

# AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD (ASB) – ALBERTA WEED CONTROL

## WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?



Integrated Vegetation  
Management



Seed Cleaning Plants

## HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS?

### Key Strategies

STRATEGY	DESCRIPTION
Protect Infrastructure	Maintain and enhance municipal infrastructure through roadside vegetation and water management.
Reduce Liability and Enhance Public Safety	Maintain driver line of sight and visibility through roadside vegetation management.
Manage Noxious and Prohibited Noxious Weeds	Use Integrated Vegetation Management (spray, mow, hand pull) to control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on municipal properties. Utilize <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i> to manage noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on private and public property.
Roadside Spray Program	Conduct the spraying of County roadsides to control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds and, and brush, maintain the integrity of infrastructure and safety of public by ensuring line of sight.
Roadside Mowing Program	Conduct the mowing of County roadsides and properties to provide vegetation management, for the control of weeds and brush, maintain the integrity of infrastructure and enhance public safety by ensuring line of sight.
Weed Inspection Program	Appointment of adequate Weed Inspectors for enforcement of the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulations</i>
Seed Cleaning Plants	Maintain alliances with the Seed Cleaning Plants surrounding early detection of weed species and crop pests.
Special Weed Program	Conduct the control of noxious and prohibited weeds such as Scentless Chamomile, Common Tansy and Toadflax on county properties and under special circumstances.

## WHEN & HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

### Actions/Initiatives

ACTION	EXPLANATION	ACHIEVEMENT DEADLINE
Inspection Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Enforce the Alberta Weed Act and Regulations through the appointment of adequate Weed <del>Inspections</del> <u>Inspectors</u> for the control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on County land and roadsides.</li> <li>*Inspect reports of out of control weeds on private and commercially owned land, railway right-of-ways and provincial highways.</li> <li>*<u>Use co-operative approach between landowners and County to resolve weed concerns on private land where possible.</u> Issue weed notices for the control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds <u>if needed</u>.</li> <li>*Prepare map of areas with weed issues within County</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Seed Cleaning Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Conduct annual seed plant inspections to maintain proper licencing.</li> <li>*<del>Collect</del> <u>Inspect</u> 20 seed samples from each of the three seed plants for grading of seed.</li> <li>*Conduct and attend annual Seed Plant meetings for the exchange of information and discussion on the control of and early detection of weed species and crop pests.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Roadside Spray Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Conduct the chemical control of noxious and prohibited weeds and brush along County roadsides.</li> <li>*Maintain the efficiency of the spray program through spraying one of three zones annually, visually displayed on a "Roadside Spray Zones" map.</li> <li>*Aim to blanket spray approximately 1200 km (800 miles) of County roadsides annually. In <del>2019</del> <u>2020</u>, blanket spray roadsides in Spray Area <del>12</del> to control brush, broadleaf weeds and toadflax. <del>This will potentially kill all brush, thistles, sweet clover and 80-85% of the toadflax. The remaining patches will need to be spot-sprayed (Special Weed Program) in 2020.</del></li> <li>*Control the re-growth of brush by spraying roadside ditches that have been mulched by Public Works as needed. All regrowth from brushing shall be sprayed (if necessary) within two years.</li> <li>*Maintain the working integrity of drainage ditches controlling the re-growth of weeds and brush by spraying annually <u>where possible</u>.</li> <li>*Maintain the annual Spray Program spray locations via an electronic digitized map.</li> <li>*Investigate incidences of over-spray.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Special Weed Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Maintain the Special Weed Program by responding to reports of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on private or commercially owned land, and County roadsides.</li> <li>*Provide targeted control of <u>scentless chamomile</u>, tansy and toadflax (noxious weeds). <del>This program should concentrate in Spray Area 3 for 2019, and progress to Area 1 in 2020.</del> Spot spray toadflax and/or tansy on about 100 ha. <del>In 2019, toadflax escapes from blanket spray program in Areas 2 &amp; 3 will be targeted, with the intention of significantly reducing toadflax over the county by late 2020.</del> The special weed program will follow one year behind the roadside spraying program to manage any herbicide escapes.</li> <li>*The County will help ratepayers control noxious weeds on private lands by providing manpower and equipment free of charge and herbicide worth up to \$100 per ratepayer. The ratepayer will reimburse the County for any herbicide used over \$100. The County will maintain a list of ratepayers requesting private land spraying for noxious weeds. The County's roadside weed control and brush spraying will be the ASB's number one priority, but</li> </ul>	Ongoing

	<p>when equipment and manpower become available, at the discretion of the Ag. Fieldman, the County will contact and assist ratepayers. Spraying done under a Weed Notice is exempt from being done free of charge.</p> <p>*Cooperate with adjacent municipalities by promoting the control of the spread of noxious and prohibited weeds.</p> <p><u>*Spot spray noxious weeds on Provincial Highways within the Municipality under contract for Alberta Transportation.</u></p>	
<b>Roadside Mowing Program</b>	<p>*Mow County roadsides to improve visibility, improve driver safety, protect the County from liability, improve maintenance of infrastructure, control brush in a cost effective manner and provide mechanical control of noxious and prohibited weeds along County roadsides. Ensure all Class A, Class C, and Class D, Class road ditches are mowed once annually between July 15 and August 31. All Class A road ditches will be <u>full right-of-way cutscut 15' into the ditch where possible</u>, and other roads will be <u>a 10 to 12' shoulder cut</u>.</p> <p>*Aim to mow selected areas with specified weed concerns such as industrial parks, construction areas, newly developed areas, and where herbicide application by mower is desired annually with the County's mowers</p> <p>*Use contract mowers to mow <u>2830-3200 km</u> (<u>1760-1990 miles</u>) of county roadsides.</p> <p>*Communicate changes in mowing Service Level to ratepayers in advance of mowing.</p>	Ongoing
<b>No-Spray Zone Policy</b>	<p>*No-Spray Zone policy allows landowners to assume responsibility for weed and brush control along County right-of-way adjacent to their property by mowing or removing all noxious and prohibited noxious weeds and brush 2m tall and less. A No-Spray Zone Agreement must be signed annually by May 31. The ROW must be maintained (weeds removed and brush kept less than 60cm tall) by June 15, and continuously through the growing season as weeds/brush become visible.</p> <p>*No-Spray Zone agreements must not be used as a buffer to achieve or maintain Organic Status.</p> <p>*All agreement areas will be inspected for compliance by July 1, <del>2018</del>, with enforcement if needed.</p> <p><u>*County does not spray in front of obviously maintained yard sites, as long as applicator can see that yard is being maintained in time to stop application of herbicide.</u></p> <p><u>*Communicate changes in no-spray zone agreements to ratepayers before growing season.</u></p>	
<b>Roadside Haying Agreements</b>	<p>*Applications for Haying Agreements must be received by May 31, <del>2018</del>.</p> <p>*Applicants may apply annually for a Hay Agreement for County right-of-way adjacent to their property until May 31. From June 1 to June 15, other county residents may apply annually for a Hay Agreement for County right-of-way not claimed by the adjacent land owner.</p> <p><u>*All haying must be completed by July 15, prior to onset of roadside mowing.</u></p> <p>*The County has responsibility for vegetation control to protect infrastructure, reduce liability risk and control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds.</p> <p>*Residents desiring a Hay Agreement need to be aware that there may be herbicides or herbicide residues present on roadsides.</p> <p>*Communicate changes in Roadside Haying Agreements to ratepayers before growing season.</p>	

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS/INITIATIVES FROM LAST YEAR

\*60 seed samples collected and graded. Licences issued to 3 area seed cleaning plants.

\*Gravel pits inspected and noxious weed control done where needed.

\*Contractor mowed 1835-3260 km (1140-2026 miles) of road sides. 1960 miles received a 12' shoulder cut where possible, and 65 miles of Class A roads were mowed to as close as the fenceline as possible, with a minimum 15' cut the common distance achieved.

\*Blanket sprayed 1730-1440 km (1075-895 miles) of county roadside for weeds/brush.

\*Inspected and managed 80 sites specifically for noxious weeds.

\*Sprayed 98 ha of brush mulch areas

\*One weed notice was issued and enforced in 20182019

\*Vegetation controlled on natural gas regulator stations CVR Gas Utility.

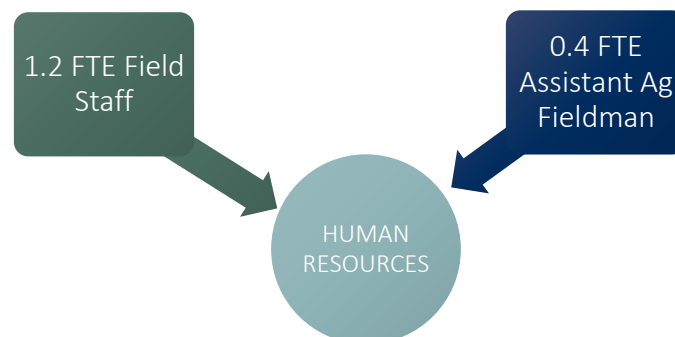
~~\*Several noxious weed patches were sprayed for Alberta Transportation.~~

\*No--spray zone agreements were signed with 24-8 ratepayers.

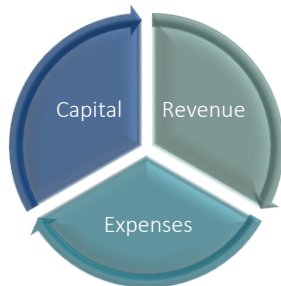
\*Haying agreements were signed with 8-4 ratepayers ~~on 60 miles of roadside.~~

\*Appointed 7 Weed Inspectors.

## HUMAN RESOURCES



## FINANCIAL RESOURCES



	DETAILS
<b>REVENUE</b>	-Annual ASB Grant (\$168,359); private weed control
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<del>-weed control chemical (Roadside spraying \$200,000, Special weeds \$40,000), wages.</del> -2019 ASB Operating Budget
<b>CAPITAL</b>	-Mowing and spraying equipment -2019 ASB Capital Budget

## REGULATIONS/POLICIES

- A) Agriculture Service Board Act.
- B) Agricultural Pests Act.
- C) Soil Conservation Act.
- D) Weed Control Act.
- E) Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- F) Industrial Vegetation Management Guidelines.
- G) AG Policies/Management Plans (AG001 – AG016).

## MEASUREMENTS

CATEGORY	MEASUREMENT	GOAL
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	Budget	Operate within budget
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL</b>	Timeframes	Complete actions in allotted time frame
<b>CUSTOMER CARE</b>	Seed samples Mowing Spraying	Collect and grade 20 samples from each seed plant Mow <del>3000</del> 3200 km <u>Blanket \$</u> spray 1200 km
<b>VISION</b>	Diversity	

## HISTORY/BACKGROUND