



Agricultural Service Board

Subject:	Agricultural Fieldman Report
Date:	January 16, 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 November 21, 2024.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Fieldman report be received for information.

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

1. The Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference is being held at the Delta Hotel Edmonton South Conference Centre in Edmonton, AB from January 20th – 22nd. The conference allows ASBs from across the Province to learn about new agricultural issues and discuss resolutions to improve the agricultural industry within Alberta. The draft agenda is attached.
2. ADM John Conrad is hosting a Chairman meeting from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm on January 20th at the conference, agenda attached. The event will be open to ASB Chairmen and Fieldmen.
3. Rocky View County received our 2024 results from the Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network and the final report is attached for review. Sampling is completed by the Plant and Bee Health Surveillance section of Alberta Agriculture in conjunction with County Staff. Surveys were conducted to monitor cabbage seedpod weevil, bertha armyworm, pea leaf weevil, wheat midge and wheat stem sawfly.
4. Rocky View County is currently in phase 2 of public engagement on a revised [Agriculture Master Plan](#). This updated draft plan aims to identify the needs and priorities of the agricultural community, establish goals for future growth and innovation, and provide a roadmap for achieving these objectives.

The County engaged with local farmers, agri-businesses, and residents to create a draft of the Agriculture Master Plan. During phase 1 of engagement, participants shared their views on the following:

- Protecting agricultural land
- Farm succession & flexible land use
- Sharing the priorities and contributions of agriculture
- Renewable energy & environmental sustainability

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- Road infrastructure
- Legislated programs

Participation in phase 2 of public engagement includes a survey (linked below) <https://engage.rockyview.ca/agriculture-master-plan> and Community Conversations.

Community Conversation Dates:

- January 17th, 2025 at the Madden Community Hall from 11:30am – 1:30 pm
- January 27th, 2025 at the Indus Rec Centre from 11:30am – 1:30 pm
- January 30th, 2025 at the Jumping Pound Community Hall from 11:30am – 1:30 pm
- January 31st, 2025 at the Irricana Hall from 11:30am – 1:30 pm

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2025 Provincial Conference Draft Agenda

Attachment B: 2025 Chairman Meeting Agenda

Attachment C: 2024 Alberta Agriculture Insect Survey Results

2025 ASB Conference

January 20, 2025

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Chairmen Meeting	John Conrad ADM ASB Chairmen and Agricultural Fieldmen
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Conference Registration and Trade Show	
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Reception and Light Supper	
6:30 pm	Welcome to the 2025 ASB Conference	Brenda Knight Central Region ASB Representative Councillor Lacombe County
6:45 pm	Welcome to Edmonton	Dr. Rickey Yada Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) at the University of Alberta
7:00 pm	A Word from the Minister Pending availability	Minister RJ Sigurdson Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Government of Alberta

Growing the Future Together

2025 ASB Conference

January 21, 2025

6:30 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast & Trade Show	
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Announcements	Craig Lester – Master of Ceremonies Rural Roots Canada
8:30 am – 9:00 am	ASB Update	Kerriane Koehler-Munro Manager, Agricultural Service Boards – Government of Alberta
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Emerging Precision Ranching Technology is Enabling a Smart Biome	Dr. John Church Cattle Research Chair – Thompson River University
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Coffee Break/Trade Show	
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Alberta Wetland Policy Overview	Bill Kingston & Luis Fossi Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
11:00 am – 11:30 am	2025 Ag-Waste Recycling/Safe Disposal Programs in Alberta	Davin Johnson Alberta Program Advisor - Cleanfarms
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Update on the Alberta Rat Control Program	Karen Wickerson Rat and Pest Program Specialist Government of Alberta
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch/Trade Show	
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS) 2024 Update	James Tansey Provincial Specialist, Insect/Vertebrate Pest Management - Saskatchewan Government
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Overview of the United States Department of Agriculture's National Feral Swine Program	Michael Marlow USDA APHIS WS National Feral Swine Program
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Coffee Break/Trade Show	
3:00 pm	Resolutions Session #1	Brenda Knight Central Region ASB Representative Councillor Lacombe County

End of Day – Free Evening

Growing the Future Together

2025 ASB Conference

January 22, 2025

6:30 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast & Trade Show	
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Announcements	Craig Lester – Master of Ceremonies Rural Roots Canada
8:15 am – 9:00 am	Conservation Easements for Agricultural Land	Mikki Shatosky Alberta Farmland Trust
9:00 am – 9:45 am	Food Strategies to Support Tourism	Tannis Baker Food Tourism Strategies Inc.
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Coffee Break/Trade Show	
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Global Population Dynamics, Food Supply, and the Future of Agriculture in Alberta	John Knapp Executive Coach, Tantus Solutions
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	The State of Alberta's Native Bees: Threats, Solutions and How We Can Help	Megan Evans Alberta Native Bee Council
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch/Trade Show	
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Connecting Mental Wellness to Sustainable Agriculture	Dr. Alycia Chrenek Associate Director, Veterinary Services Cattle/Equine - Zoetis Canada
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Coffee Break	
2:45 – 4:00 pm	Resolutions Session #2	Brenda Knight Central Region ASB Representative Councillor Lacombe County
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Break to Setup for Banquet	
6:00 pm	Cocktails	
7:00 pm	Banquet	Awards Presentations Invitation to 2026 Provincial ASB Conference Entertainment: Memphis Mofia

Thank you for attending the “Growing the Future Together” - 2025 Provincial ASB Conference. A special thank you to the presenters along with the trade show participants and sponsors for helping make this Conference a success.

Growing the Future Together

2025 Chair meeting agenda

January 21, 2025, 2:30-3:00 pm

Chaired by : Sebastien Dutrisac

Attendance: ASB Chairs and AAAF member

1. Call to order
2. Report on the top three priorities from Regionals
3. Minister outcomes from the topics discussed on November 4, 2024
4. Future changes to Resolution Grading
5. Vote on outcomes/format of next year's chair meeting
6. 3:00 Adjourn

3:00-4:00 ADM Town Hall

INSECT SURVEY RESULTS – 2024 – ROCKY VIEW

2024 Summary

Thank you Rocky View for all the work you do for the monitoring program, please know that it is appreciated.

Cabbage seedpod weevil was present in Rocky View in the survey we conducted at early flower, but a levels below threshold.

There were 4 bertha armyworm sites in Rocky View County this year. All locations never even broke the 100 moth count. Trapping will continue to be very important to watch for any possible future outbreaks. The traps across Alberta and Saskatchewan suggest that we are in the clear again in 2025 for bertha problems.

In the four fields sampled for wheat midge in 2024, I didn't find any wheat midge. That doesn't mean midge wont be an issue in 2025. Should the growing conditions favor midge development, rain in May and June in 2025 and late seeding, it will be important to scout for the insect while the wheat is in flower. We know that midge can spend several years in the soil, waiting for ideal conditions to finish its lifecycle.

Pea leaf weevil damage was low in the survey we conducted in late May – early June. We sampled 3 fields for pea leaf weevil in 2024, which is better than 2023, but will target 4 or 5 in the county in 2025.

We did find some fields with wheat stem sawfly cutting damage again in 2024, nothing to be alarmed at. This is not unexpected as sawfly is very successful in dry and hot summers. We also had reports of hessian fly in the region in 2024 and this could be confused with sawfly if you are unfamiliar with sawfly cutting.

BERTHA ARMYWORM (BAW)

Bertha armyworm is very cyclical. In order to catch outbreaks and help producers minimize losses it is necessary to maintain a good monitoring system using pheromone traps. The number of moths caught in the traps informs us of the risk of damaging populations with a 3 to 5 week lead time. These numbers are generated from paired pheromone traps in individual fields, except in the Peace River region where only 1 trap is used to reduce impact on native pollinators.

Bertha armyworm populations are normally kept in check by such factors as weather and natural enemies. Potential damage may be more or less severe than suggested by the moth count data depending on weather and crop conditions and localized population dynamics. Research has clearly shown that very few fields are ever affected in an area with moth catches less than 300. Even at higher moth counts field scouting is critical for pest management decisions because experience has shown that field to field and even within field variations can be very large.

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
NW-13-26-2-W5	18.5
SE-31-22-27-W4	18

Shaded cells were managed by County
Sampling period June 16 – July 27, 2024

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
NE-11-28-28-W4	19
NE-11-26-28-W4	14.5

CABBAGE SEEDPOD WEEVIL (CSPW)

In southern Alberta, including all counties south of and touching Highway 1, the earliest flowering canola crops will be at the highest risk from cabbage seedpod weevil and should be monitored very closely.

Cabbage seedpod weevil overwinters as an adult so the risk of infestation is further indicated by the adult population of the preceding fall. Winter condition also appear to have an impact on populations with mild winter favoring build-up of populations and expansion of their range.

We track the population of other insects in these sweeps as well. These go into long term data sets that will help us research their population trends over time from individual fields.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					CSPW IN 25 SWEEPS	LYGUS ADULT	LYGUS NYMPH	LEAFHOPPER	FLEA BEETLE	RED TURNIP BEETLE	DBM ADULT	DBM LARVA	WASP <5 MM	WASP >5MM	HONEY BEE	BEE BUT NOT HONEY	CATERPILLAR
ne	17	28	2	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
se	29	27	1	5	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ne	8	27	28	4	34	32	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sw	24	25	27	4	33	14	0	0	12	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0

Samples done with standard sweep net. (15" diameter & 3 foot handle). 25-180 degree sweeps.

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff

PEA LEAF WEEVIL (PLW)

Experience has shown us that high numbers of pea leaf weevil adults in fall will likely mean significant infestation levels in the following spring. The timing and intensity of spring damage is strongly related to the onset of warm conditions (>20°C) for more than a few days in April or May. The earlier the weevils arrive in fields the higher yield loss potential. Extended cool weather delays weevil movement into the field. Yield impact is lower if the crop advances past the 6 node stage before the weevils arrive. The numbers represented here are generated from assessing feeding damage on 10 plants in 5 locations in a field.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	TOTAL NOTCHES	AVERAGE NODE STAGE	AVERAGE NOTCHES/PLANT
SW-6-28-25-W4	13	6.88	0.26
SE-27-25-27-W4	0	8	0
NW-14-22-27-W4	0	8	0

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network staff

WHEAT MIDGE (SOIL) (WM)

Wheat midge is an insect that increases in numbers in wet years. Numbers can vary drastically from field to field and we try to sample wheat adjacent to the previous years' wheat in order to pick up populations if they are present. There is no definitive way to know exactly the risk in any given field so field scouting when the wheat comes into head is critical. The numbers shown here give a general trend of midge populations. Individual fields will have a different risk.

These numbers are generated by taking soil samples from wheat fields after harvest using a standardized soil probe.

The risk level as shown on our maps is as follows:

- 0 midge will be displayed as light grey (No infestation)
- 2 or less midge will be shown as dark grey (<600/m²)
- 3 to 5 will be shown as yellow (600 to 1200/ m²)
- 6 to 8 will be shown as orange (1200 to 1800/ m²)
- 9 or more will be shown as red. (>1800/ m²)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	PARASITOID
nw	26	25	27	4	0	0	0
se	13	22	27	4	0	0	0
nw	22	26	28	4	0	0	0
e	6	28	27	4	0	0	0

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff

WHEAT STEM SAWFLY (WSS)

The percent of stems cut by sawfly gives an indication of the number of reproductive adult sawflies that will emerge in late June through early July. Winter conditions have very little impact on sawfly populations and a high proportion of wheat stems cut in the fall will produce adults. It is possible that population hot spots still exist in areas of lower risk, individual producers need to be aware of the potential risks in their own fields.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE CUT
se-13-22-27-4	0
nw-26-25-27-4	2
nw-22-26-28-4	7
e-6-28-27-4	3

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff

WHEN DOING FIELD VISITS WE:

- never drive into the field
- sanitize our equipment between fields with bleach solution
- wear boot covers