entered into the grant management system for processing and approval.
- The grant agreement is then sent for municipal wet signatures. Upon return, the agreement is signed by Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) and processed for payment approval.
- Once approved, the first payment of the grant cycle is issued to the applicant.

In the event of a Canada Post strike, cheques will be held and issued after the strike ends.

2. 2024 ASB Grant Reporting

- Final reporting for the 2019–2024 ASB Grant cycle is open until June 30, 2025.
- The reporting link and forms for submitting income and expenditures have been distributed.
- A reminder to also submit your reports to Municipal Affairs.

3. Weed Review Recommendations

- AGI staff are finalizing documentation to submit recommendations from the Weed Review Committee (WRC) to the Minister for decision.
- A summary will be shared with WRC members for regional updates.
- Stakeholders will be informed of the Minister's decisions once available.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Update

- AGI will work with stakeholders to update relevant resources to align with any approved changes to the Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weed lists.

4. Moisture Update

- The most recent Moisture Update was issued on May 21, 2025 (attached).

5. Alberta Plant Health Laboratory (APHL)

- All Ag Fieldmen and ASBs have been sent an email with:
 - A fact sheet
 - Submission form
 - Contact details for the APHL
- The APHL, part of AGI's Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section, provides:
 - Diagnostics for crop and plant diseases (e.g., clubroot, blackleg, Dutch elm disease)
 - Molecular identification of regulated weeds and invasive species
 - Surveillance of new and emerging pests affecting agriculture

6. Crop Disease Monitoring Update

- Thank you to ASBs for continued support of Alberta's crop disease surveys.
- Surveys help maintain a strong crop assurance program by rating disease symptoms in the field and testing samples in the lab.
- In-crop monitoring occurs July–October, with lab testing October–April.
- Survey results are used for monitoring, trade resolution, and guiding product placement.

Surveys include:

- Peas (5 diseases)
- Wheat foliar (8)
- Barley foliar (7)
- Irrigated seed alfalfa (3)
- Dry beans (6)
- Lentils (8)
- Flax (7)
- Canola (4)
- Wheat head (6)
- A 2024 results summary will be shared with each municipality shortly.
- 2025 surveys will repeat 2024 protocols, with the same targets.
- Major ASB contributions include: Canola Health Survey and Wheat/Barley Head Survey.
- Protocols, training, and materials (bags, foot coverings) will be distributed in the coming weeks.

7. Canada's Food System Campaign

- National launch of *Canada's Food System: Our Food, Our Future* — a public trust campaign led by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity.
- Aims to celebrate and raise awareness of Canada's globally respected food system.
- Learn more and sign the pledge at Canada's Food System [Canada's Food System](#).

8. Wild Board

- 539 wild boar have been removed to date.
- Trapping success has slowed due to increased natural food availability.
- Alberta Pork trappers are scouting new areas and acquiring permissions for fall operations.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Update

Program updates:

- Government is reviewing potential changes to the farmed wild boar industry, including a possible phase-out.
- Stakeholder engagement (April–May) included producers, processors, auction markets, and ASB Provincial Committee reps.
- AGI will analyze feedback and develop next steps over summer.
- Wild Boar Tours (spring/summer) are being offered in partnership with Alberta Pork to:
 - Observe wild boar signs and habitat
 - Learn detection tips using remote cameras
- Invitations extended to high-priority regions; other regions may join if space permits.
- Travel funding is available. Contact: Hannah McKenzie, Wild Boar Specialist.

9. Compound 1080

- Final proof of Compound 1080 outer packaging is underway to meet Health Canada/PMRA regulations.
- Ag Fieldmen will be contacted to confirm participation and arrange delivery.
- Development of the Product Stewardship Program continues. More details to come this fall.
- A 30-minute update is scheduled for the program at IST this fall.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration has no alternate direction for the Board's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Agricultural Moisture Situation Update May 21, 2025

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

May 21, 2025

30-Day Synopsis

As spring advances, Alberta typically enters a wetter phase beginning in May (**Map 1**).

There are notable regional differences in precipitation between April 22 and May 21. The western portion of the province, west of the Highway 2 corridor, received more than 30 mm of precipitation in the last 30 days (**Map 2**). The heaviest rainfall was received west of Red Deer, with Clearwater County receiving more than 70 mm of precipitation. East of Red Deer, Flagstaff County along with the Counties of Stettler and Paintearth received between 30 and 60 mm of precipitation.

Lower levels of precipitation, 5 to 20 mm, were received across the eastern portion of the province. The Peace Region received less than 20 mm in the last 30 days. A significant area around the central Peace Region, as well as several pockets across the region, received less than 5 mm of precipitation. The northern Peace Region, around High Level and Fort Vermillion received 5 to 10 mm of precipitation.

Comparing recent precipitation levels to long-term normal across Alberta, over the past 30 days, reveals significant spatial variability (**Map 3**). Relative to normal, the last 30-day precipitation accumulations trended from near normal to higher than normal for most of the Central, North West, North East and western portion of the South Region. A large area around Clearwater County and extending into Brazeau, Ponoka, Lacombe, Red Deer Counties and the County of Wetaskiwin received moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) to high (once in 6 to 12-year highs) 30-day precipitation relative to long-term normal.

The eastern portion of the province, including parts of the North East, Central and South Regions, have several areas with moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal. A few areas in Cypress County and the County of Forty Mile have low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

Most of the Peace Region is also reporting 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal from moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) to extremely low (once in 25 to 50-year lows). The lowest 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal are in the M.D.s of Greenview, Big Lakes and Smoky River as well as Northern Sunrise County.

Growing Season Precipitation Trends

As May 21 the growing season precipitation accumulations, from April through October, vary significantly across Alberta, with roughly half the province experiencing near-normal conditions, and the other half showing notable deviations from long-term norms.

The Central Region, the western half of the South Region, and the North West Region have near normal (once in 3-years) to moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) growing season precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal (**Map 4**). Pockets of high (one in 6 to 12-year highs) to very high (once in 12 to 25-year highs) precipitation relative to normal are scattered through the western portion of this area.

Cypress County and much of the County of Forty Mile have moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal.

The North East Region from Edmonton to the Saskatchewan border also have moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal. Pockets through Beaver, Lamont, Thorhild and Smoky Lake Counties have low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal.

The growing season accumulations relative to normal across the Peace Region ranges from low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) to extremely low (once in 25 to 50-year lows). A few pockets across the M.D.s of Greenview, Big Lakes and Smoky River have longer than once in 50-year growing season accumulations relative to normal. The exception is the northern Peace Region, Mackenzie County, which has near normal (once in 3-year) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

About half of Alberta has a reasonably typical growing season so far, in terms of precipitation.

365-Day Precipitation Trends

Looking back over the past 365 days, precipitation accumulations relative to normal (**Map 5**) have changed since the last report. The areas that had reported moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year) to low (once in 6 to 12-year) precipitation accumulations relative to normal have increased. These areas are now reporting 365-day precipitation accumulations of 70 to 90% relative to average (**Map 6**).

There are areas in each region experiencing very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) 365-day precipitation accumulations relative to normal. Small pockets across the province have extremely low precipitation accumulations (once in 25 to 50-year lows) relative to the long term normal. The 365-day precipitation accumulations in these areas are approximately 50 to 70% relative to average.

Conversely, the eastern half of the Central Region, parts of the South and North West Regions and the eastern portion of the Peace Region have near normal 365-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal. This translates to precipitation accumulations between 90 to 110% of average, which is positive news for those farming in these areas.

Soil Moisture Reserves

It is estimated that many fields in southern and central Alberta are experiencing near-normal soil moisture levels (**Map 7**). A large area from Wheatland County north to the County of Stettler and east into the Special Areas is estimated to have moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) soil moisture reserves relative to normal. It is estimated this area has between 60 to 80 mm of water in 120 cm depth of soil ready to support early growth (**Map 8**). This is estimated to be near normal to 25 mm above normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

In contrast, soil moisture in the County of Forty Mile east to the M.D. of Pincher Creek is estimated to be moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) (**Map 7**).

Estimated soil moisture reserves appear to have improved around Red Deer. An area through Mountain View County, and into Red Deer County is estimated to be moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) (**Map 7**).

Moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) persist around Edmonton through Westlock, Thorhild, Strathcona and Sturgeon Counties. Similar conditions are estimated to persist across the Peace Region. This area is estimated to have 40 to 60 mm of soil moisture as plant available water to a depth of 120 cm (**Map 8**). This represents a 25% to 50% deficit from normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

Perspective

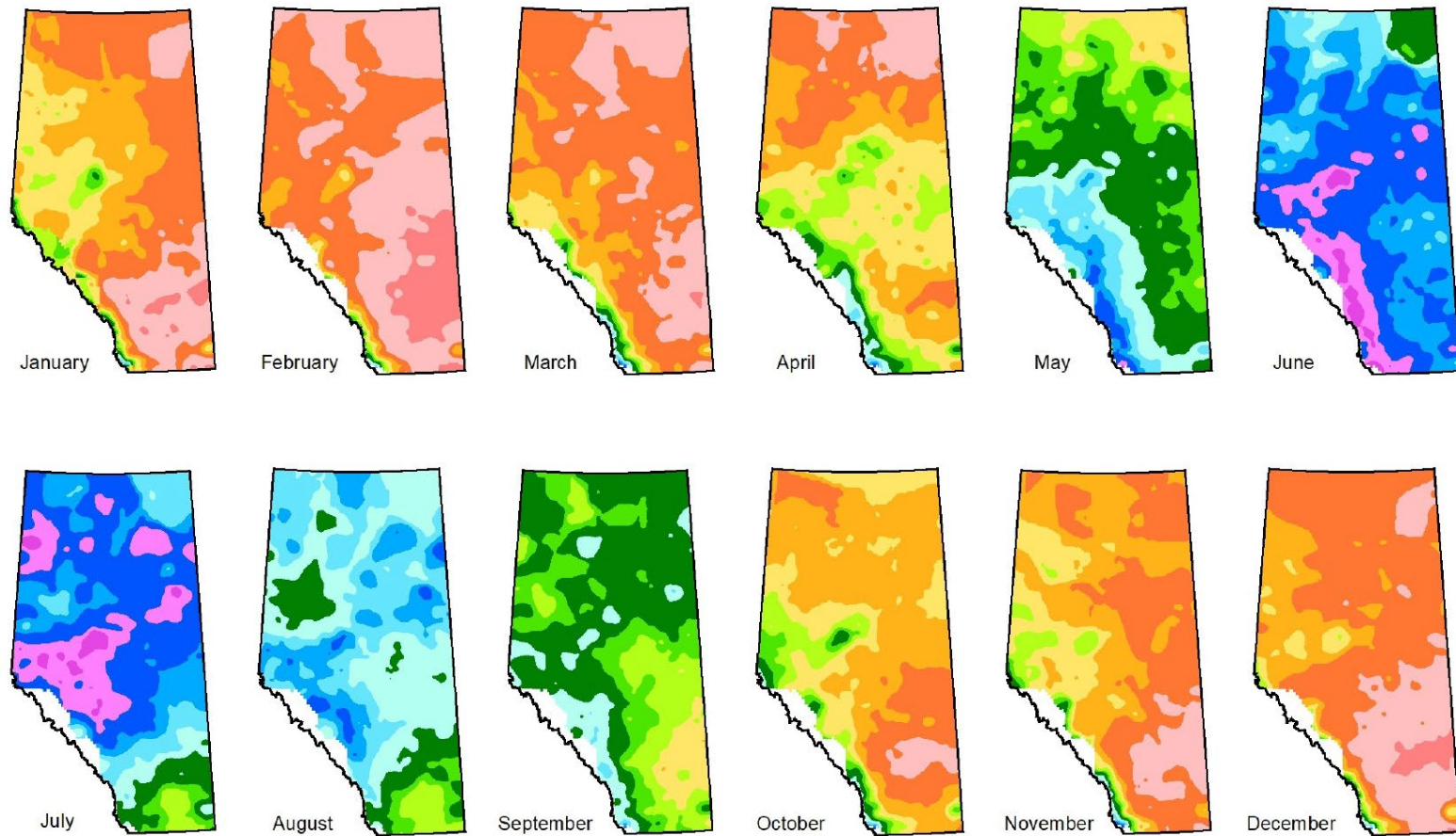
As spring moisture begins to accumulate, soil moisture reserves will improve. Winter is inherently the driest season, and its influence on soil moisture and agricultural productivity is minimal.

The months of May through July are pivotal. They contribute the bulk of moisture needed for crop germination, vegetative growth and yield formation. What happens in these months

will be the true determinant of the 2025 cropping season's outcome.

Alberta is now entering its historically wetter period. There remains ample opportunity to improve moisture conditions, provided rainfall arrives in a timely and sufficient manner.

Map 1



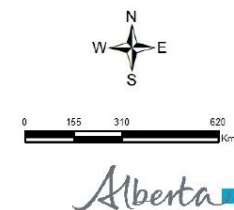
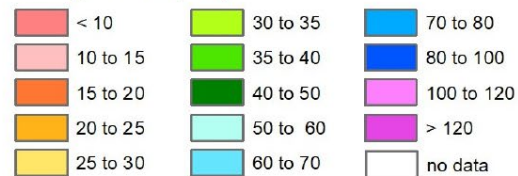
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

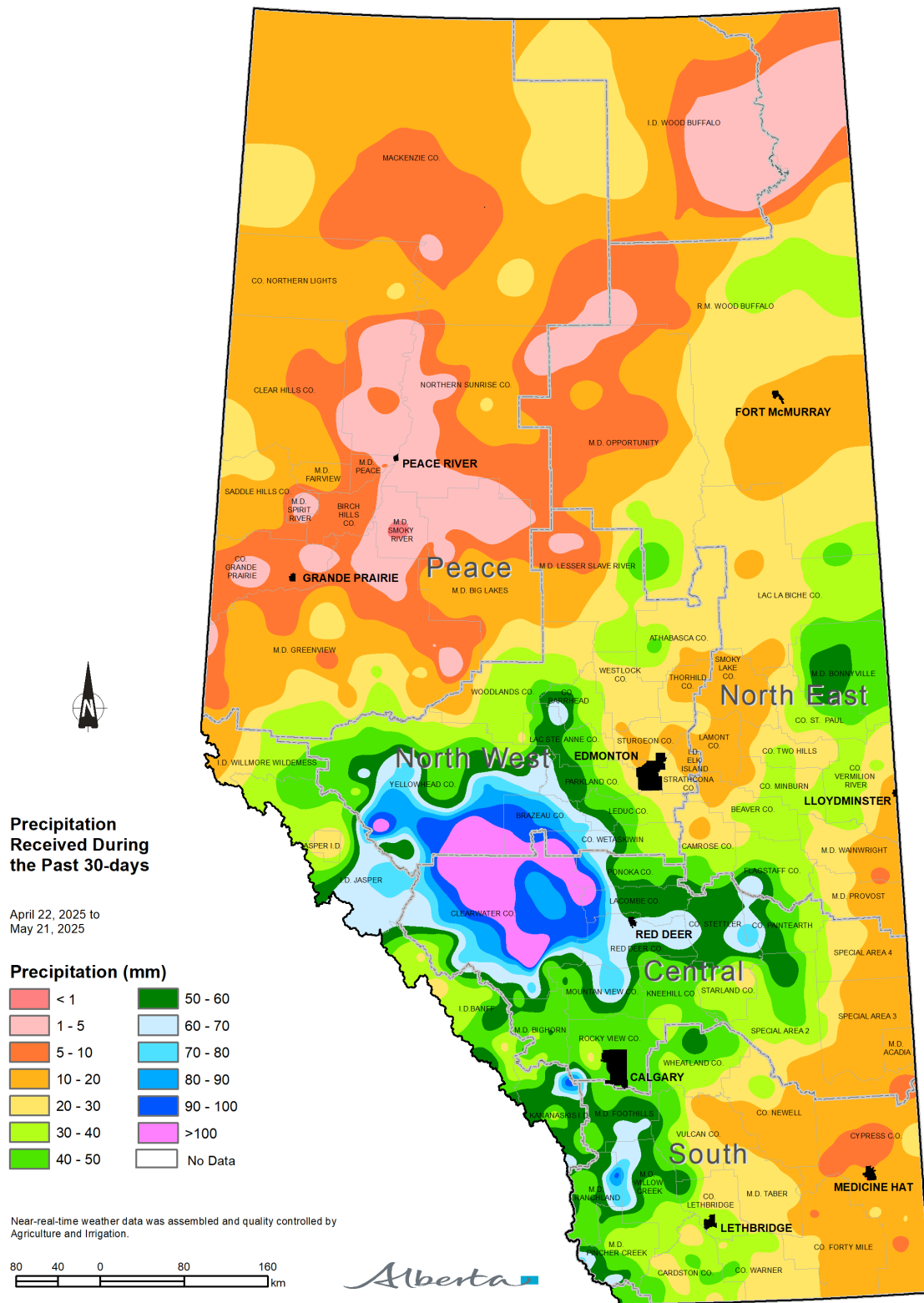
Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by
Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development
then interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)

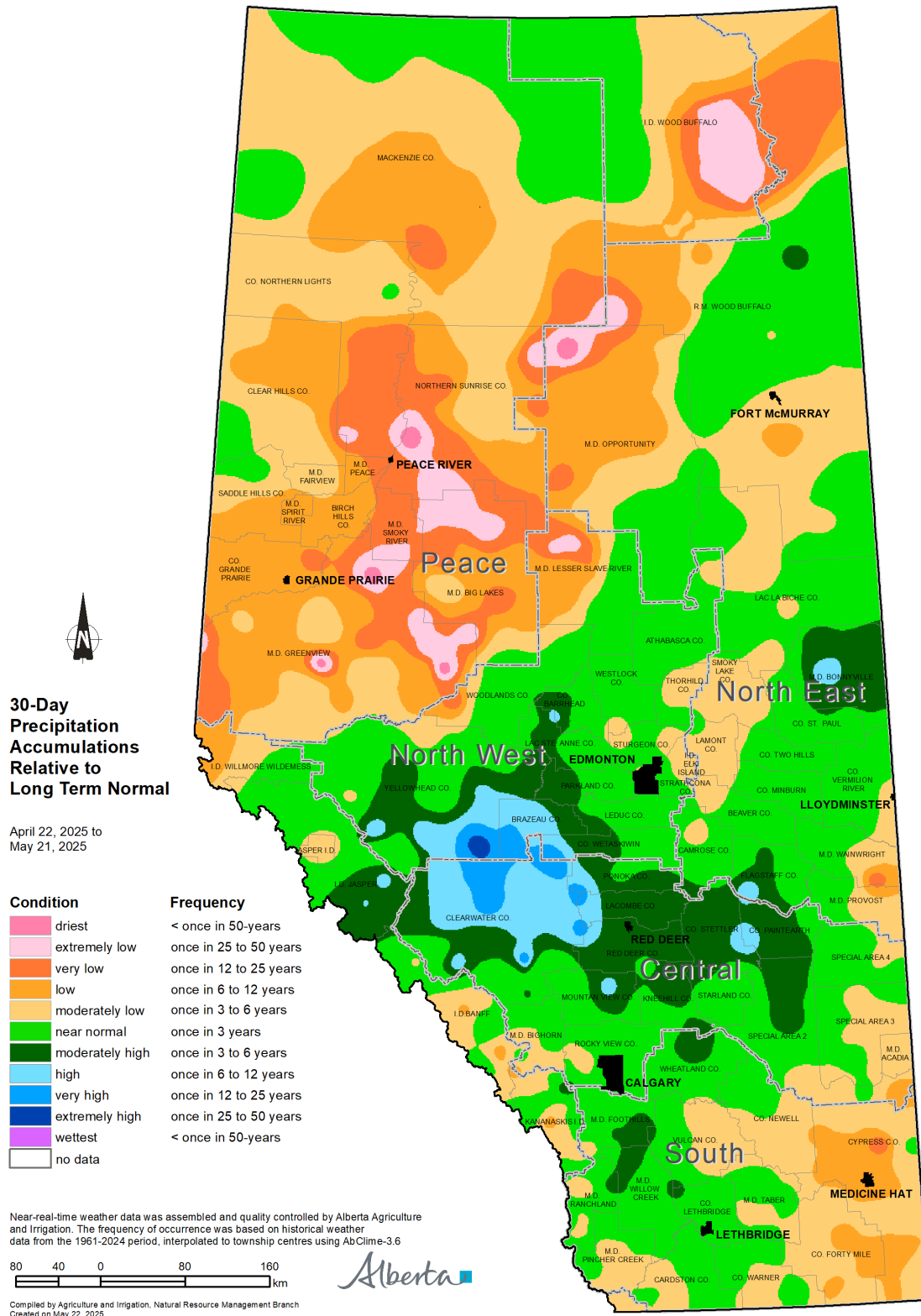


Map 2



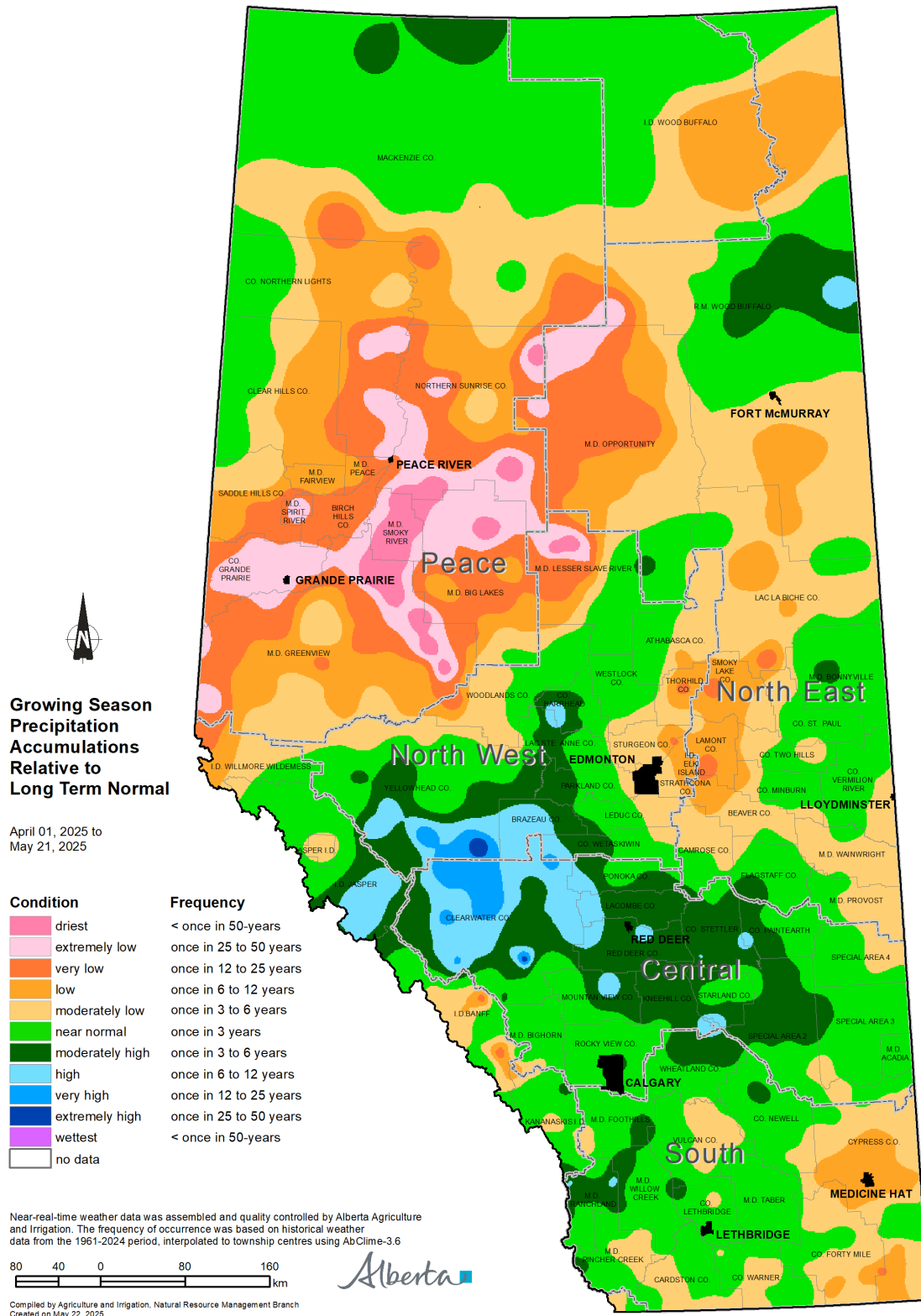
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 3



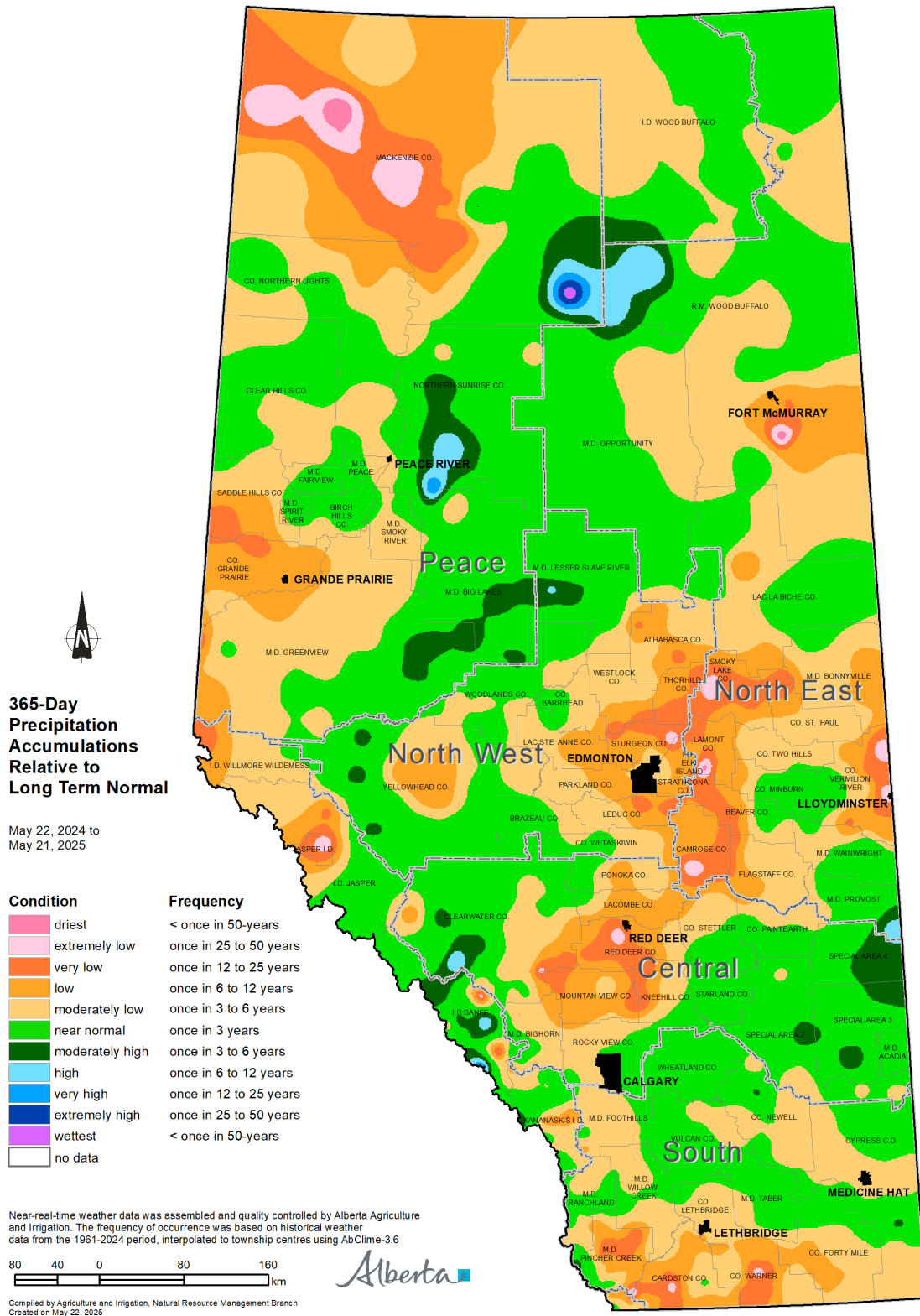
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Map 4



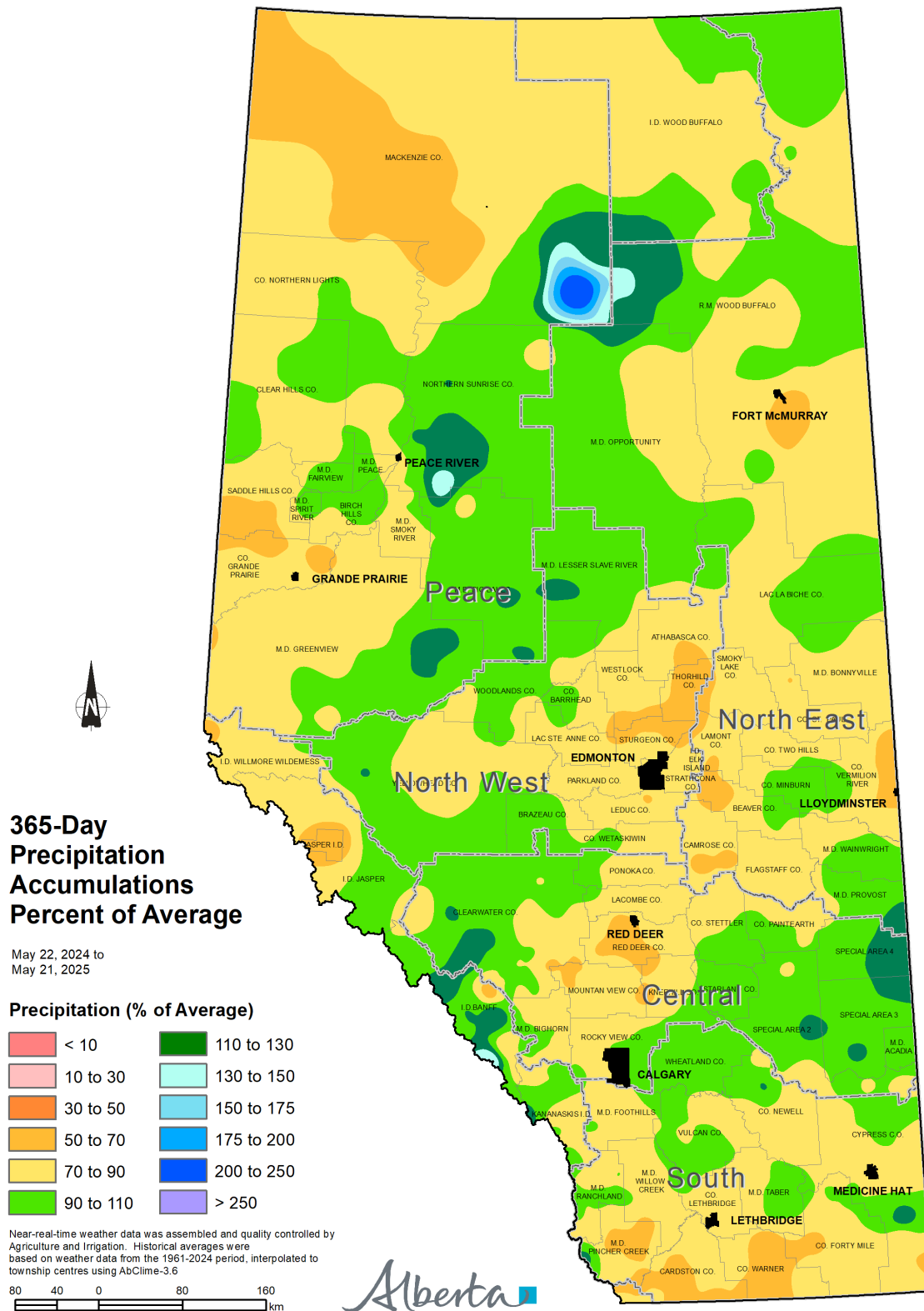
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 5



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

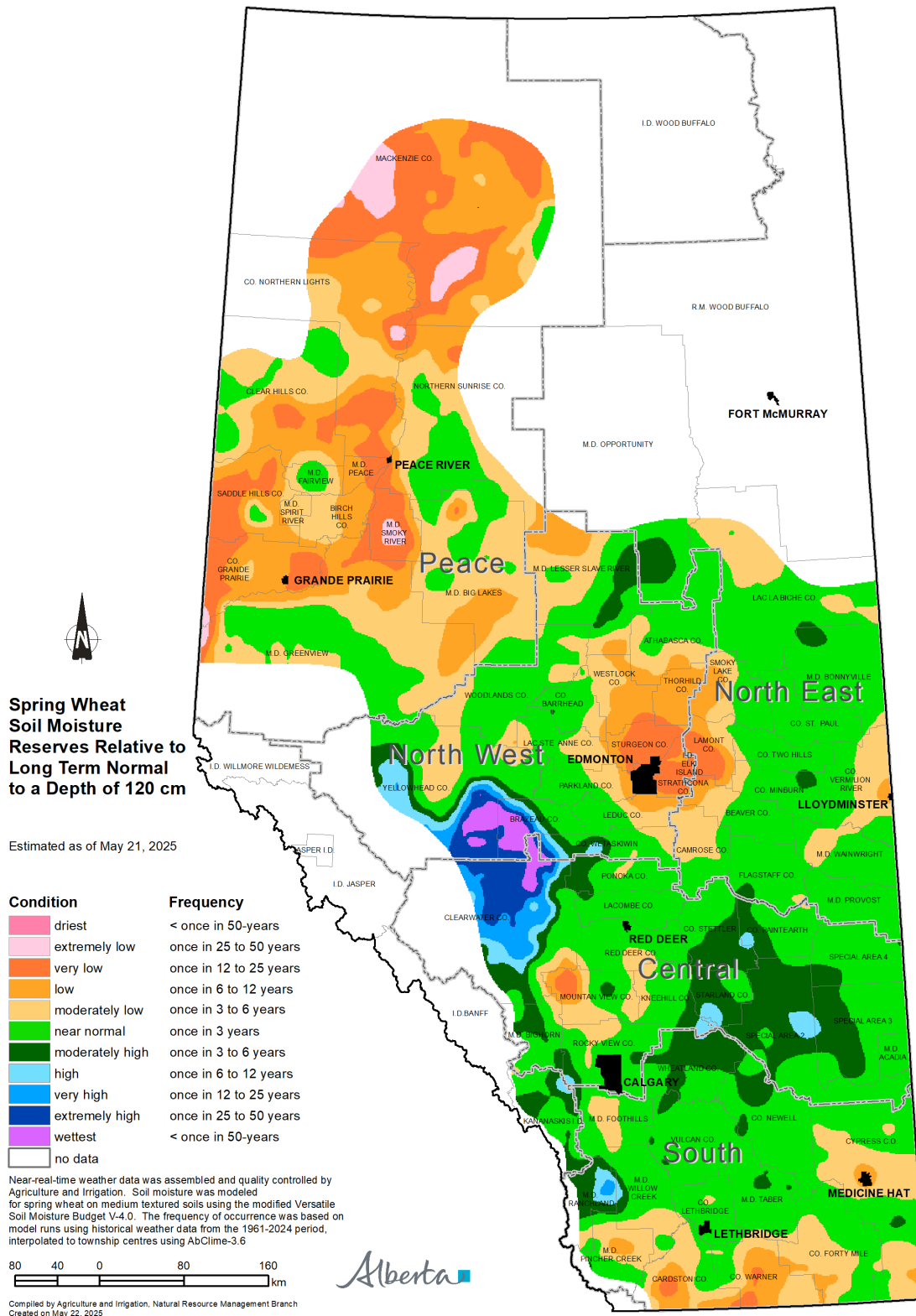
Map 6



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on May 22, 2025

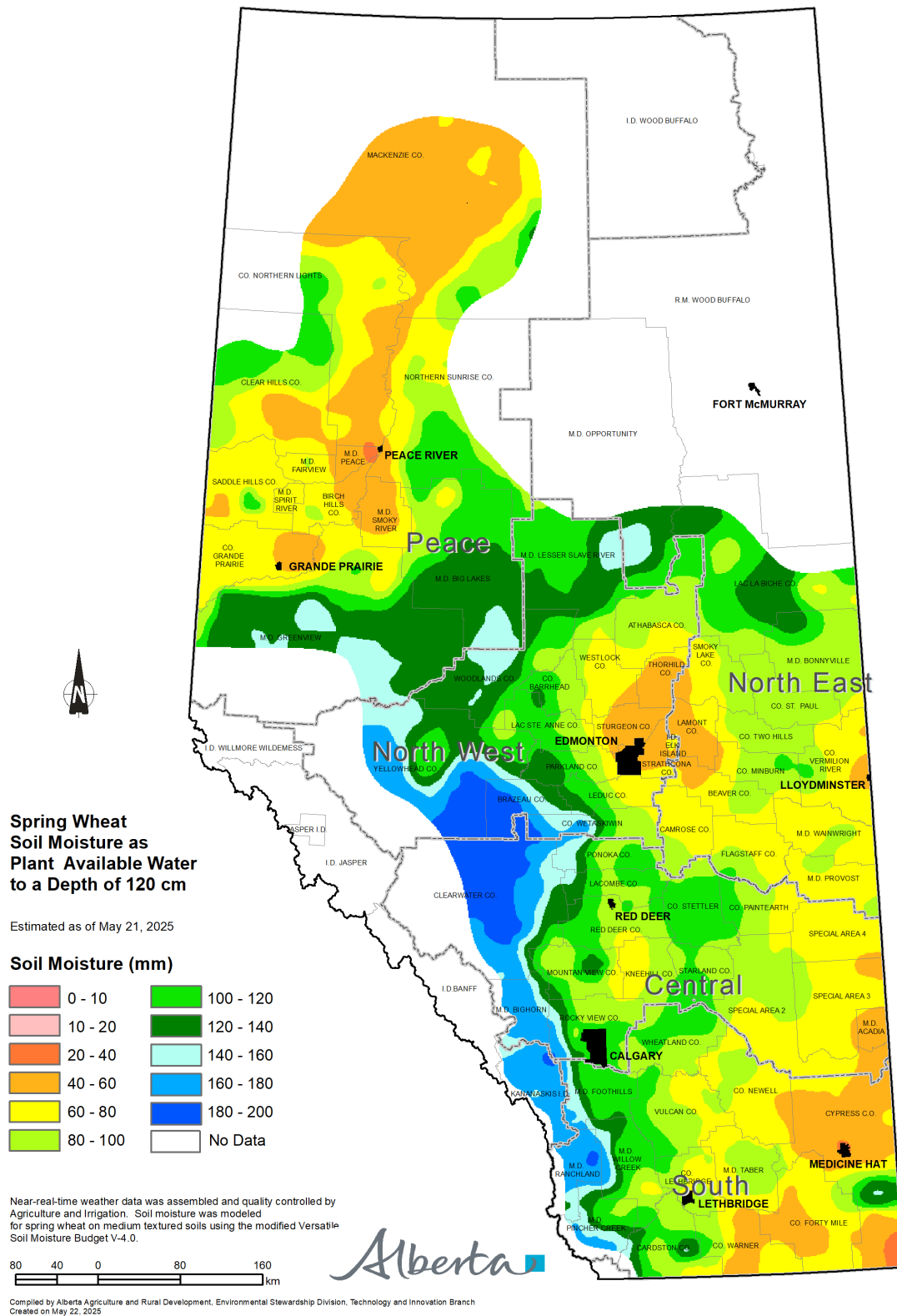
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 7



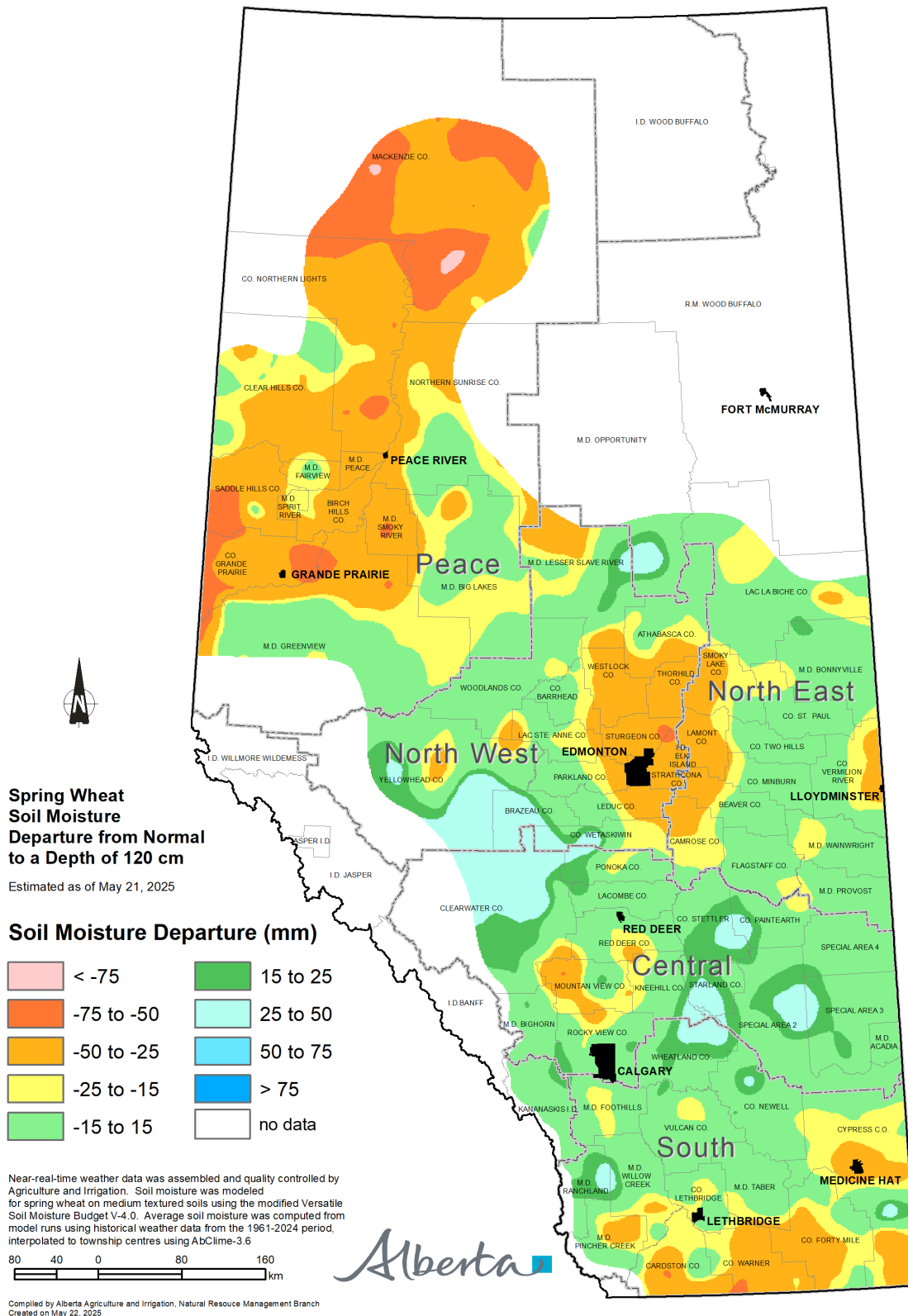
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 8



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 9





Agricultural Service Board

Subject:	Resolution Response Grading Report
Date:	June 12, 2025
Presenter:	Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services
Department:	Agricultural & Environmental Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Committee has provided ASB members and staff with the Resolution Response Grading on government and non-government responses to the 2025 Provincial ASB Resolutions.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agricultural Service Board receives the Resolution Response Grading report for information.

BACKGROUND

At the annual Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference resolutions are presented and voted on by Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs). The resolutions that are passed at the conference are then sent to the appropriate government and/or non-government agencies for review. After they have been reviewed, they are sent back to the Provincial ASB Committee for grading and further review by municipal ASB's.

DISCUSSION

The 2025 Resolution Response Grading package is attached for review. The resolution grading has the Whereas and Therefore Be it Resolved sections, response, response grade, and comments from the ASB Committee for each resolution that was passed at the 2025 ASB Provincial Conference. There are four (4) grades that can be assigned to a resolution response:

- Accept the Response.
- Accept in Principle.
- Incomplete, and
- Unsatisfactory

The quality of the response determines the grade that is assigned to each resolution. This report also summarizes actions undertaken by the Provincial ASB Committee on current and previous resolutions. The grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction on advocacy efforts for each resolution.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration has no alternate direction for the Board's consideration.

Resolution Response Grading Report

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2025 Resolution Response Grading Package

Attachment B: 2025 Resolution Response Summary

	RESOLUTION	Response request	Response Received	Sponsoring ASB	April 17 follow up actions
1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY	AAFC	March 12	Yellowhead	Further response -not yet received.
4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)	AB Env	March 31	Smoky River	
5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS	AB Eng AB Env AGI AB Trans	(defer to AB Env) March 31 March 25 (defer to AGI)	Northern Sunrise	Further response requested from AGI – received
6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT	AB Jobs AB A Ed AGI	April 17 March 25	Lacombe County	Further response requested – not yet received.
7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL	AB Trans AGI Forestry AB Env	March 26 March 25 May 15 Defer to Trans.	MD Greenview	Further response sent and received.
9-25	NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW	AGI	March 25	Fairview	
11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING	AB Ed AGI RMA	April 11 March 25 April 14	Lac La Biche	
12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK	Service AB Red tape AB gam		Two Hills County	Reminder email/letter
PC1-25	INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS	AGI	March 25		

RESOLUTION RESPONSE GRADING PACKAGE

May 29, 2025

Linda Hunt
ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com

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RESOLUTION 1-25: DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRI-STABILITY

WHEREAS in the last decade, Alberta has seen four of Canada's top ten extreme and costly weather-related disasters, and federal modeling for Western Canada predicts more extreme weather;

WHEREAS the current federal drought monitoring system aggregates weather data, including precipitation on forested crown land. This data is not available to privately held agricultural lands in its assessment, and it was the deciding criteria for the Canada- Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program and the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral;

WHEREAS the Canadian government has forecast continued extreme weather impacts on the agricultural industry. Programs like AgriStability are in place to safeguard producers' financial resilience; and

WHEREAS the Office of Audit and Evaluation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) evaluated AgriStability and found that while it helps protect Canada's agriculture sector from income losses due to various risks, it is not fully effective.

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

AAFC re-evaluate the current weather mapping program and the Drought Monitoring System to include and more heavily weigh data from weather stations and available soil moisture mapping within agricultural lands, better acknowledging municipalities straddling the transition from agricultural white zone into forested Crown green zone, coupled with making efforts to capture in these maps the extreme weather events that are now a reality.

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

AAFC report back to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that the recommended improvements to AgriStability as identified and released October 22, 2022, by the Office of Audit and Evaluation of AAFC were put in place, by April of 2024:

1. Identify ways to simplify AgriStability to reduce producer administrative burden;
2. Find ways to make interim and final payments more predictable and to improve the timeliness of final payments; and
3. Develop and implement a means to increase access to AgriStability by underrepresented populations.

SPONSORED BY: Yellowhead County & MD of Greenview No. 16

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

INITIAL GRADE 1-25: ASBPC**RESPONDED IN PART:**

The Committee felt that the AAFC response did indicate that they were working on changes that would address the concerns in the resolution, but the Committee was unable to discern from AAFC's response if the changes would adequately address the concerns in the resolution. A second letter was sent asking AAFC for specific details on how the farms that were on the boundaries with forested land would be considered in the future. A further response from AAFC was not yet obtained.

RESPONSE 1-25: AAFC MARCH 11



Quote: 288208

Brenda Knight
Provincial Committee Chair
Alberta Agricultural Service Board
Woodlands County, c/o Dawn Fortin
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0

Dear Brenda Knight:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, regarding the resolution on drought and livestock AgriStability recently passed by the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee. Please be assured that your correspondence has been brought to the Minister's attention. I appreciate the opportunity to reply.

Thank you for sharing the Board's concerns over the accuracy of moisture collection data and its applicability to on-farm drought conditions. The National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS) utilizes the Canadian Drought Monitor and several additional layers of information (such as soil moisture, provincial condition reports, remotely sensed vegetation analysis and weather station data) that become available at different times of the growing season. The NAIS continues to examine ways to improve its tools, including the use of new datasets.

In addition, the process for designating Livestock Tax Deferral (LTD) areas underwent changes in 2024. The Government of Canada streamlined the process to identify regions earlier in the growing season and also instituted a buffer zone to adjacent regions to capture impacted producers on the edges of affected regions. These changes aim to minimize the underdesignation of areas included in the LTD program.

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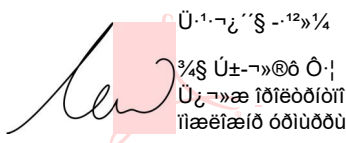
-2-

Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories committed to concrete measures to make the AgriStability program simpler and timelier as well as more predictable. As of the 2024 program year, producers in certain provinces and territories were offered the option of participating under a new model that calculates reference margins based on the same method producers use to file their taxes, offers them a new coverage notice, advances deadlines and makes timelier payments to producers. These benefits could also be extended to provide greater certainty for in-year interim payments. In Alberta, AgriStability is administered by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, which began offering this new streamlined approach as of program year 2025.

I appreciate your sentiments on expanding AgriStability access to underrepresented populations. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials are working hard with our provincial and territorial counterparts to do so. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are actively engaging with the sector, including through discussions with industry associations as well as a diverse group of producer representatives on the National Program Advisory Committee, to better understand how to improve the program. Based on these discussions, continuous work is underway to identify changes to business risk management programs that will benefit producers, both in the short and long term.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Liz Foster

Assistant Deputy Minister

Programs Branch

RESOLUTION 4-25: WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)

WHEREAS under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, Municipalities are tasked to Monitor and Enforce control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds;

WHEREAS the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides severely restricts the application of herbicides within 30 metres of a "drainage canal" and the amount of area that can be treated in a calendar year;

WHEREAS under a Special Use Approval to apply herbicides within 30 metres of an open body of water, the area allowed to be treated is still restricted; and

WHEREAS a Notice to Remedy Weed Problem in a "drainage canal" cannot be fully acted upon due to the limitations of the area allowed to be treated under the Code of Practice allowing for the proliferation of the weeds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Government of Alberta - Environment and Protected Areas remove "drainage canal" from the definition of "open body of water" under the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application Regulation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

To allow municipalities that have control over maintenance of drainage canals to treat invasive species listed in the Weed Control Act or those species elevated in the respective municipality, as they would control the same species in roadside ditches or under Notice to Remedy Weed Problem.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Smoky River #130

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Department of Environment and Protected Areas

INITIAL GRADE 4-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED:

The Committee felt that the response contained clear rules and reasons for the regulations and stated that there was allowances for exceptions on a case by case basis.

RESPONSE 4-25: EPA

ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

126455

Office of the Minister

March 31, 2025

Ms. Brenda Knight,
Chair c/o Ms. Dawn
Fortin, Secretary
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Woodlands County
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for sharing the Agricultural Service Boards' (ASB's) concerns and resolutions 4-24, 5-25, and 7-25. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information. I consulted the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, and he has provided input on Resolution 4-24. I understand Minister Sigurdson will be also providing a response on Resolution 5-25.

RESOLUTION 4-24: Weed Control In Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)

Alberta's *Weed Control Act* (WCA) regulates weeds as noxious and prohibited noxious. Municipalities appoint inspectors to monitor compliance and enforce the WCA. When a landowner/occupant is not in compliance with the WCA, a weed notice can be issued. If the owner/occupant does not comply with the notice, the municipality is faced with the weed control. The landowner/occupant is then sent a debt recovery bill.

When weeds are located below the low water mark or on bed and shore, municipalities are faced with a dilemma for weed control. For example, a prohibited noxious weed such as purple loosestrife is found on bed and shore and in water bodies. Municipalities need special permission from Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) for special use permits to apply chemicals or for

other weed control (for example, hand pulling) methods when controlling or destroying weeds in or around water bodies.

EPA appreciates the ASB's support for municipalities controlling prohibited noxious weeds and noxious weeds, particularly near drainage canals. The Government of Alberta is mindful of balancing weed control priorities, while restricting pesticide use near open water bodies. Pesticide use regulation – in or near water – protects water, wildlife, and surrounding riparian vegetation from pesticide exposure and contamination.

To achieve this balance, Alberta recognizes certain site-specific cases may require a pesticide special use approval to use a pesticide to effectively control prohibited noxious weeds. This process allows for a thorough assessment, which considers factors such as location, pesticide chemistry, and infestation severity. Treatment areas under a special use approval are restricted; however, these approvals provide a way to regain control of weed infestations.

To apply for a pesticide special use approval, please visit alberta.ca and search for “pesticides application process.” For more information about municipal drainage canals, please contact Ms. Erin Stonelake, Pesticide Policy Specialist, EPA, at erin.stonelake@gov.ab.ca.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

204 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-2391

Background Info

RESOLUTION 4-24: Weed Control In Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)

Background

- Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides restricts pesticide/herbicide use near open bodies of water.
- Drainage Canals are included in the definition of an open body of water, Roadside Ditches are not
- ASB is arguing that drainage canals have the same function as roadside ditches and should be removed from the definition of an open body of water.
- Drainage canals are included in this definition as they can be connected to other open bodies of water and they help protect against pesticide contamination

Rationale

- This resolution could not be accepted because excluding drainage canals from the definition of an open body of water would compromise drainage canals
- In cases where drainage ditches function much like roadside ditches, these situations can be managed through special use approvals. These approvals allow the landowner to control their weeds with pesticides while ensuring the protection of open bodies of water.

RESOLUTION 5-25: CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS

- WHEREAS** the lack of centralized point of contact can lead to delays in addressing weed and pest issues, resulting in possible environmental and economic impacts;
- WHEREAS** there are thousands of oil and gas wells, including abandoned wells, across Alberta where site maintenance following the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* must be followed;
- WHEREAS** challenges often stem from incorrect contact information and changes in leaseholders that are not consistently updated, hindering communication and compliance;
- WHEREAS** government agencies have multiple offices throughout the province, and ministry changes cause difficulties providing the information to the appropriate contact; and
- WHEREAS** municipalities face significant challenges in enforcing the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* due to difficulties in establishing and maintaining contact with landholders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministers of Energy, Environment and Ag work collaboratively to establish a central point of contact for identifying landholder to send communication to industry and government agencies for matters related to agriculture legislation. This would involve municipalities sending notices and other communications regarding the Acts to a central government contact, who would then distribute the information to the respective landholders.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Energy and Minerals
Environment and Protected Areas
Agriculture and Irrigation
Transportation and Economic Corridors

INITIAL GRADE 5-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: This resolution caused the various ministries and impacted departments to evaluate how they work together and how accessible they are to people outside of the ministry. While they are unable to completely change the way they are structured and work to accommodate this ask, they did work together to produce a Triage document that can be used to determine who to contact with weed or invasive pest notices in public land, and the links to a publicly available system for looking up landowners. There is still ongoing discussions around who will own and maintain the Triage document to ensure it remains updated and available. The ASBPC has distributed it through the blog post in May and will host this year's version on the ASB website.

RESPONSE 5-25: EPA

RESOLUTION 5-25: Central Contact for the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts

EPA recognizes the ASB's recommendation to establish a central contact point for landholders to send communication to industry and government agencies for agricultural legislation matters.

Due to the specialized nature and management of public lands, the Government of Alberta's cross-ministry invasive species group created a process document, which I have attached for your reference. The document outlines who to contact when encountering regulated pests listed under the *Weed Control Act*, the *Agricultural Pests Act*, or the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*. It also includes leaseholder/disposition tools and Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) and Alberta Energy Regulator contacts.

For more information, please contact Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, Manager, Agriculture Service Boards, Crop Assurance and Rural Programming Branch, Agriculture and Irrigation, in Edmonton, at 780-938-4149 or at kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

2/2

Classification: Protected A

RESOLUTION 5-25: Central Contact for the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts

- AGI leads on the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts and have determined that a central point of contact is not feasible due to the broad range of requests

- Instead, a triage document was provided by AGI to identify who to contact when encountering invasive species and regulated weeds.
- EPA is in support of the assessment and agrees that the triage document provides a good option/solution for addressing this resolution.

RESPONSE 5-25: AGI

Response:

Because of the specialized nature and management of public lands, it is not feasible to have one point of contact. However, the attached Triage document is an approach that was endorsed by the Government of Alberta's Cross Ministry Invasive Species Group to assist with the identification of the appropriate landowners and contacts.

Key contacts for the Government of Alberta ministries are provided in the attached document:

Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water. This document outlines the process and whom to contact when encountering regulated pests listed on the *Weed Control Act / Regulations*, *Agricultural Pest Act / Regulations* or the *Alberta Fisheries Act*. The document also includes leaseholder/disposition tools as well as Alberta Transportation and Alberta Energy Regulator contacts.



GoA Triage
Document.pdf

FURTHER RESPONSE 5-25: AGI

From AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Date Thu 5/15/2025 10:10 AM

To ASBPC Executive <ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com>

Cc Kerrianne Koehler-Munro <kerrianne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca>

Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for your May 8, 2025, email requesting further clarification to Agriculture and Irrigation's (AGI) response to Resolution 5-25: Central Contact for Weed Control and *Agricultural Pests Act*.

The document titled, Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water, which we provided in response to this resolution, will be maintained and updated by AGI staff. For greater accessibility the intent is for this document to be posted on the ASB website as well as emailed to the fieldmen.

An updated version of the document has been attached to address the concern of an annual fee to access disposition information. The Additional Resources section that referenced a fee was removed from the document to reduce any confusion. There is an online resource reference on page two of the document called, [OneStop Public Viewer](#), that can assist in determining disposition number and disposition holder of all oil and gas dispositions. This resource is available at no cost.

Please contact Kerriane Koehler-Munro, ASB Program Manager, at kerriane.koehlermunro@gov.ab.ca or 780-938-4149, if you require additional clarification.

Sincerely,

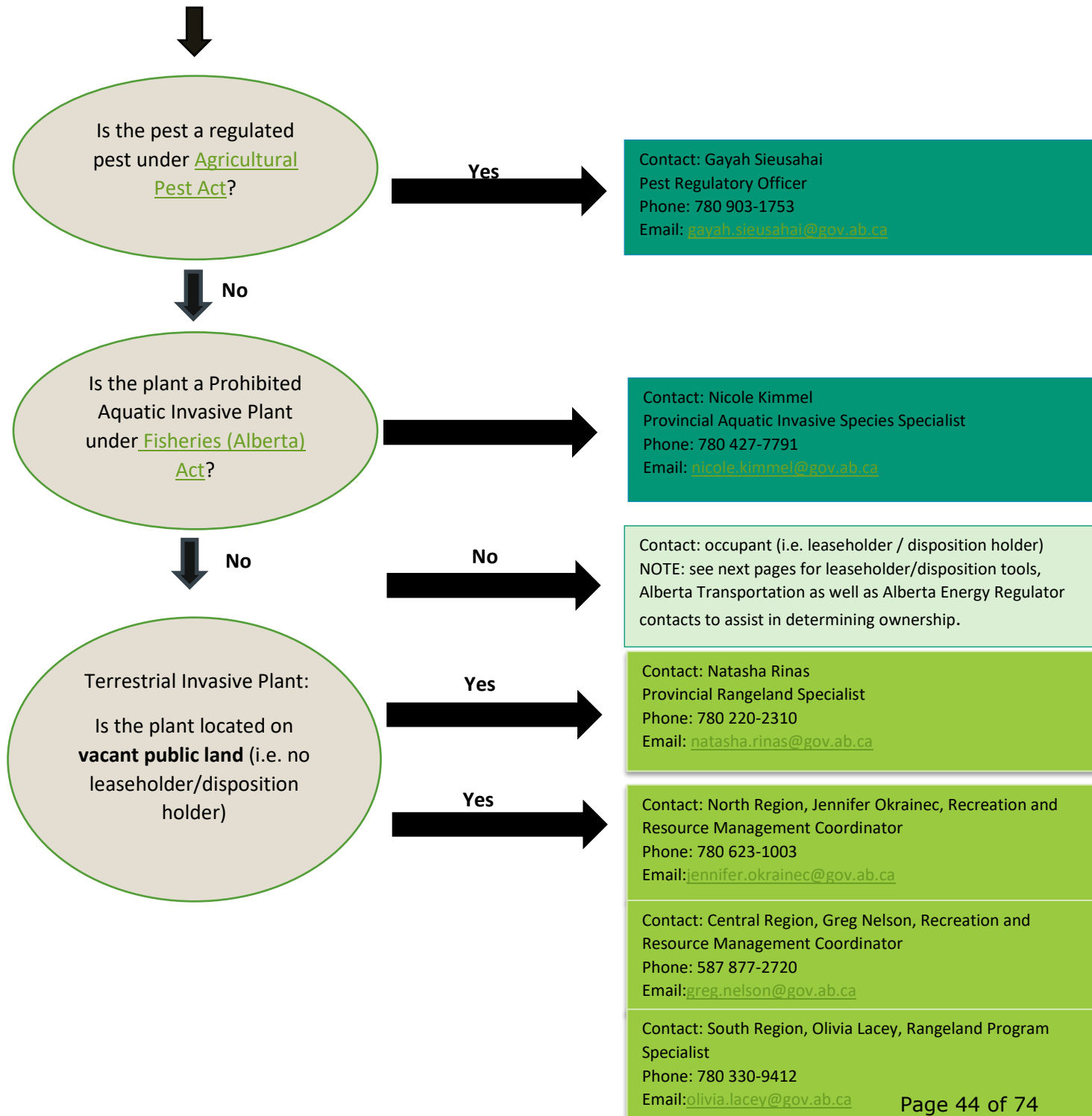
Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR87628

<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox/id/AAMkADI0ZjM2MTY0LTg4YmMtNDUzNi1iZTlzlTU1YTk5MDNlZTFiYQBGAAAAABiO4LwKGgkSKT6dgpwhw...>

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Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water

Prohibited Noxious Weed or Noxious Weed (Under the [Weed Control Act/Regulations](#)) or a
Prohibited Species (under the [Alberta Fisheries Act](#)) Identified on Public Land/Water or a
Regulated Agricultural Pest ([Agricultural Pest Act](#))



Alberta Energy Regulator (AER):

Phone number: 1-855-297-8311 (this is the AER customer contact line)

On line resource: OneStop Public Viewer can assist in determining disposition number and disposition holder of all Oil and Gas dispositions. There is no cost to this public viewer

<https://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/project-application/onestop/onestop-help>

Alberta Transportation Weed Management:

Contact: Allan Bartman, Director Highway Operations (780) 422-6431, allan.bartman@gov.ab.ca

Invasive Species Contacts

Expertise	Name & Title	Contact Info
Aquatic Invasives	Nicole Kimmel Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist	(780) 427- 7791 nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca
Vacant Public Land Weeds	Natasha Rinas Rangeland Program Specialist	(780) 220-2310 natasha.rinas@gov.ab.ca
North Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Jennifer Okrainec Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(780) 623-1003 jennifer.okrainec@gov.ab.ca
Central Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Greg Nelson Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(587) 877-2720 greg.nelson@gov.ab.ca
South Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Olivia Lacey Vegetation Management Coordinator	(780) 330-9412 olivia.lacey@gov.ab.ca
Kananaskis Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Patrick Waring Parks Land Use Officer	patrick.nelson@gov.ab.ca

Weed and Pest Act / Regulations	Gayah Sieusahai Pest Regulatory Officer	(780) 903-1753 gayah.sieusahai@gov.ab.ca
Rat & related Agricultural Pests	Karen Wickerson Rat & Pest Program Specialist	(780) 427-7791 karen.wickerson@gov.ab.ca
Wild Boar & related Agricultural Pests	Hannah McKenzie Inspection Officer	(780) 996-3373 hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca
Agriculture Entomologist	Amanda Jorgensen Provincial Entomologist	(780) 264-6708 amanda.jorgensen@gov.ab.ca
Plant Health (weed, disease and insect)	Doug Macaulay Acting Chief Plant Health Officer	(780) 717-2315 doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca
ASB Programs	Kerrienne Koehler-Munro Provincial ASB Manage	(780) 938-4149 kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca
ASB Programs	Alan Efetha Provincial ASB Specialist	(403) 315-5121 alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca
Pesticide Use	Tanya Rushcall Provincial Pesticide Approvals Registration Specialist	(780) 644-4647 Tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca
Forest Entomologist	Mike Undershultz Senior Forest Entomologist	(780) 422-1508 mike.undershultz@gov.ab.ca
Wildlife Diseases	Mark Ball Wildlife Disease Specialist	(780) 644-8012 mark.ball@gov.ab.ca
Fish Diseases	Emmanuel Pila Fish Disease Lab & Molecular Biologist	(780) 446 0687 emmanuel.pila@gov.ab.ca

RESOLUTION 6-25: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT

- WHEREAS** veterinary services are a critical component of rural sustainability through the industry's contributions to agriculture, food safety and animal welfare;
- WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta currently provides a Veterinary Student Bursary to veterinary students living and working in Northern Alberta via the Northern Alberta Development Bursary Program;
- WHEREAS** veterinary student temporary employment subsidies exist in other jurisdictions struggling to attract and retain rural veterinarians;
- WHEREAS** costs associated with completing the necessary educational requirements to become a veterinarian continue to increase; and
- WHEREAS** rural Alberta is experiencing a continued decline in veterinarian availability.

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

That the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade and Ministry of Advanced Education create a complimentary program to the Northern Alberta Development Program Veterinary Student Bursary, to make bursary funds accessible to veterinary students working in mixed and large animal veterinary clinics throughout rural Alberta.

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

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade institute a veterinarian student temporary employment program for rural mixed and large animal veterinary clinics to support the attraction and retention of veterinary students throughout rural Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Lacombe County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade
Ministry of Advanced Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

INITIAL GRADE 6-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART: There are some inaccuracies in the response from Alberta Advanced Education: "Administration of these initiatives was proposed to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, but they did not pursue the opportunity.". The Committee did meet with the Chief Provincial Vet and was in agreement with the creation of a program in the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, but was not asked, nor are they legally able to administer a program. The RMA does not have a mandate to administer initiatives like this. The response clearly states the situation and work that has been done and is in progress, but does not talk about expanding the bursary program to be across the province so is not a complete response.

The Committee sent letters in April to Advanced Education and Jobs Economy and Trade reiterating the request for a bursary program expansion to the whole province and has not yet received a further response.

REPONSE 6-25: ADVANCED EDUCATION

ALBERTA
ADVANCED EDUCATION

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-North West

AR 71406

Ms. Brenda Knight Chair

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Matt Jones, Minister of Jobs, Economy and

Trade, regarding the Agricultural Service Board Resolution 6-25 — Rural Veterinary Student Support. As I am the Minister of Advanced Education, Minister Jones has asked me to respond, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.

I agree with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that veterinary services are a critical component of the economic health and vitality of Alberta's rural communities. The Government of Alberta takes the needs of rural Albertans seriously, and I recognize that rural communities in Alberta especially rely on veterinary medicine with a focus on livestock and larger animals.

Through the Northern Alberta Development Council, Alberta provides non-repayable financial supports for students in select medical programs of study, including veterinary medicine. These non-repayable supports involve a return of service component, where recipients who graduate agree to live and practice in a Northern Alberta community for a duration of time dependent on the amount of funding received. The Northern Alberta Development Bursary program offers a veterinary student bursary of \$7,000 per year

(for a maximum of four years) for students in Large Animal or Large and Small Animal

Veterinary Programs. For more information, please visit the Northern Alberta

Development Council Veterinarian Bursary webpage at alberta.ca/veterinary-studentbursary.

Additional funding for veterinary students may be available in partnership with a

veterinary sponsor who is willing to match funding. For more information on bursary partnerships, please visit the Bursary Partnership Program webpage at alberta.ca/bursary-partnership-program.

The University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) program was established, in part, to meet Alberta's need for veterinarians to support rural Alberta. Prior to 2017, Alberta's government had a funding agreement with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatchewan to provide veterinary medicine education to Alberta students.

Page 1 of 3

In 2017, Alberta's government opted not to renew this agreement with Saskatchewan and instead redirected funds to support the UCVM and train veterinarians right here in Alberta. As part of the UCVM program, students participate in community-based practicums across Alberta, connecting veterinary students with rural practices to help meet labour market demand. Students who have the opportunity to participate in a practicum in a rural community are more likely to work in rural communities after graduation. The UCVM has also changed its admissions process to place more emphasis on factors such as a rural background and farm work experience.

In order to further build Alberta's capacity to train veterinarians, Advanced Education has invested over \$68 million in capital funding as part of the Veterinary Medicine Expansion Project, effectively doubling the number of students who can be accommodated in the UCVM program beginning with the fall 2025 admission cohort. Advanced Education is also supporting the UCVM with a \$13.6-million investment over four years through the Targeted Enrolment Expansion initiative, which will create 65 new classroom seats.

The Government of Alberta has been working closely with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) to address the unique challenges of attracting and retaining veterinarians in rural and remote communities. Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian has commenced work on a program within the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to provide funding for summer student hiring, housing assistance, community appreciation programs, and other similar initiatives in order to draw students to rural communities early in their education. Administration of these initiatives was proposed to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, but they did not pursue the opportunity. As a result, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is building a program internally for individual practices and communities to apply.

In addition to the Northern Albert Development Bursary and other initiatives mentioned above, students have many other financial supports available to them while they study. Alberta Student Aid offers student loans, grants, and a variety of [scholarships and awards](#), each of which has its own unique eligibility criteria and application process. If students exhaust the Government of Alberta's funding sources, the [ALIS website](#) provides information on applying for scholarships and awards from other organizations. [Scholarships Canada](#) is another helpful resource; it is a free online database that matches eligible students with available scholarships. We also recommend that students reach out to their institution's financial aid office, as they may have local resources available.

Thank you again for taking the time share the Agricultural Service Board Resolution 6-25 — Rural Veterinary Student Support. The issue of attracting and retaining veterinary professionals in rural areas, as with other health professions, is a complex and multifaceted concern that Alberta's government is working to address.

I hope this information is helpful, and I encourage you to share the resources described above with rural veterinary students.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, ECA Minister of
Advanced Education

RESPONSE 6-25: AGI

Response:

- Government of Alberta ministries, including Agriculture and Irrigation, Advanced Education, and Jobs, Economy and Trade, are working in partnership with stakeholders to address the vet and vet technologist shortage in rural Alberta.
- Since 2022, Government of Alberta committed \$68.5 million over three years for the UCVM's capital expansion. The government has also committed to invest about \$13.6 million over four years to support the creation of over 65 new seats in the veterinary medicine program.
 - The funding will create 50 new seats for veterinary students, doubling the class size to 100 starting in the fall of 2025. It will also cover the infrastructure costs of enrolment expansion.
 - Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian sits on the faculty's Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
 - Several scientific articles indicate the issues that affect recruitment to different types of practice and different locations are complex and not always addressed with cash incentives.
- In 2023, the Alberta government committed \$1.2 million in capital funding to UCVM for renovations and lab equipment to further expand veterinary diagnostics.

- Between 2020 and 2023, Alberta and the federal government provided \$3.44 million in Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding to UCVN to start a veterinary diagnostics pilot to build access to more affordable and accessible diagnostic services for Alberta livestock producers and rural veterinarians. ○ In 2024, Alberta partnered with the federal government for a \$2.26 million Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) grant to continue the expanded pilot. The program targets education, extension, and training, as well as rural practice enhancement. ○ Previously, Alberta's livestock industry had no access to local diagnostic capacity, as samples were sent out of the province.
- Government of Alberta continues to work in partnership with stakeholders on promoting the veterinary profession at home and abroad. The current focus is on exploring incentives to attract, recruit, train and retain vet professionals in rural and remote regions.

RESOLUTION 7-25: ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL

WHEREAS the Alberta Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors stated in a letter received on September 12, 2024, that Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Alberta Forestry and Parks (FP), the administrators of the Wildlife Act, do not currently “have formal guidance for the disposal of wildlife animal carcasses. However, both departments strongly recommend minimizing handling and transport of carcasses due to.... disease transmission,” further stating that any departure from these current disposal methods would require EPA and FP to issue permits under the Act for each carcass transported;

WHEREAS Highway Maintenance Contractors frequently transport carcasses to disposal and stockpiling sites that are easily accessible to the public and become utilized for the disposal of dead livestock and roadkill, through scavenger disposal;

WHEREAS the proximity of these disposal sites to active livestock production increases the impact of predators on livestock by providing a plentiful and easily accessible food source during winter scarcity; and

WHEREAS this disposal method comes with a high probability of disease spread through the landscape, including but not limited to foot-and-mouth disease, which infects deer and would cost billions of dollars in lost markets to the province and the country, and chronic wasting disease, a prion disease that is resistant to environmental degradation.

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

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and Alberta Forestry and Parks to develop formal guidance on the disposal of wildlife carcasses hit by vehicles to minimize disease transmission vectors that may pose a serious economic threat to the livestock industry, such as foot-and-mouth disease.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Transportation amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, the composting of roadkill carcasses.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Greenview #16

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Alberta Forestry and Parks

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

INITIAL GRADE 7-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART: The responses from all parties indicate that the current policy/regulations/guidelines that are being used for roadkill are designed specifically for agriculture producers disposing of owned and managed animals. However, the Committee is concerned that these guidelines may not adequately address a situation where wildlife killed in accidents since there is no “owner” to know if the animals are or are at risk of carrying diseases. Diseased animals are not able to be disposed of by scavenging and have to be specific distances from livestock premises.

There is no indication in the responses received that the staff handling road kill are testing carcasses for diseases, or managing the disposal in a way to prevent spread to neighboring livestock or wildlife populations. Chronic Wasting Disease, Tuberculosis, Avian Influenza (now spread to dairy cows and cats) and Hoof and Mouth disease are ongoing concerns. A further response letter was sent to Transportation and Economic Corridors which they did respond to. While they are not interested in creating a new guideline for wildlife and have suggested that would be a role for Environment and Protected Areas, they are asking ASBs to report incidents of concern.

The Committee felt that this was a first step in addressing the concern and will continue to bring this concern to follow the progress.

RESPONSE 7-25: AGI

- The resolution states that the disposal of livestock and wildlife may be occurring through stockpiling sites, where scavenging is subsequently occurring.
- Scavenging, or natural disposal as it is termed in the Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation (DDAR), is not an approved method of disposal for dead livestock in a situation like this.
- Natural disposal can only be used by an animal owner with animals they own, or that are in their care and control prior to death and on land that they own. The dead livestock would most likely need to go to an approved landfill or to rendering for disposal.
- There may be a disease risk if dead livestock or wildlife are disposed of by natural disposal near other livestock operations. The cause of death is unknown for these animals dropped off at the stockpiling sites.
- In addition, if livestock were euthanized using drugs or other chemical substances, natural disposal could not be used because of the risk that residues could pose to scavengers.
- Natural disposal, if approved, would have to meet the setback requirements in the DDAR.
- Wildlife disposal does not fall under the DDAR so Agriculture and Irrigation has no mandate with respect to wildlife carcass disposal, although we may work collaboratively with wildlife departments should disease become a concern.

RESPONSE 7-25: EPA**RESOLUTION 7-25: Roadkill Carcass Disposal**

I understand the Honourable Devin Dreesen, Minister of TEC, will be responding to this resolution as it falls under the purview of his ministry.

I appreciate your input and remain committed to working with the ASB to ensure effective weed management while upholding environmental protections.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE 7-25: TEC



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

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

March 26, 2025

AR 101520

Ms. Brenda Knight, Chair Provincial ASB Committee
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary Provincial ASB Committee
Box 33 Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0

asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Knight:

I am writing to you in response to the Agricultural Service Board (ASB)

Resolution 7-25 regarding wildlife carcass disposal. As Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

The Ministries of Environment and Protected Areas and Forestry and Parks administer the *Alberta Wildlife Act*. Within the Act, there is no formal guidance for disposal of wildlife carcasses.

Transportation and Economic Corridors follows the guidance published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for disposal of deceased livestock in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission and mitigate predator conflicts. This is achieved by limiting the distance the carcass is moved, avoiding the reuse of natural disposal sites, and not centralizing disposal at single locations such as gravel pits. If nearby natural disposal sites are unavailable, the carcass must be disposed of at authorized sites.

Thank you for taking the time to write and I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Devin Dreeshen".

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

FURTHER RESPONSE 7-25: TEC



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

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

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your follow-up regarding Agricultural Services Board (ASB) Resolution 7-25 on wildlife carcass disposal. The ASB is a significant stakeholder for Transportation and Economic Corridors, and I appreciate you bringing transportation-related matters important to your members to my attention.

Transportation and Economic Corridors' highway maintenance contracts follow the principles outlined in the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Livestock Mortality Management (Disposal) guidance document. By adhering to these principles, the department helps reduce the risk of disease transmission and mitigate predator conflicts during the disposal of animal carcasses. To further reduce risks, Transportation and Economic Corridors does not permit the use of stockpile sites for the disposal of wildlife carcasses.

If there are site-specific concerns, your members are encouraged to contact the department's applicable local district office to discuss it further. While I understand your request for the development of formal guidelines on wildlife carcass disposal, I recommend pursuing this matter with my colleague, the Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Regarding the ASB Provincial Committee's Resolution 1-24: Agricultural Equipment Highway Signs, I asked department staff to contact you directly to discuss potential options for addressing the safety of farm equipment on provincial highways. The discussion can also include actions the department could take to increase driver awareness and improve safety for both operators and motorists.

Thank you again for writing. I value the established working relationship between the ASB and Transportation and Economic Corridors. I look forward to continuing our collaboration on transportation matters which are important to your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Devin Dreesen".

Honourable Devin Dreesen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

RESPONSE 7-25: FORESTRY AND PARKS

ALBERTA
Forestry and Parks

Office of the Minister
MLA, Central Peace - Notley

22743

MAY 15 2025

Brenda Knight, Chair
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary,
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
PO Box 33 Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0
Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for following up regarding the development of formal guidelines on the safe disposal of roadkill wildlife carcasses, as requested in resolution 7-25 by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee.

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors leads policy and guideline development regarding the disposal of roadkill. Roadkill of severely damaged or decomposed animals and those of non-iconic species are disposed of by Transportation and Economic Corridor. As such, Minister Dreeshen's March 26, 2025, letter is a fulsome response on the issue of safe disposal.

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services under the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services may attend to road kills of iconic species (grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, and caribou) when reported.

My ministry will continue to work with staff from Transportation and Economic Corridors and Public Safety and Emergency Services to identify and collect valuable roadkill with due consideration to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

I hope this information provides clarity to the response you received from Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Sincerely,



Honourable Todd Loewen
Minister
Forestry and Parks

RESOLUTION 9-25: NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW

- WHEREAS** the farming population is at a high risk of mental illness when compared to the general population;
- WHEREAS** studies and surveys have shown that farmers are less likely to seek mental health care due to associated costs, lack of time during the day, and counselors lacking an understanding of agriculture;
- WHEREAS** the AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Initiative was established in 2022 with the intent to provide Alberta's farming population with agriculturally-informed mental health supports;
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network has received grants for project-based services through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which has 50% matching funds requirement; and
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network faces funding gaps and restricted operating funds, leading to jeopardization of high-demand mental health programming and support services currently being delivered to Alberta's farming population.

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation waive the matching funding requirement through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to ensure that the Farm-Informed Therapy Program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Fairview No.136
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

INITIAL GRADE: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The response shows that the mandate of farm informed therapy program is with the ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and that AGI has aided AgKnow in achieving engagement with MHA to create an agriculture counselling program for the province and that MHA does not require matching funds for their grant programs. AGI is unwilling to wave the matching funds required for the SCAP grant programs for AgKnow.

RESPONSE 9-25: AGI**Response:**

The mental health of farmers is an important topic.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction (MHA) leads the Government of Alberta's mental health response. MHA is mandated to manage Alberta's recovery-oriented system of mental health and addiction care, focused on prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. More specifically, they are directed to work with stakeholders across Alberta to help Albertans improve their mental wellness while creating healthy and vibrant communities.

Alberta's government, through MHA, provides funding to Counselling Alberta to provide mental health counselling services across Alberta. Counselling Alberta will also partner with local organizations across the province to provide affordable in-person mental health counselling options.

Additionally:

- Alberta Health provides funding to Primary Care Networks (PCN) across Alberta. PCNs offer a variety of supports, including mental health services such as individual counselling, social work navigation, group therapy, and workshops. Albertans can locate their local PCN by visiting <https://albertapcns.ca/pcn>.
- Alberta Health Services (AHS) is responsible for delivering health care in the province and has mental health supports available.
- AHS Addiction and Mental Health Clinics provide programs and services in communities across the province. Albertans can find clinic locations on the AHS webpage.
- The Community Services program is available in select Addiction and Mental Health Clinics across Alberta. This service includes screening, assessment, consultation, and treatment for people with mental health concerns that affect their ability to cope with everyday life. Clients work with a counsellor to identify treatment goals and options, which may include counselling.

Although Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) has no direct mandate to support mental health services, AGI does respect the impact of farmer mental health on our industry. AGI has facilitated a connection between the Applied Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) and MHA for ARECA to seek funding support to ensure that the farm-informed therapy program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta. MHA does not require matching for their grant programming.

AGI has supported farmer-focused projects that complement and enhance MHA's programming over the past several years. The Resiliency and Public Trust Program, through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), provides grants on a cost-shared basis of 60 per cent grant and 40 per cent applicant for non-capital expenses. One of the main outcomes for minimum eligibility is

that the projects are industry driven, with the intention of industry contributing funds to move projects forward and leverage government funding even further. AGI provided grant funding to ARECA for the development of AgKnow. Since 2021, the Government of Alberta has invested over \$1.6 million in the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network through various funding opportunities to support the development, initial delivery of the program and subsequent projects. Although Sustainable CAP funding cannot be used for ongoing operations of an organization or program, it can support project-based deliverables and outcomes, which AGI continues to work on with ARECA staff.

RESOLUTION 11-25: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING

- WHEREAS** agricultural production in Alberta has historically been, and remains, a significant economic driver and source of employment;
- WHEREAS** generations ago, many Albertans were raised on family farms, gaining firsthand knowledge of livestock, crops, and other agricultural practices;
- WHEREAS** today, most Albertans reside in urban areas and lack the same level of understanding about how livestock, crops, and agricultural products are cultivated;
- WHEREAS** the public has traditionally held agriculture and farmers in high esteem for their role in providing food for Albertans, Canadians, and people worldwide, leading to an increasing consumer interest in agricultural production and food sourcing;
- WHEREAS** misunderstandings regarding agricultural practices and food production are becoming more common, and without proper education, these misconceptions are likely to grow within the expanding population;
- WHEREAS** educating our children and youth about agriculture is crucial for fostering a deeper understanding of food production, sustainability, and the vital role agriculture plays in our economy and environment; and
- WHEREAS** stable funding would empower educators and childcare providers to access essential agricultural education materials and programs, allowing ASBs across Alberta to effectively enhance agricultural knowledge among the younger generation.

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

That the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with the Agricultural Services Boards, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream aimed for agriculture education.

SPONSORED BY: Lac La Biche County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Rural Municipalities of Alberta

INITIAL GRADE 11-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The response indicates that a funding stream already exists and the ASBPC will help to promote the use of the program for agriculture education opportunities.

RESPONSE 11-25: AGI

- Agriculture education is an important part of building capacity and resiliency in the agriculture industry.
- To support agriculture education, funding is available through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal-provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector.
- Alberta's Sustainable CAP Resiliency and Public Trust Program includes a youth agriculture education priority area which provides funding for a variety of activities, including K-12 agriculture education field trips, learning activities and teacher training.
 - Alberta Education develops curriculum that is the foundation on which these supplementary programs can be delivered.
 - For example, Alberta's core curriculum includes topics like globalization, Alberta's history and soils.
 - Agriculture can be used as an example to bring these topics to life and not-for profit organizations, industry groups, municipalities, school authorities and post-secondary institutions can apply for funding to develop and deliver resources and teacher training that support curricular outcomes.
 - Government encourages industry organizations, post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and school authorities to apply for agriculture education funding to increase the agriculture literacy of Alberta's K-12 students. Information on the funding can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/resiliency-and-public-trust-program>
- Agriculture and Irrigation, in collaboration with Alberta Education, delivers the Green Certificate program. The program is unique in Canada and is an industry-supported, apprenticeship-style agriculture youth training program.
 - The Green Certificate program is offered in high schools throughout rural Alberta.
 - High school students select one of the 11 training specializations (field crop, irrigated field crop, cow-calf, feedlot, sheep, swine, poultry (broiler, broiler hatching egg, turkey, table egg), dairy, equine, beekeeping and greenhouse production) and work towards mastering all the skills within their training program.
 - Upon completion, students receive sixteen Grade 12 credits and a credential that could lead to a career in agriculture or agri-business.
 - For students and teachers interested in the Green Certificate Program, they can get information at <https://www.alberta.ca/green-certificate-program>
- The Green Certificate Program and the Sustainable CAP Resiliency and Public Trust Program both provide Alberta's students with opportunities to learn about Alberta's agriculture industry, a key component of Alberta's economy.

RESPONSE 11-25: AE (ADVANCED EDUCATION)

ALBERTA
EDUCATION*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

AR128857 April 11, 2025

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, and me regarding Resolution 11-25. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I share your view on the importance of agriculture in our province. The Alberta Dual Credit Framework allows students to personalize their high school experience and build on or discover career interests and aspirations, including opportunities in agriculture. Alberta's government is providing \$4.8 million to school boards for dual credit programs this school year and to bring collegiate schools online. We are providing \$43 million to support the costs of new collegiate schools opening in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school years.

In addition, Alberta's [Green Certificate Program](#), a collaboration between Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, is designed for students interested in agricultural careers.

More than 98 per cent of Education's budget flows to school boards, with the expectation that they will prioritize the educational experience of students and support local needs. The boards have the autonomy and accountability for the operation of their schools, as locally elected trustees are best placed to make decisions in the best interest of the communities they serve.

Alberta Education continues to work closely with our education and industry partners to ensure that Alberta students have every opportunity to pursue their career interests and succeed in Alberta's dynamic job market.

Brenda, thank you for writing and for your dedication to Alberta's agricultural sector.
Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education

RESPONSE 11-25: RMA

April 14, 2025

Brenda Knight
Chair, Provincial ASB Committee
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary, Provincial ASB Committee
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0

Dear Brenda,

RE: ASB Resolution 11-25: Agricultural Education Funding

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) represents Alberta's sixty-nine rural municipalities, who collectively provide municipal governance to approximately 85% of Alberta's geographic area and are home to Alberta's agricultural producers, processors, innovators, and Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs).

On behalf of the RMA, I am writing to express our support for Resolution 11-25, requesting that the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with ASBs, RMA, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream to support agricultural education in Alberta.

Agricultural production has long been a cornerstone of rural Alberta's economy and way of life. However, as the province continues to urbanize, fewer Albertans have direct ties to agriculture or an understanding of where their food comes from. This disconnect poses growing challenges for the agriculture sector and rural municipalities, including the spread of misinformation, reduced public trust, and an increasing number of regulatory and market pressures disconnected from the practical realities of agriculture.

RMA's member municipalities have also highlighted the importance of bridging this knowledge gap, passing Resolution 23-19F in Fall 2019, which called for the inclusion of mandatory agriculture education in the Alberta K-12 curriculum. While the government's response at that time acknowledged the value of agricultural learning through elective programs and grants, there was no coordinated or consistent effort to embed agricultural education broadly or equitably into the curriculum across the province.

Now, in 2025, Resolution 11-25 presents a meaningful opportunity to take a pragmatic step toward actioning the requests of Resolution 23-19F. RMA appreciates the provincial government's past efforts to encourage agriculture education through initiatives like the Green Certificate Program and the Classroom Agriculture Program. However, without stable and accessible funding, these efforts risk remaining piecemeal and unable to achieve the broader goal of agricultural literacy for all Alberta youth.



2510 Sparrow Dr, Nisku, AB T9E 8N5
Office: 780.955.3639 | Fax: 780.955.3615
rmalberta.com

A dedicated funding stream would provide educators and childcare providers with the support necessary to access curriculum-linked agricultural resources to introduce students to the foundational concepts of food production, sustainability, and rural economic contribution. Such a program would also strengthen public trust in the agriculture industry and highlight career opportunities in one of Alberta's most essential sectors.

We support Resolution 11-25 and urges the Ministry of Education to partner with ASBs, RMA, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the development of a sustainable approach to agricultural education in classrooms across the province. Together, we can ensure that future generations of Albertans - regardless of their geographic or cultural background - understand and value the importance of agriculture to Alberta's economy, environment, and identity.

Sincerely,



Kara Westerlund
President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

RESOLUTION 12-25: CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK

WHEREAS rural municipalities have been encouraging non-profit organizations to increase activities that generates revenue and build reserve funds for future projects and capital replacements to use as matching funds when applying for provincial and federal grants;

WHEREAS the 2020 Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook (CGPH) section 4.4 indicated clear use of proceeds was consistent to the supportive intent of gaming funds as earned revenue;

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 now states charitable programs expenses for that generate or receive revenue must be managed on a cost recovery;

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 also states the purchase of any equipment, supplies, or services used in any activity or operation intended to generate profit is forbidden; and

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4. states that only when program revenues are not sufficient to cover program expenses, gaming proceeds may be used to pay the shortfall for approved expenses and therefore forcing the depletion of the organizational reserves.

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

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission to amend the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook so rural non profit organizations are allowed to build reserves and generate revenues once again without affecting the ability to use the gaming proceeds.

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

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission suspend any audits until stakeholder engagements are completed and the amendments to the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook are adopted.

SPONSORED BY: County of Two Hills

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission

INITIAL GRADE 12-25: ASBPC

NO RESPONSE: Shortly after the resolution request for response was delivered, the Province released the following press release that addressed the concerns in the resolution, however no response was received from Red Tape Reduction or Service Alberta. Since it was clear that the Province was clearly already working on the concern prior to the ASB Resolution, and in the spirit of red tape reduction, it was felt that there was no need to follow up to get a specific response when the media release was sufficient.

RESPONSE 12-25: GOA March 10 press release

Mar 10, 2025

Less red tape, more freedoms for Alberta's charities

Charities in Alberta will now have more flexibility on how they can spend the money they earn from licensed gaming activities.

[Link to press release](#)

Bigger thresholds for approvals, wider discretion for expenses

AGLC has added a wide range of proceeds categories, and raised thresholds for spending before approvals are required, giving charities wide discretion in determining eligible expenses.

Examples include:

- Groups can retain proceeds up to \$50,000 without AGLC approval (previously \$10,000).
- Charitable groups can now use \$100,000 of gaming proceeds to conduct community events without AGLC approval.
- The limit for administrative expenses has increased to 30 per cent from 20 per cent.
- Approvals for all travel have been eliminated.
- The limit for facility renovations and leasehold improvements without approval has been increased to \$100,000 from \$50,000. Quick facts
- Alberta is the only province that licenses charities to conduct and manage casino events that support charitable organizations.
- Alberta's charitable gaming model gives eligible charitable and religious groups the opportunity to directly benefit from the proceeds (revenue less expense) of casino, bingo, pull-tickets, and raffle events.
- In 2023-24, charitable organizations earned more than \$409 million in proceeds through charitable gaming events, with \$79 million raised by Host First Nation charities.
- In 2023-24, AGLC provided 3,462 charity licenses for casino events with charities earning \$276.9 million.

- In 2023-24, more than \$1.5 billion in net gaming revenue was allocated to the province's General Revenue Fund.

RESOLUTION PC 01-25: INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS

WHEREAS the province of Alberta has included inflationary increases in multi year grants made to ASB stakeholders;

WHEREAS the ASBs continue to be important partners with the province on food and agriculture products assurance systems providing 1:7 return on investment with the ASB grant program;

WHEREAS the ASB grants have not received an increase beyond 2014 levels so grant amounts have not kept up with inflation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve a 3%/year inflationary increase for the ASBs grant program.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation

INITIAL GRADE PC 01-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The Committee was pleased that the Province indicated that inflationary increases were reasonable and encouraged a letter of request during the 2025 fall budget process.

RESPONSE PC 01-25: AGI**Response:**

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) are critical partners with the Government of Alberta. Government remains committed to supporting the important work ASBs do each year to administer and implement the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act* and *Soil Conservation Act*, and assist in the control of animal diseases under the *Animal Health Act*. Government recognizes the vital role of ASBs in protecting Alberta's access to markets through the surveillance and control of pests and the continued strong relationship with municipalities.

The budget planning process for 2025-26 was complete at the time Resolution PC-01-25 was received. However, it will be discussed for the 2026-27 budget.

Thank you again for this important resolution. A strong agriculture industry remains at the heart of Alberta's economic strategy, and ASBs will continue to be an important partner in this success.



Agricultural Service Board

Subject:	Agriculture Master Plan Update
Date:	June 12, 2025
Presenter:	Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services
Department:	Agricultural & Environmental Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The Agriculture Master Plan provides strategic guidance for agricultural policy, land use planning, economic development, and environmental stewardship in Rocky View County. The AMP reflects current challenges and opportunities in the sector and sets a ten-year roadmap (2026–2036) for action. The plan was developed through extensive research, interdepartmental collaboration, and engagement with over 300 producers and stakeholders. Approval of the AMP will allow the County to begin implementing key actions and priorities to support a thriving, diversified, and resilient agricultural sector.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agricultural Service Board receives the Agriculture Master Plan Update for information.

BACKGROUND

The 2025 AMP is a strategic update to the County's original 2011 Agriculture Master Plan. The previous plan led to significant achievements, including policy changes in the County Plan, updates to the Land Use Bylaw, the development of the Agricultural Boundary Design Guidelines, and enhanced education and outreach delivery through Agricultural Services.

Given changing agricultural conditions, development pressures, environmental concerns, and community priorities, the AMP has been updated to ensure alignment with current needs. The update was informed by:

- Extensive data analysis of agricultural trends;
- Review of County and provincial policies; and
- Two phases of public engagement, with over 2,000 comments collected.

DISCUSSION

The 2025 AMP includes:

- A long-term vision affirming agriculture as a pillar of economic, social, and ecological sustainability;
- Four key goals: promoting the agricultural sector, increasing awareness and diversification, collaborating with partners, and preserving ecology;
- Thirteen actionable initiatives across land use, economic development, communication, and environmental protection;
- A phased implementation strategy.

Agriculture Master Plan Update

Public Engagement

Engagement was conducted in two phases. Over 300 participants contributed, with all proposed actions receiving high levels of support (77%–91% approval). Key themes included:

- Strong support for road infrastructure upgrades;
- Emphasis on better communication with non-farming residents;
- Interest in greater flexibility for on-farm housing and succession planning;
- Concern about renewable energy development on prime agricultural land.

Legislative and Policy Alignment

The AMP supports the goals of:

- The Municipal Government Act and South Saskatchewan Regional Plan;
- The Municipal Development Plan;
- Council Policy C-508: Right to Farm;
- And aligns with multiple environmental and land management policies.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration has no alternate direction for the Board's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.



Agricultural Service Board

Subject:	Upcoming Events Report
Date:	June 12, 2025
Presenter:	Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer
Department:	Agricultural & Environmental Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report is an itemized list of upcoming events that relate to production, marketing, sustainability, and community.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agricultural Service Board receives the Upcoming Events Report for information.

BACKGROUND

One of the recommendations within the Agriculture Master Plan is to foster capacity building for the agriculture community in areas of enhanced educational services and programs. The intent is to provide support and information resources to producers for specialized opportunities and diversification within the ag industry. ASB meetings provide the opportunity to learn of local and regional conferences and training sessions of interest.

DISCUSSION

The events below are identified for the Board's information.

1. Rocky View County Agricultural Tour Thursday, July 24th, 2025 Springbank/Jumpingpound area.
2. Ag Smart Olds, July 28th to 31st.
3. Alberta Open Farm Days, August 16th & 17th.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration has no alternate direction for the Board's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.