



AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TO: Agricultural Service Board
DATE: May 19, 2021
FILE: N/A
SUBJECT: Agricultural Fieldman Report

DIVISION: All

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides updates on Agricultural Services matters since the last update provided on March 31, 2021. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) should be aware of the following items for County Council consideration.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Fieldman report be received as information in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

Since the last meeting of the ASB, the following highlights have taken place within the Agricultural Services section.

DISCUSSION:

1. The Agricultural Services seasonal Weed Inspectors, Crop Inspector and Equipment Operators have commenced employment and are currently being trained in all the necessary areas. The Roadside mowers have also been hired and will commence employment on May 31, 2021.
2. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has released the 2020 online reporting system for the ASB Grant. Administration is currently completing the grant reporting which is due to the Province by June 30, 2019.
3. The Calgary Stampede has made the decision to hold off on nominations for the 2021 BMO Farm Family Award at this time. They are currently focused on providing appropriate recognition to the 2020 BMO Farm Family recipients. With the cancellation of the 2020 Calgary Stampede as a result of the global pandemic, the celebration for the 2020 BMO Farm Families could not take place as planned. They are currently planning to recognize the 2020 families at the Calgary Stampede this July. They will resume nominations in the fall of 2021 for celebration in 2022.
4. The 9th annual Alberta Open Farm Days returns this August 14-15 and farms can go to <https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-registration/> to register online. The deadline to register as a host farm is May 31. In 2020, 77 farms participated in Open Farm Days with over \$97,000 in on farm sales happening over the weekend, despite being the first event to be held in the province since the pandemic started. Since Open Farm Days started in 2012, more than \$995,000 has been generated in on-farm sales across the province, with almost 135,000 visits to a farm. Open Farm Days contribute to building public trust in agriculture, growing the local food sector, and increasing ag-tourism by directly connecting consumers with producers right on the farm. Farms can choose which day (or both days) they wish to open their gates, and are provided with insurance specific for the event at no cost to them in addition to coaching for culinary/food events as well as help with marketing their event. Additional information is available by contacting info@albertaopenfarmdays.ca or calling Tracey Foster at (780) 427-2174.

Administration Resources

Jeff Fleischer, Agricultural and Environmental Services



5. In conjunction with the Alberta Plant Health Lab, Rocky View County will be assisting with two Canola research projects in 2021.
- The first project will be a clubroot survey. The intention of this research is to compare soil sampling and plant sampling as a means to locate and confirm the presence and disease severity of clubroot in Alberta fields. This research is taking place in 15 municipalities representative of the entire province.
 - The second project will be an intensive blackleg survey. The goal of the study is to more accurately measure the effects of multiple factors on blackleg severity.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

No budget implications.

OPTIONS:

Option #1 THAT the Agricultural Fieldman Report be received as information.

Option #2 THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Jeff Fleischer”

“Byron Riemann”

Manager, Agricultural and Environmental Services

Executive Director, Operations