



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.

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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.