

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD (ASB) – Agricultural Pests Act

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?



- Inspection Program
- Beaver Control Program
- Other Pest Control
- Pest Surveys

HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS?

Key Strategies

STRATEGY	DESCRIPTION
Inspection Program	Appointment of adequate Pest Control Officers for the enforcement of the <i>Agricultural Pests Act and Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation</i> .
Beaver Control Program	Maintain control and dam-blasting capability for protection of municipal infrastructure, and flood-loss reduction.
Other Pest Control	Continue to provide access to effective tools for ratepayers to control problem pests and wildlife on their property.
Pest Surveys	Continue to participate in the Prairie Pest Monitoring Coalition. Continue monitoring and control activities concerning Clubroot, grasshoppers, Bertha armyworm and other pests as requested by Alberta Agriculture.

WHEN & HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Actions/Initiatives

ACTION	EXPLANATION	ACHIEVEMENT DEADLINE
Investigation/Inspection Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Enforce the <i>Agricultural Pests Act and Regulation</i> through the appointment of adequate Pest Control Officers for the control of declared pests and nuisances on County and privately owned land. *Investigate reports of declared pests on County and privately owned land. *Issue Pest Control Notices as required. *Ensure Pest Control Officers maintain current licensing and registration requirements for handling toxicants and explosives 	Ongoing
Beaver Control Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Assist internal departments with the removal of beaver dams, lodges, and cleaning of culverts for the protection of road infrastructure <u>using both staff and contracted help</u>. *County ratepayers are encouraged to deal with beaver related problems on their own as far as possible. Where help is required to alleviate water 	Ongoing

problems, arrangements may be made to deal with the situation through county resources at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman. Applications will be accepted on a complaint basis, but may be refused when manpower or resources are limited. A fee for service will be charged when only one party benefits from the blasting service.

*Remove beaver dams and lodges that pose water flow obstructions and compromise County infrastructure by mechanical means where feasible, before using explosives. Any breaching of dams must be in accordance with Fisheries and Oceans Canada guidelines, and meet requirements of the Alberta Water Act.

*Fly over the Vermilion River annually to locate problem dams as required.

*Maintain Explosives Magazine as per *Explosives Regulations* regarding transportation and storage.

Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control

*Maintain the supply and distribution of available Provincially registered toxicants for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel as allowed.
 *Maintain records of toxicant sales and application locations as per Provincial regulations.

~~*Provide Strychnine sales to ratepayers as below:~~

~~_____ Sell strychnine from March 1 – May 15, 2019 cost (\$10/bottle or \$240/case plus GST).
 _____~~

*Use media to communicate changes in strychnine sales to ratepayers in advance.

Other Pest Control

*Respond to ratepayer concerns regarding common pests such as ground squirrels, pocket gophers, mice, bats, porcupines, raccoons, coyotes etc. by providing advice, access to pest control tools, and other aid as deemed essential by Ag Fieldman or Pest Control Officer.
 *Maintain availability of pest control tools such as traps and toxicants
 *Participate in annual rabies control programs when required by Province (i.e. skunk culling)
 *Distribute toxicants to agricultural producers as needed as per *Agricultural Pests Act*.
 *Continue to participate in the Provincial Wild Boar Program.

Ongoing

Pest Surveys

*Continue to participate in the Prairie Pest Monitoring Coalition to provide warning to farmers concerning insect pest such as grasshoppers, bertha armyworms, diamondback moths and wheat midge.
 *Participate in the Alberta Grasshopper Survey annually.
 *Participate in the Alberta Bertha Armyworm Survey annually.
 *Participate in Alberta canola disease surveys including clubroot annually.

Ongoing

Clubroot of Canola

*Participate in Alberta Clubroot monitoring and control activities.
 *Take a proactive approach to reduce the spread of Clubroot through sampling protocols and information distribution.
 *Survey at least 2 (ideally 3) canola fields in each township block within the County (total number of canola fields surveyed annually to be at least ~~200~~100, ideally 200) from July to September ~~2019~~.
 *Pest Inspectors will follow County protocol when surveying canola fields.
 *If a suspected clubroot sample is found in initial survey, Agriculture Fieldman or Assistant Ag Fieldman will meet with the landowner/manager on the affected site to confirm a positive diagnosis and area of field affected.
 *Ag Fieldman will work with landowners/managers to produce Management Plans for all positive fields. At least 2 years between canola crops (1 year in 3 crop rotation) is required.

Ongoing

*Provide extension on clubroot Best Management Practices to farmers, including meetings, field walks, newsletter/newspaper information and County website.

*Participate in NE Regional CAP Clubroot Surveillance Municipal project.

*Provide training for ASB Appeal Committee annually or as required.

*To aid in managing the spread of clubroot within the municipality, the County will help ratepayers establish grassed field entrances by providing up to \$100 worth of grass/legume seed per ratepayer. ALUS Vermilion River will also assist with establishment costs, and some approaches may qualify as ALUS Vermilion River projects. This program does not eliminate the requirement for ratepayers to follow the County's Control of Clubroot Disease Policy.

Extension and Outreach

*Develop and implement an education and outreach program for agricultural producers to provide information on agriculture challenges and opportunities including crop insect, disease and weed management and sustainable crop rotation opportunities, developing threats and/or opportunities.

Ongoing

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS/INITIATIVES FROM LAST YEAR

*Sold ~~1651~~ 3178 bottles of strychnine to ~~60~~ 92 farmers in ~~2018~~ 2019.

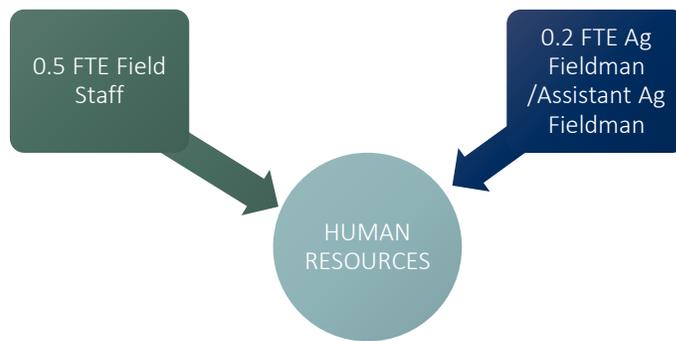
*Surveyed ~~110~~ 180 canola fields for clubroot, 42 fields for grasshoppers and ~~10~~ 16 fields for canola diseases including clubroot and blackleg in ~~2018~~ 2019. Managed 2 Bertha armyworm traps. Clubroot spore collector data collected for four weeks in September.

* ~~No~~ 3 locations required attention due to livestock predation. ~~1~~ 10 beaver dams were removed for Public Works to date. ~~60~~ 148 beavers were trapped to maintain water flow through County infrastructure to date.

*Appointed 7 Pest Inspectors.

*Hosted Crop Rotation Workshop. Articles on clubroot management in winter and summer newsletters.

HUMAN RESOURCES



FINANCIAL RESOURCES



DETAILS	
REVENUE	-Annual ASB Grant (\$168,359); private pest control; sale of strychnine
EXPENSES	-Pest control toxicants, explosives, pest control devices (traps etc.), wages

	- 2019 ASB Operating Budget
CAPITAL	-Explosives magazine, vehicles - 2019 ASB Capital Budget

REGULATIONS/POLICIES

- A) Agriculture Service Board Act.
- B) Agricultural Pests Act.
- C) Provincial Wild Boar Policy
- D) AG Policies/Management Plans (AG001 – AG016).

MEASUREMENTS

CATEGORY	MEASUREMENT	GOAL
FINANCIAL	Budget	Operate within budget
ORGANIZATIONAL	Timeframes Surveys	Complete actions in allotted time frame Complete 200 <u>100</u> Clubroot surveys
CUSTOMER CARE	Beaver Control Ground Squirrel Control	Ensure services available Coordinate strychnine distribution
VISION	Sustainability	Maintain pest services according to Agricultural Pest Act

HISTORY/BACKGROUND