



## 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.

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- 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.

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### 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

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

## ATTACHMENTS

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Attachment A: Agricultural Moisture Situation Update May 21, 2025