



## **AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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**TO:** Agricultural Service Board  
**DATE:** February 25, 2021 **DIVISION:** All  
**FILE:** N/A  
**SUBJECT:** Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Procedure

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Agricultural Pests Procedure is to be reviewed annually by the Agricultural Service Board. The procedure was submitted to and approved by the Executive Leadership Team following the March 7, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting. Administration has reviewed the attached procedure.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Agricultural Pests & Nuisance Procedure, Procedure 502, as amended in accordance with Option #1.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The *Agricultural Pests Act* enables the Minister's authority to declare an animal, bird, insect, plant, or disease as a pest or nuisance if it is destroying, harming, or is likely to destroy or harm any land, livestock, or property in all or part of Alberta. The legislation enables inspectors and local authorities to deal with native and introduced pests and nuisances which impact agricultural production.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Policy 502 was adopted on June 19, 2019 and Procedure 502 outlines how administration will perform the tasks associated with the policy.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

No budget implications.

### **OPTIONS:**

- Option #1                      THAT the Agricultural Service Board approve the Agricultural Pests & Nuisance Procedure, Procedure 502, as amended.
- Option #2                      THAT alternative direction be provided.

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### **Administration Resources**

Jeff Fleischer, Agricultural and Environmental Services



Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Jeff Fleischer”

“Byron Riemann”

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Manager, Agricultural and Environmental Services    Executive Director, Operations

**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT ‘A’ - Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Policy, Policy A-502

ATTACHMENT ‘B’ - Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Procedure, Procedure 502



## Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Policy

### Administrative Policy

A-502

<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>A-502</b>
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	<b>Agricultural &amp; Environmental Services</b>
<b>Adopted By:</b>	<b>Byron Riemann, Acting Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Adoption Date:</b>	<b>2019 June 19</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>2019 June 19</b>
<b>Date Last Amended:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Date Last Reviewed:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### Purpose

- 1 This policy supports Administration in carrying out the duties and the regulations of the *Agricultural Pests Act* (the *Act*) with regards to Agricultural Pests and Agricultural Nuisances.



### Policy Statement

- 2 Rocky View County (the County) commits to ensuring agricultural producers are supported in maintaining healthy and viable agricultural land.
- 3 The County acknowledges that an Owner or Occupant may prevent the establishment of, control or destroy an Agricultural Pest or Agricultural Nuisance on land the Owner owns or Occupant occupies.
- 4 The County takes active measures to prevent the establishment of and to control or destroy Agricultural Pests found on County-owned land.
- 5 The County acknowledges that an Owner or Occupant of land or property, or person in control of livestock, shall take active measures to:
  - a. Prevent the establishment of Pests on or in the land, property or livestock;
  - b. Control or destroy all pests on or in the land, property or livestock;
  - c. Destroy any crop, vegetation or other matter that contributes or may contribute to the maintenance or spread of a Pest on or in the land, property or livestock.
- 6 The County may take measures in assisting land Owners or Occupants with the control of Agricultural Nuisances found on private land.



## Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Policy

### Administrative Policy

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### Policy

- 7 The County shall appoint a sufficient number of Inspectors to carry out the *Act* and its regulations, as amended from time to time.
- 8 An Inspector may issue a notice and take enforcement actions on behalf of the County to prevent the establishment of or to control or destroy Agricultural Pests on public or private land as per Procedure 502, *Agricultural Pests and Nuisances*.
- 9 For the purpose of an appeal of a notice, the County's Enforcement Appeal Committee shall hear and determine all appeals in accordance with the *Act*, as amended from time to time.



### References

#### Legal Authorities

- *Agricultural Pests Act*, RSA 2000, c A-8
- *Land Titles Act*, RSA 2000, c L-2
- *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26

#### Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, etc.

- N/A

#### Related Procedures

- Rocky View County Procedure 502, *Agricultural Pests & Nuisances*

#### Other

- N/A



### Policy History

#### Amendment Date(s) – Amendment Description

- N/A

#### Review Date(s) – Review Outcome Description

- N/A



### Definitions



## Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Policy

### Administrative Policy

A-502

10 In this policy:

- a. “Administration” means the operations and staff of Rocky View County under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer;
- b. “Agricultural Nuisance” refers to an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease that is destroying or harming, or is likely to destroy or harm any land, livestock or property in all or part of Alberta that has been declared a nuisance by the Act and its regulations, as amended from time to time.
- c. “Agricultural Pest” refers to an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease that is destroying or harming, or is likely to destroy or harm any land, livestock or property in all or part of Alberta that has been declared a pest by the Act and its regulations, as amended from time to time.
- d. “County” means Rocky View County;
- e. “Enforcement Appeal Committee” means Rocky View County’s Enforcement Appeal Committee established by the council of Rocky View County pursuant Appeal and Review Panel Bylaw C-7717-2017.
- f. “Inspector” means a person appointed as an inspector under the Act;
- g. “Occupant” means a person occupying or exercising control or having the right to occupy or exercise control over land or property;
- h. “Owner” means
  - (a) in the case of land, a person who is registered under the *Land Titles Act* as the owner of land, or
  - (b) in the case of personal property, a person who is in lawful possession of it or who has the right to exercise control over it;
- i. “Rocky View County” means Rocky View County as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires.



## Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Procedure

### Procedure

PRO-502

<b>Procedure Number:</b>	PRO-502
<b>Procedure Owner:</b>	Agricultural & Environmental Services
<b>Adopted By:</b>	Al Hoggan, Chief Administrative Officer
<b>Adoption Date:</b>	2003 October 23
<b>Effective Date:</b>	2003 October 23
<b>Date Last Amended:</b>	2019 June 19 – Byron Riemann, Acting CAO
<b>Date Last Reviewed:</b>	2020 – March 05 – Jeff Fleischer, Agricultural and Environmental Services Manager

### Purpose

- 1 This document sets the procedures for Rocky View County (the County) Administration dealing with Agricultural Pests and Nuisances while carrying out the duties and the regulations of the *Agricultural Pests Act*, RSA 2000, c A-8 (the Act).



### Procedure

- 2 Administration and the Rocky View County Agricultural Service Board shall review this procedure annually.

### Norway Rat Inspections

- 3 Reported Norway Rat sightings within the County are investigated by an Inspector.
- 4 If a Norway Rat is confirmed in the County, an Inspector shall contact the Rat and Pest Specialist, with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, to develop a plan for eradication.

### Coyote Predation of Livestock

- 5 Coyote interactions with humans or pets shall be directed to Alberta Fish and Wildlife.
- 6 An Inspector shall respond to livestock predation by coyotes.
- 7 Preventative coyote management techniques and coyote management information are provided to the Owner and Occupant experiencing Livestock predation.
- 8 In cases where preventative management techniques are implemented and Livestock predation persists, other control options may be recommended.



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- 9 If all other management options fail, a Certified Inspector may issue a Form 8 permit and an approved toxicant under the *Pest and Nuisance Regulation*, AR 184/2001.

### Fusarium Graminearum Inspections

- 10 Random field inspections are conducted by Inspectors throughout the County.
- 11 Inspectors will wear new protective boot coverings for each field they survey.
- 12 All tools will be disinfected after the field inspection has been completed.
- 13 A minimum of 15 random grain samples will be submitted to a certified laboratory for the detection of Fusarium Graminearum.
- 14 If a positive identification of Fusarium Graminearum is confirmed, the Owner and Occupant shall be informed of the location in writing.
- 15 The Owner and Occupant is responsible for following the best management practices as defined in the Alberta Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan.
- 16 Failure to follow the recommendations outlined in the Alberta Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan, as may be amended and replaced from time to time, may result in enforcement under the Act.

### Clubroot of Canola Inspections

- 17 Inspectors shall conduct random field inspections throughout the County.
- 18 Inspectors shall follow the sampling procedures set out by the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Clubroot Guidelines for ASBs.
- 19 Inspectors shall wear new protective boot coverings for each field they survey.
- 20 All tools must be disinfected after the field inspection has been completed.
- 21 A minimum of two Canola fields per township, where applicable, will be surveyed for the presence of Clubroot.
- 22 Positive identification of Clubroot shall be confirmed by a laboratory test from a certified facility.



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- 23 If a positive identification of Clubroot is received, the Owner and Occupant shall be notified by a Notice in writing.
- 24 The Notice shall include:
  - (1) a three year restriction on the growth of Canola;
  - (2) in the fourth year, a Clubroot-resistant variety of canola may be grown;
- 25 Assistance is offered to the Owner and Occupant to develop a management strategy to prevent the further spread of Clubroot on their land.
- 26 Promotion of beneficial management practices are provided to the Owner and Occupant including:
  - (1) the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan;
  - (2) the use of Clubroot resistant varieties of Canola;
  - (3) cleaning of equipment prior to entering and exiting the land;
  - (4) proper crop rotation; and
  - (5) limiting the amount of soil disturbance.
- 27 Failure to follow the recommendations outlined in the Notice may result in enforcement under the Act.

### Dutch Elm Disease Monitoring

- 28 Traps to monitor for Elm Bark Beetles must be setup in at least six locations throughout the County in partnership with the City of Calgary.

### Richardson's Ground Squirrels

- 29 Information on Richardson's Ground Squirrel management techniques are provided to concerned Owners and Occupants.
- 30 If available, the County may sell and distribute 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate to eligible agricultural producers in accordance to Provincial and Federal regulations.

### Pocket Gophers





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- 31 Information on Pocket Gopher management techniques are provided to concerned Owner and Occupant.
- 32 Pocket Gopher traps are available for sale to Owners and Occupants within the County.

### Skunks

- 33 Information on Skunk management techniques are made available for County Owner and Occupant.
- 34 Skunk traps are available for rent to Owners and Occupants within the County.

### Raccoons

- 35 Information on Raccoon management techniques are made available to Owners and Occupants within the County..
- 36 Raccoon traps are available for rent to Owners and Occupants within the County..

### Other Pests and Nuisances

- 37 Other Pests and Nuisances, as outlined in the Act or its regulations are dealt with on a case by case basis, with assistance from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.



## References

#### Legal Authorities

- *Agricultural Pests Act*, RSA 2000, c A-8
- *Land Titles Act*, RSA 2000, c L-4
- *Livestock Industry Diversification Act*, RSA 2000, c L-17
- *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation*, AR 184/2001

#### Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, etc.

- Alberta Clubroot Management Plan
- Alberta Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan
- Rocky View County Agricultural Pests Policy, A-502

#### Related Procedures

- Clubroot Guidelines for ASBs

#### Other

- n/a





## Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Procedure

Procedure

PRO-502

### Policy History

Amendment Date(s) – Amendment  
Description

- n/a

Review Date(s) – Review Outcome  
Description

- n/a



### Definitions

38 In this procedure:

- (1) “Act” means the *Agricultural Pests Act*, RSA 2000, c A-8, as may be amended or replaced from time to time;
- (2) “Administration” means the operations and staff of Rocky View County under the direction of the County Manager;
- (3) “Agricultural Nuisance” refers to an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease that is destroying or harming, or is likely to destroy or harm any land, livestock or property in all or part of Alberta that has been declared a nuisance by the Act and its regulations, as amended from time to time;
- (4) “Agricultural Pest” refers to an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease that is destroying or harming, or is likely to destroy or harm any land, livestock or property in all or part of Alberta that has been declared a pest by the Act and its regulations, as amended from time to time;
- (5) “Board” means a board of Rocky View County established by Council or an external board to which Council makes appointments.
- (6) “Certified Inspector” means a person appointed as an inspector under the Act and holds a valid Form 7 permit from the Government of Alberta;
- (7) “County” means Rocky View County;
- (8) “Inspector” means a person appointed as an inspector under the Act;
- (9) “Livestock” means cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry and game-production animals within the meaning of the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act*, RSA 2000, c L-17.



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- (10) “Notice” means a formal document issued under section 12(1) of the Act;
- (11) “Occupant” means a person occupying or exercising control or having the right to occupy or exercise control over land or property;
- (12) “Owner” means
  - (a) in the case of land, a person who is registered as the owner of land under the *Land Titles Act*, RSA 2000, c L-4; or
  - (b) in the case of personal property, a person who is in lawful possession of it or who has the right to exercise control over it; and
- (13) “Rocky View County” means Rocky View County as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires.