

**POLICY # AG 006**
**AGRICULTURAL PEST AND NUISANCE  
CONTROL**

|                               |                |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>APPROVAL<br/>DATE:</b>     | February 1994  | <b>CROSS-<br/>REFERENCE:</b> | AG 001 Beaver Control Policy; AG 003 Grasshopper Control Policy; AG 005 Coyote Control Toxicants and Devices Policy; AG 013 Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan Policy; AG 015 Control of Clubroot Disease Policy |
| <b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>        | Administration |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>APPROVER:</b>              | Council        | <b>APPENDICES:</b>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>REVISION<br/>DATE (s):</b> | March 25, 2019 | <b>REVIEW<br/>DATE:</b>      | March 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## POLICY STATEMENT

To establish an integrated pest management strategy which demonstrates the commitment of the County of Vermilion River to fulfilling its duties under the Agricultural Pests Act and Nuisance Control Regulation.

## BACKGROUND

As a result of being located along the Saskatchewan border, the County of Vermilion River is part of Alberta's Provincial Rat Control Area. Pest Inspector(s) are therefore employed by the County to provide rat control and inspection services as required by an Agreement with the Province of Alberta.

Furthermore, Alberta's Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000 c A-8 requires municipalities to appoint inspectors to carry out the Act and Regulations within the municipality. These inspectors ensure that land, livestock and property within the County are protected from agricultural pests and nuisances.

## OBJECTIVE

To respond to infestations of Designated Pests, provide pest monitoring services, conduct rat inspections and control services as required by agreement with the Province, and assist ratepayers with access to the effective tools and solutions to control Problem Wildlife and Designated Nuisances thereby improving the sustainability of agricultural operations.

## SCOPE

| INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS | EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Council               | Ratepayers            |
| Administration        |                       |

## DEFINITIONS

**County** is the County of Vermilion River.

**Designated Pest** means the animals, birds, insects, plants and diseases set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Agricultural Pests Act Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation AR 184/2001, and wild boar where it is at large in Alberta.

**Designated Nuisance** means the animals, birds, insects, plants and diseases set out in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Agricultural Pests Act Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation AR 184/2001.

**Pest Inspector(s)** means a person appointed as an inspector under the Agricultural Pests Act.

**Problem Wildlife** means those wildlife species listed by Alberta Environment and Parks as problem wildlife under the Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations.

**Landowner** is a person who is registered under the Land Titles Act as the owner of the land.

**Occupant** is a person occupying or exercising control or having the right to occupy or exercise control over land or property.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The County of Vermilion River employs and trains Pest Inspectors. Pest Inspectors are trained in pest identification, pest management techniques and pest control measures.
- Appointed Pest Inspectors must hold a valid Form 7 – Permit for coyote and skunk control on another person's Land.
- The control of Designated Nuisances, Designated Pests and Problem Wildlife is a shared responsibility between landowners, the Province of Alberta and the County of Vermilion River.

- A Pest Inspector is permitted to issue and enforce notices as required by the Agricultural Pest Act when the Pest Inspector suspects that the property contains a Problem or Designated Pest and the landowner or occupant is unwilling to take measures to control or eradicate the infestation.
- AG 001 Beaver Control Policy, AG003 Grasshopper Control Policy, AG 005 Coyote Control Toxicants & Devices Policy, AG 013 Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan Policy and AG 015 Control of Clubroot Disease Policy or other pest specific County policies supersede this Agricultural Pest and Nuisance Control Policy AG 006.

## **Vertebrate Pests**

### **Richardson Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus richardsonii*) Control:**

- When it is registered for use by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, the County may sell 2% liquid strychnine to qualified agricultural producers for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrel.

### **Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Control:**

- The County Pest Inspector shall investigate complaints of coyote predation upon livestock within the County. Proof of predation must be obtained before authorizing issuance of control material and devices.
- See Policy AG 005 Coyote Control Toxicants & Devices.

### **Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) Control:**

- The Landowner or Occupant may undertake control of skunks on their property. The County may assist by providing skunk traps for short term use.

### **Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) Control:**

- The County participates in Alberta's Wild Boar Program to assist producers in managing wild boar populations within the County.

### **Rat (*Rattus* species) and Rabies (*Rhabdoviruses*) Control:**

- All complaints of suspected rat or rabies occurrence shall be investigated.
- The County must fulfil its responsibilities under the Alberta Municipal Rat and Rabies Control Agreement.

### **Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) Control:**

- Currently, raccoons are not a Designated Pest or Designated Nuisance under the Agricultural Pests Act. The Landowner or Occupant may undertake control of raccoons on their property. The County may assist by providing traps for short term use.

#### **Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) Control:**

- See Policy AG 001 Beaver Control Policy

#### **Insect Pests**

##### **Grasshopper (*Locustidae*), Bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) and Other Insect Control:**

- The County shall conduct field surveys to monitor populations of insect Pests and Nuisance species in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture.
- See Policy AG 003 Grasshopper Control.

#### **Crop Disease Management**

##### **Fusarium Head Blight (*Fusarium graminearum*):**

- See Policy AG 013 Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan.

##### **Clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*):**

- See Policy AG 015 Control of Clubroot Disease.

## **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

| <b>ROLE/TASK</b>                        | <b>TITLE (s) OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>HANDLING INQUIRIES</b>               | Director of Agriculture & Environment  |
| <b>MONITORING REVIEWS AND REVISIONS</b> | Executive Secretary                    |
| <b>IMPLEMENTING POLICY</b>              | Council                                |
| <b>COMMUNICATING POLICY</b>             | Chief Administrative Officer           |

## **EXCEPTIONS**

Pest monitoring is for Declared Agricultural Pests.