

**RESOLUTION NO. 1
Alberta Rat Control Program**

WHEREAS Alberta has been considered a Rat-Free province due to the effectiveness of the Provincial Rat Control Program and the partnering border municipalities which has proven to be a major Alberta advantage nationally as well as globally;

WHEREAS municipalities have received Rat calls, that turn out to be improperly deposited of dead rats that have been found at landfills, garbage bin sites and dogs have retrieved rat carcasses from neighboring yards.

WHEREAS Alberta has had isolated rat infestations within the last year and Alberta's Rat-Free status could be called into question if these animals are continually allowed to be brought in for pet food, giving the public the perception that we are not actually rat free.

WHEREAS the Province needs to maintain all of its Alberta advantages and must ensure the continuation of an effective Rat Control Program thus retaining its Rat-Free status.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**
that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development ban the possession, sales, and imports of dead Norway rats for the purpose of pet food.

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: Simple majority

Background:

The Rat Control Program provides services for the Rat Control zone comprised of ranges one, two and three west of the fourth meridian in Alberta and east into the Province of Saskatchewan, this creates buffer zone between the two provinces, resulting in an Alberta advantage. Infestations, wherever they are found or reported in Alberta or the buffer zone, are to also be addressed by this program.

The MD of Bonnyville has run into situations with pet snake owners that purchase packages of euthanized rats to feed to their snakes. With these pet owners using dead rats, the rats have ended up in being improperly discarded and the public have found rat carcasses on their property. This has led to more Rat calls which in turn leads to more man hours MD staff has to spend unnecessarily on the program.

We also feel with this market of providing dead Norway Rats to snakes will create a demand in Alberta that will see Norway rat grow operations to supply the snake food industry. Pretty soon they will be selling live Norway Rats because that is the preferred food for snakes.

The City of Calgary has been fighting this battle of grow operations over the past number of years and these changes would help preserve Alberta's rat free status. If the public knows there are dead rats allowed in Alberta who's to say that there are no live rats that stay here also.

The MD of Bonnyville in committed to keep our border area free of the Norway rat and this has been very successful program over the years. But if the province does not step up and keep control of the potential problems that arise the whole integrity of the program may be lost.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2
Promoting Alberta's Rat Free Status**

WHEREAS Alberta has the distinction of being one of the few places in the world that is rat free

WHEREAS as time goes on residents of Alberta may not be as aware as they once were that this is a rat free the province

WHEREAS residents may not be aware that they can and should report rat sightings or to whom they should be reporting a sighting to.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development allocate additional resources to the education of the public on the rat control program that exists in the province.

Sponsored by: Cypress County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: Simple majority

Background:

Alberta has been rat free since the 1950s. This is a fact that we as a province should be proud of and it is imperative that we do all that we can to ensure that our rat free status continues into the future. However, with ever changing demographics it is not safe to assume that everyone knows that we are rat free and want to stay that way. Someone coming from a province or a country where rats are common would not think that they should report the sighting of the pest, and with the ever increasing urban population they would likely not be aware that Alberta Agriculture or the Agricultural Fieldman is the person to contact. In terms of the success of the rat control program having the public involved is crucial and all persons *in* Alberta must be working together to achieve our goal of remaining rat free.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3
Richardson Ground Squirrel Control**

WHEREAS the 2008-2011 Emergency Registration of 2% Strychnine has proven effective in managing the large Richardson Ground Squirrel populations.

WHEREAS the Richardson Ground Squirrel Populations have decreased in several regions of the province because of the ability for producers to utilize Strychnine.

WHEREAS permanent registration will allow proactive management and control of RGS infestations. Instead of reacting to situations when they are out of control.

WHEREAS there is still no other product available that is as effective as 2% Liquid Strychnine.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada permanently register 2% Liquid Strychnine for Richardson Ground Squirrel control, until there is a new product proven to be as effective as 2% Liquid Strychnine available to producers.

Sponsored by: Red Deer County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Federal

Department: Agriculture Canada
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Passed: Simple majority

Background

The emergency registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine that has been available for the past 4 years has proven to be effective in controlling the Richardson Ground Squirrel populations. Now that a reasonable level of control has been achieved the continued use of 2% will allow us to maintain these levels. It is a pro-active management practice that will eliminate the need for "emergency registrations" where huge amounts of product have been applied in a few years. Availability of 2% allows producers to control the populations in a safer manageable manner.

Ground squirrels create huge issues in cereal and forage crops, not only reducing crop yields and ultimately producer income. They also damage equipment and present a huge danger for livestock grazing in fields infested with holes. With input costs at record highs and commodity prices at lows producers cannot afford another source of income loss.

Currently there is no other product as effective in the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels as 2% Liquid Strychnine. Until there is a product that matches the effectiveness of 2% Liquid Strychnine producers need continued access to this product; to ensure that they are able to keep the ground squirrel populations under control.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4
Wild Boar Eradication Initiative**

- WHEREAS** the population of Wild Boar on the loose as a pest in Alberta continues to grow in spite of random hunting and bounties.
- WHEREAS** live Trapping or (pen hunting) has proven to be an effective method of eliminating sizeable herds in Red Deer and in Counties to the North West
- WHEREAS** the ROI (return on investment) at this early intervention date is 1:100. Statistics prove that eliminating a pest before it becomes wide spread and established is the most cost effective. (see attached)
- WHEREAS** the potential is to have a US situation with 2- 6,000,000 hogs in 44 states that cost \$800,000,000 per yr. on property and crop damage.
- WHEREAS** damage in the US has taken the form of 27,000 auto accidents, predation of sheep, cattle, goats, chickens, the destruction of crops, gardens, and carrying disease, upsetting natural environmental balances, water quality and riparian areas.
- WHEREAS** the Provincial Government hired a Professional Pest Control company to rid the Province of rats in the 1950's. The Alberta Rat Program is proof that pests can be controlled. (other than the N and S poles Alberta is, "the only place in the World," that is rat free). Alberta now has a chance to be wild boar free.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture initiate a "Provincial Strategy," for a controlled "Live Trapping Program" run by professional trappers to eradicate Wild Boar as a Pest in Alberta.

Sponsored by: Red Deer County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: Simple majority

Background

Red Deer County Farmers have successfully eliminated a herd of wild boar by live trapping (pen hunting). The Counties in the North West have had similar success but what is needed is a Provincially led program run by professionals that will address the wild boar problem where ever it surfaces.

Economic Damage Potential

The US Situation - in 44 states, established in 21

History – Introduced by the Spanish, can grow to 500 to 750 pounds.

Population 1990 – 17 States, 500,000 to 2,000,000, Now 3 to 6,000,000 in 44 states

Damage 27000 auto accidents yearly, voracious predators, spread disease, destroy crops and property
Costs \$800,000,000 per year in the US

Other Provinces - Manitoba has been fighting these pests for 20+ years and they are still spreading into Saskatchewan

Worldwide - Germany has 2,500,000 also Australia, Japan, Ireland are over run.

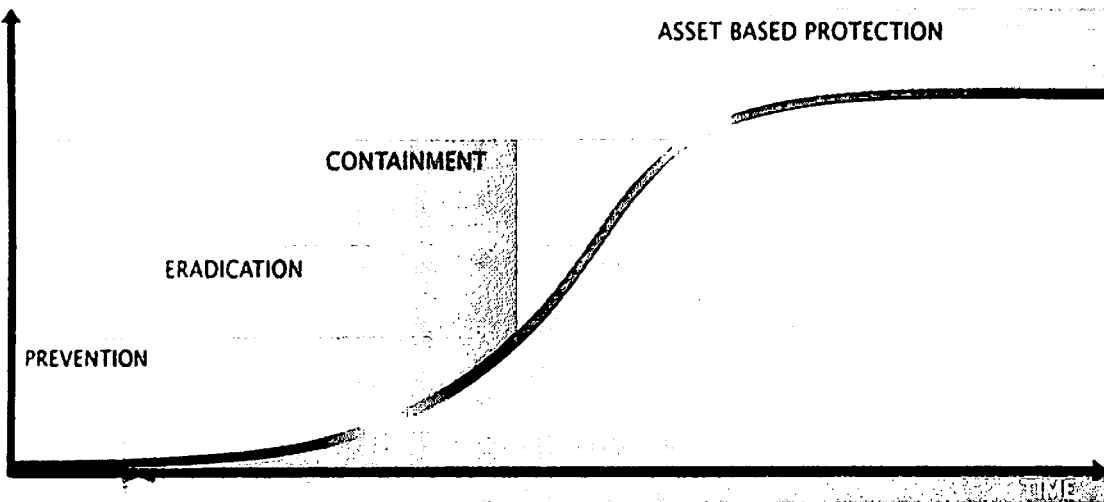
Live Trapping Successes – Red Deer County, Counties in the North West and the US.

Live Trapping Plan – Hogs are fed in portable pens, and eventually whole herds are trapped and eliminated. With no chasing, no learned behaviors and decreased impact on the environment. Populations are reduced efficiently.

The current provincial bounty encourages sporadic unorganized hunting that disperses the heard and teaches them to be nocturnal.

Similar to the provincial Rat Control Program, this requires a Provincial focus. A plan of action that uses professional hunters/trappers working in conjunction with Fieldman and farmers and implementing a strategy that is consistent across the Province.

Early intervention is key.



Species absent Small number of isolated populations Rapid increase in distribution and abundance in many populations Invasive species widespread and abundant throughout its potential range

ECONOMIC RETURNS

1:100
Prevention

1:25
Eradication

1:5-10
Containment

1:1-5
Asset Based Protection

Destructive wild pigs spreading in U.S.

BY LIFE NEWS SERVICES

America's wild pig population is exploding and spreading across the country, more than doubling in size and range in the past 20 years.

Two decades ago, somewhere between 500,000 and two million wild pigs roamed the United States, according to Jack Mayer, a national expert on the problem.

Now the population numbers between two million and six million. In 1982, feral pigs were documented in 17 states. Today, they are found in 44.

Wildlife experts say the hogs, which can weigh as much as 500 to 750 pounds (225 to 340 kg), are increasingly running amok in rural areas, suburbs and even a few cities, digging up cemeteries, gardens and lawns; causing car wrecks — and occasionally attacking people.

"They eat our crops. They root up our wetlands. They compete with our native species. They damage property. They run into our cars," said Mayer, scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken, S.C.

This year alone:

● A wild pig attacked a St. Petersburg, Fla. woman in her back yard in April, goring her leg. In November, an 11-year-old boy in Park, Fla., driver died when her sports utility vehicle flipped after colliding with a wild hog.

● In Detroit, a wild pig wandered through downtown in March, making his way to the home of a family in near-by Warren, Mich.

● In September in a Redding, Calif.-area subdivision, an estimated 100 feral hogs tore out the landscaping and mowed lawns into muddy messes.

But even though more cities and states are confronting the spread of the

pigs, no national strategy or program exists to corral what is a cross-border problem. Without federal intervention and enforcement of existing laws that limit transporting animals, the battle against the feral pigs — which each year cause an estimated US\$800 million in property and crop damage, and 27,000 auto collisions — could very well be lost, Mayer and others say.

"Drive carefully, because if you run over one of them, you know, you won't enjoy it," U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, whose congressional district in western Texas is plagued with wild hogs. Conaway has called for the pigs to be labelled as "predators," allowing state funds to be spent hunting them.

The United States is not alone in grappling with a feral hog problem. Japan says herds of them are ripping up meadows in its northern mountains. In Ireland, the hogs have reappeared after an absence of hundreds of years. In Germany, where as many as 2.5 million wild hogs roam forests, fields and suburbs, recent news accounts report the animals have been chasing people up trees, invading living rooms and cornering four walkers in a dumpster, where they had fled for safety.

Man is largely to blame for the wild-pig proliferation in North America.

First introduced to the continent by Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in 1539, pigs commonly accompanied settlers to the New World, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Eurasian wild boar were introduced into the American wilderness beginning in about 1900. Today's wild pig population is largely a combination of domestic pigs, Eurasian wild boar — or some hybrid blend of the two.

Popular as game animals, the pigs have for years been trucked from southern states like Texas and Florida, where wild hogs have been document-

ed in every county, into backwoods areas several states away where they are let loose on private land for hunters to bag.

For sure, the pigs are affected by external factors. There are reports that feral hog populations are down this year parts of California, because of droughts and increased hunting.

But the pigs that aren't killed by hunters don't stay on private property. And because they are prolific breeders, the pigs go on the move to forage, and their territory increasingly intersects with expanding suburbs and other development.

Today, wild pigs are permanently established in 21 states, according to Mayer's research. In another 12, the hog population is sizable, but can still be eradicated if action is taken soon. In 11, a hog or two has been spotted in one county or another — few enough for states to head off the pig infestation before it gets established.

Where the populations are smaller, human efforts can make a difference. Carol Bannerman, of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), said that removal of pigs in Maryland in 2006 appears to have been successful through concerted trapping and killing.

But states such as Florida — where as many as one million wild hogs roam — and Texas — home to as many as three million — can attest to the trouble the pigs bring with them.

"They're very voracious predators," Mayer said. Along with plants, "they eat sheep, goats, cattle, chickens. People don't usually associate wild pigs with being predators of large animals, but they are."

And they're ravenously hungry, which makes them disruptive to nature's order. In California's Channel Islands the pigs have affected the Is-

land Fox, "hammering their numbers," Mayer said. In 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classified Island Fox as endangered. To help the endangered species survive, hunters eradicated the wild pigs from the island in 2006.

Because the pigs also eat plants, they affect grasses, flowers and tree seedlings. In the Smoky Mountains not far from Knoxville, Tenn., wild pigs are dining their way through patches of Turk's-cap lily — a species federal authorities say is endangered, threatened, and vulnerable in several eastern states.

The pigs also are carriers for disease — though not swine flu — and the pork industry has millions of dollars at stake if their livestock become infected.

Seth Swafford, who leads the U.S. Agriculture Department's feral pig tracking efforts, says the animals mostly carry diseases that are transmitted to other pigs, including domestic animals.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, part of the agriculture department, examines up to 3,000 individual pigs across the nation for diseases annually. According to the service, there are more than 30 distinct diseases and viruses that can be transmitted by wild hogs to domestic swine or other livestock.

Swafford said the feral swine can transmit some diseases to humans, as well.

One of these diseases, *Brucella suis*, infected three people in 2008, all of whom were reported to have been hunting wild pigs, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Exacerbating the problem is the fact that many see the pigs as cute rather than as a nuisance.

RESOLUTION NO. 5
Clubroot Prevention and *Agricultural Pests Act*

WHEREAS well informed land owners who can make decisions regarding equipment access to their land

WHEREAS well informed energy, utility and public service sectors regarding the impact of equipment sanitation on spread of Clubroot and other economically important diseases

WHEREAS improved legal instruments under the *Agricultural Pests Act* to enable land owners to more effectively deter soil spread onto their land

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development strengthen the *Pest Control Act* to set penalties for contraventions of the act and to provide rural municipalities the authority to trace back suspected contaminated implements or vehicles in order to achieve more accountability regarding equipment sanitation

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development convey to appropriate other ministries a request to take vehicle and equipment sanitation precautions with government equipment and to provide Clubroot information to relevant industry organizations within the oil, gas, utility, wildlife, environment and other appropriate sectors

Sponsored by: County of Vermilion River

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: 2/3 majority

Background Information

■ Clubroot of canola

- **Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of canola and crops in the cabbage family.**
- **Clubroot is not a new disease in Canada or Alberta. However in 2003, clubroot was confirmed in several canola fields near Edmonton, Alberta, which was the first report on canola in western Canada.**

■ Prevention

- **Practise good sanitation to restrict the movement of possibly contaminated material.**
 - **Knocking or scraping off dirt lumps and sweeping off loose dirt.**
 - **Wash off equipment with a power washer, preferably with hot water or steam.**
- **It would be helpful if municipalities were empowered to require the provision of information in a timely manner that would enable the trace- back by land location of implement movement which could spread clubroot.**
- **It would also be helpful if clubroot positive fields could be signed to minimize inadvertent entry by vehicles or implements.**

■ Disease cycle

- **Resting spores germinate in the spring, producing zoospores that swim in soil water to root hairs. These resting spores are extremely long lived and can survive in soil up to 20 years.**
- **The longevity of the resting spores is a key factor contributing to the seriousness of the disease.**
- **The resting spores are capable of moving with infested soil transported by wind or water erosion.**
- **Warm soil (20-24 degrees Celsius), high soil moisture and acid reaction (pH less than 6.5) are environmental factors that favour infection and severe disease development.**
- **High soil moisture areas of the field typically harbour the most severe infestations.**

■ Clubroot symptoms on canola and mustard

- **Clubroot galls are a nutrient sink, so severely infected roots of canola cannot absorb enough water and nutrients for transport to aboveground plant parts.**
 - **Early infection at the seedling stage can result in wilting, stunting, and yellowing of canola plants in the late rosette to early podding stage.**
 - **Infected plants wDI ripen prematurely, and seeds will shrivel. Thus, yield and quality (oil content) are reduced.**
-
- **Management**
 - **Use long rotations - canola every four years or more.**

RESOLUTION NO. 6
Requiring Seed Cleaning Plants to Test for Fusarium

WHEREAS *Fusarium gramineum* is a pest listed under the *Agricultural Pests Act*

WHEREAS seed cleaning plants are an area where seed from many producers comes together in one place and comes into contact with the same equipment

WHEREAS there is currently no legislated requirement for seed cleaning plants to obtain a fusarium free certificate prior to cleaning the seed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that all seed cleaning plants be required to obtain a certificate, for each lot of seed to be cleaned, verifying that the seed is free of *Fusarium gramineum*, prior to accepting the seed into the plant for cleaning.

Sponsored by: Cypress County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: Simple majority

Background:

Most seed cleaning plants in the province already require that grain be tested for fusarium prior to accepting the seed for cleaning. This is a best management practice that has been recommended by the Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants. However, it is not a requirement legislated by the provincial government. Making this a legal requirement would ensure that all plants are getting grain tested, which in turn will help reduce the potential for the spread of the disease. Making a best management practice into a legislated requirement adds weight and importance to the issue being regulated.

RESOLUTION NO. 7
Herbicide Selection For Noxious Weed Control on Acreages

WHEREAS the acreage community has grown significantly in rural Alberta presenting increased challenges with weed management, especially on the agricultural pasture portions of the acreages; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta, Environmental Code Of Practice For Pesticides, Section 17, under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* restricts the choices of herbicide for "Acreage and Hobby Greenhouse Use" ; and

WHEREAS the list of herbicides listed under Section 17 are ineffective on many species of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds and more related to turf than agricultural use; and

WHEREAS the list of herbicides are either not registered for range and pasture or carry grazing restrictions when applied on acreage pastures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Environment Pesticide Management Branch review the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides with the outcome of making additional herbicides available for effective weed control on acreage pastures.

Sponsored by: Clearwater County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Environment

Passed: Simple majority

Background

An effective Weed Control Program relies on fairness in how the Weed Control Act is administered across all lands regardless of land-use.

The number of acreages has grown considerable in many municipalities across Alberta creating environmental stewardship challenges for Agricultural Service Boards.

This led to the production of stewardship manuals in an effort to assist landowners and the Green Acreage Guide is the most recent initiative by the Alberta Stewardship Network.

Effective weed control on Country Residential Agricultural (CRA) acreages, ranging from 2-20 acres, is the greatest challenge. As an example the vast majority of CRAs in Clearwater County is between 5-7 acres with nearly every one having some agricultural land-use albeit small and for the landowner's own needs either in production of food or raising livestock.

Government of Alberta, Environmental Code Of Practice For Pesticides Section 17, **Pesticide Vendors – Sales for Acreage and Hobby Greenhouse Use** under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act limits the choice of herbicides on CRAs unless applied by a Commercial Agriculturalist.

Only in the rarest of cases do these CRA owners generate enough income to be considered a Commercial Agriculturalists or to file income tax as agricultural producers.

Section 17 states that only Eco-Clear, glyphosate, 2,4-D (incl. mixtures of mecoprop and dicamba) can be used for weed control unless authorized in writing by the Director. This list of herbicides is too limited in seeking effective control of many weeds such as tall buttercup or not registered for use on the agricultural pasture areas of the CRAs.

A solution would be to permit the CRAs access to Range and Pasture herbicides providing superior efficacy of the herbicide used for the additional benefit of the environment and the safety of grazing animals.

RESOLUTION NO. 8
2011 Provincial Enforcement of the Weed Act

- WHEREAS** Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds listed on the new *Alberta Weed Control Act* are being sold online, by flower shops, and by nurseries and greenhouses.
- WHEREAS** online, web sites and mail orders are selling Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds that maybe ordered into Alberta
- WHEREAS** other provinces, states and countries are unaware of our weed act and continue to export into Alberta
- WHEREAS** there is no formal Check at customs for weeds and weed seeds, as there is entering the USA.
- WHEREAS** the large portion of Alberta municipalities ASB budgets are focused on weed control and at the same time retail and customs are allowing these invasive plants into Alberta.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

the Province of Alberta enhance enforcement measures of the new *Alberta Weed Control Act* at the retail level, as well as enforcing importation restrictions of weeds and weed seeds from other provinces and countries.

Sponsored by: Red Deer County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: Simple majority

BACKGROUND

A large portion of Alberta Counties ASB budgets are focused on weed control and at the same time retail and customs are allowing invasive plants into Alberta. Many of the plants that are now regulated on the Provincial Weed Act of Alberta are currently available to purchase at retail chains and online. If imports and sales are allowed to continue unchecked, weed control dollars will not keep up. Across the Province, municipalities are battling new and invasive plants, yet these same plants are currently available for sale online with distribution throughout Alberta.

The only customs deterrent addressing the entry of foreign plants and seeds is a check box on the customs declaration slip. While entering the US there are actual baggage checks. The Federal and Provincial government do not monitor small seed lots that are entering and moving within Canada.

The nursery and retail industry is taking a passive approach to complying and enforcing to Provincial Weed Act. We need to monitor the spread of invasive plants on multiple levels to gain control over the situation. This is a more proactive approach to weed control rather than reacting when a particular weed has already become established.

We discovered Flowering Rush in a creek in Red Deer County in August 2011. If not eradicated, F. Rush is said to totally block water ways. So far control has employed hip waders, boat rental, the county crew, Alberta Transportation, a town Crew, Sustainable Resources and Farmers. The bill for the County alone is over \$2500 and we have only contained the problem for the time being. When we finished our picking we did some further research on Flowering Rush and found it for sale on numerous web sites for under \$10.00. (see below) It was found in Ontario, the Maritimes and US web sites.



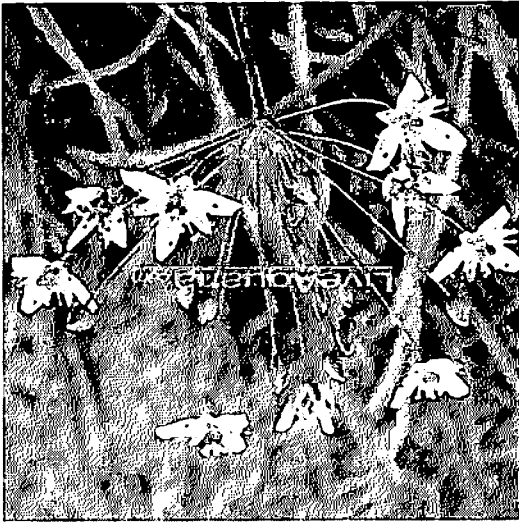
SEARCH

ADD TO SHOPPING CART
Set up an email alert for
OUT-OF-STOCK or seasonal items!
SALE PRICE \$4.99
REGULAR PRICE \$6.99
Quantity: 1

Passionate about the decorative plants of the world, we've created a unique selection of plants from around the globe to meet your needs. We're committed to providing you with the highest quality plants and the best customer service possible. **7-DAY GUARANTEE** on all plants. **ILLINOIS** residents only. **FREE SHIPPING** on orders over \$225.

NEED HELP? Our customer service team is available 24/7 to assist you with any questions or concerns. **Pond Plant Selection Guide** - Find the right plant for your pond. **Pond Plant Zone Map** - Determine the best zone for your pond. **View Larger Image** - See the details of our Flowering Rush plants.

DO NOT RELEASE into local waters. Please do your part to protect the environment. **THE PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE FOLLOWING STATES:** California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.



Flowering Rush, *Zosterisiphium sp.*

FEATURES

- Native to the United States
- Grows in both shallow and deep water
- Produces small, white flowers
- Excellent for oxygenating the water
- Hardy and long-lived
- Available in 1-gallon and 5-gallon containers

RESOURCES

- [Aquarium Supplies](#)
- [Water Species](#)
- [Direct from the Source](#)
- [Pond Plants](#)
- [Native Plants](#)
- [Live Fish](#)
- [Live Invertebrates](#)
- [Live Food](#)
- [Freshwater Fish](#)
- [Live Rocs](#)
- [Root Cleaner Peels](#)
- [Native Plants](#)
- [Native Fish](#)
- [Freshwater Plants](#)

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

FREE SHIPPING! On orders over \$225. See details.

Instructions

All travellers must be identified on a Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Declaration Card. You may list up to four people living at the same address on one card. Each traveller is responsible for his or her own declaration.

Under the law, failure to properly declare goods, currency and/or monetary instruments brought into Canada may result in seizure action, monetary penalties and/or criminal prosecution.

Information from this declaration will be used for CBSA control purposes, and may be shared with other government departments to enforce Canadian laws. For more information see Info Source (ref. no. CBSA PPU 018), at a public library or visit <http://info.cbsa.gc.ca>.

Part B - Visitors to Canada

The following duty-free allowances apply to each visitor entering into Canada:

- 600 (excludes alcohol and tobacco) valued at no more than CAN\$50 each.
- 1.5 L of wine or 1.14 L of liquor or 24 x 355 ml cans or bottles (8.5 L) of beer or ale.
- 200 cigarettes, 200 tobacco sticks, 50 cigars or cigarillos and 200 grams of manufactured tobacco.

Part C - Residents of Canada

Each resident returning to Canada is entitled to one of the following personal exemptions based on whether they are absent from Canada (include all goods and/or gifts purchased or received abroad):

- 24 hours: CAN\$50
Not claimable if goods exceed \$50. Alcohol and tobacco cannot be claimed.
- 48 hours: CAN\$400
This includes alcohol and tobacco (see table below).
- 7 days: CAN\$750
This includes alcohol and tobacco (see table below).

Alcohol and tobacco exemption table
1.5 L of wine or 1.14 L of liquor or 24 x 355 ml cans or bottles (8.5 L) of beer or ale. (You must be of legal age in the province of importation.)
200 cigarettes, 200 tobacco sticks, 50 cigars or cigarillos and 200 grams of manufactured tobacco (Special Duty may apply).

Detach instructions

Detach instructions

- For Agency Use Only -

R U.S. V OV Cr O

Part A All travellers (living at the same address) - Please print in capital letters.

1	Last name, first name and initials	Date of birth:	Citizenship:
2	Last name, first name and initials	Date of birth:	Citizenship:
3	Last name, first name and initials	Date of birth:	Citizenship:
4	Last name, first name and initials	Date of birth:	Citizenship:

HOME ADDRESS - Number, street, apartment No. City/Town

Prov./State Country Postal/Zip code

Arriving by:	Purpose of	Arriving from:
Air Airliner/flight No., train No. or vessel name	Study Personal Business	U.S. only Other country direct Other country via U.S.

	I am/was are bringing into Canada:	Yes	No
	• Firearms or other weapons (e.g. switchblades, Mace or pepper spray).		
	• Commercial goods, whether or not for resale (e.g. samples, tools, equipment).		
	• Meats/meat products; dairy products; fruits; vegetables; seeds; nuts; plants and animals or their parts/products; cut flowers; soil; wood/wood products; birds; insects.		
	• Currency and/or monetary instruments of a value totaling CAN\$10,000 or more per person		
	I/we have shipped goods that are not accompanying me/us		
	I/we have visited a farm and will be going to a farm in Canada		

Part B Visitors to Canada

Duration of stay in Canada (days)	Do you or any person listed above exceed the duty-free allowances per person? (See instructions on the left.)	Yes	No
-----------------------------------	---	-----	----

Part C Residents of Canada

Do you or any person listed above exceed the exemptions per person? (See instructions on the left.)	Yes	No
---	-----	----

Complete in the same order as Part A

Date left Canada YY - MM - DD	Value of goods - CAN\$ purchased or received abroad (including gifts, alcohol & tobacco)	Date left Canada YY - MM - DD	Value of goods - CAN\$ purchased or received abroad (including gifts, alcohol & tobacco)

Part D Sign returns (e.g. 15 and other), I certify that my declaration is true and complete.

1	Date
2	
3	

RESOLUTION NO. 9
Requiring labeling of flower seed mixes with all species present

WHEREAS the *Seeds Regulations* administered by the Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires all flower seed mixes to have all species included on a label;

WHEREAS the *Weed Control Act* of the Province of Alberta prohibits the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weed seeds;

WHEREAS current flower seed mixes are not labeled with the list of seeds present within;

WHEREAS enforcement of the *Weed Control Act* prohibiting the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds is effectively compromised by the lack of labeling of flower seed mixes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD) work with CFIA to ensure that labeling requirements pertaining to flower seed and bird seed for feed mixes are enforced, and further, that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, under the *Weed Control Act*, require all noxious and prohibited noxious weeds be reported on flower seed mixes.

Sponsored by: County of Grande Prairie No. 1

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: _____

Department: _____

Passed: Simple majority

Background:

Noxious and prohibited noxious weeds are of serious concern in the province of Alberta. The spread of the seeds of these plants is prohibited under the Weed Act. Currently, many flower seed mixes are sold that have no listing of the species included in the package. These may either be wildflower mixes, or mixes designated for specific areas (shade, part sun etc.) This puts the purchaser in potential contravention of the Act, as they could be distributing noxious or prohibited noxious weeds unknowingly. There is no way for them to protect themselves.

ASBs are tasked with enforcing the Weed Act, which includes enforcing the part of the legislation that prohibits the spread of noxious or prohibited noxious weed seeds. By not requiring seed content labeling of flower seed mixes, it is virtually impossible to enforce and halt the spread of weed seeds through this mechanism. It is well known that many flower mixes routinely include ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), and some even include scentless chamomile (*Matricaria maritima*), tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and other species. Requiring labeling of flower seed mixes would alleviate this avenue of spread.

The CFIA responded in 2000 to a resolution put forward by provincial ASBs regarding ensuring the purity of wildflower mixes. They stated that in 1996 an amendment to the *Seeds Regulations* was effected, and that if seeds were sold as wildflower mixes, all ingredients must appear on the label. A review of the *Seeds Regulations* confirms this is still the case. This is not currently happening in Alberta, particularly in flower seed mixes that may not be designated as wildflower mixes, yet are still covered under the *Seeds Regulation*.

Appendix 1: Excerpt from the *Seeds Regulation*, Canada Food Inspection Agency

**FLOWERS, HERBS, ROOTS, VEGETABLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SEED INCLUDING UNION SETS
AND MULTIPLIER ONIONS**

30. Every package of seed of the kinds or species set out in Tables XVI to XXI to Schedule I and any kinds or species not set out in Schedule I shall be labelled with the following information:

- (a) the name and address of the seller, packager or labeller;
- (b) the name of the kind or species — and of the variety, if applicable — of the seed, or in the case of mixtures, the name of each kind or species — and of the varieties — of the seed, if applicable;
- (c) if the seed is sold or offered for sale on the basis of grade, the name of the grade of the particular seed; and
- (d) if a germination standard is prescribed for a particular kind or species under subsection 6(1) and the seed is not sold on the basis of a grade of a seed,
 - (i) the year in which the seed was tested for germination pursuant to the appropriate test prescribed by section 11 or the year for which the seed was packaged, and
 - (ii) the percentage of germination of the seed or a minimum guaranteed percentage of germination.

SOR/96-252, s. 2;
SOR/2007-223, s. 16.

STANDARDS

6. (1) Subject to subsection (3), the standards for seed of the kinds and species set out in Schedule I and the grade names therefor are as set out in that Schedule.

(2) Seed of a kind or species not set out in Schedule I shall meet the minimum weed seed and other crop seed standards set out in the following Tables of Schedule I:

- (a) for any kind or species with 15 or fewer seeds per gram, Table V;
- (b) for any kind or species with 16 to 50 seeds per gram, Table II;
- (c) for any kind or species with 51 to 250 seeds per gram, Table IV;
- (d) for any kind or species with 251 to 600 seeds per gram, Table VIII;
- (e) for any kind or species with 601 to 1,500 seeds per gram, Table IX;
- (f) for any kind or species of grass with 1,500 or fewer seeds per gram, Table XI;
- (g) for any kind or species of grass with 1,501 seeds or more per gram, Table XII;

(h) for any seed or mixture of seeds for land reclamation, soil conservation, green cover, wildlife grazing or habitat, wetland restoration and similar purposes, Table XIII;

(i) for herbs and vegetables, Table XX, unless they have 1,000 or more seeds per gram, in which case Table XII shall be used; and

(j) wildflower mixtures and similar products intended for landscape gardening use, Table XV.

(3) Barley seed that has been treated with a product registered as a control product under the Pest Control Products Act for the control of true loose smut (*Ustilago nuda*) is exempt from the standards for true loose smut set out in column 9 of Table II to Schedule I.

(4) Seed referred to in subsection (2) shall not be considered a weed seed for the purpose of that subsection.

SOR/86-850, s. 3;
SOR/89-368, s. 1, 4(F);
SOR/91-609, s. 2;
SOR/93-162, s. 2;
SOR/96-252, s. 2;
SOR/2003-6, s. 101;
SOR/2007-223, s. 4.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Request for Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD) to take a more forceful approach to the selling of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds at greenhouses and plant retailers

WHEREAS greenhouses and other plant retailers currently sell noxious and prohibited noxious weeds believing them to be ornamentals;

WHEREAS noxious and prohibited noxious weeds threaten the biodiversity of Alberta's native vegetation and negatively impact agricultural crops by competing with desired vegetation and adding significant costs of control to the producer;

WHEREAS Alberta Agriculture, as the regulator of the *Weed Control Act* is uniquely positioned to send a more forceful, ongoing educational message to the greenhouse/plant retail industry, thereby strengthening the ASBs' ability to enforce the *Weed Control Act*;

WHEREAS Alberta has achieved excellent success in the prohibition of the sale of rats through extensive education and enforcement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development continue to show leadership and direction through developing a suitable forceful, ongoing educational program that will ensure the onus for compliance with the *Weed Control Act* rests with the greenhouses and other plant retailers, not with the ASBs to ensure control

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Regulatory Services Division of AARD participate in enforcing the prohibition of the sale of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds, as they do with the Provincial Rat Control Program.

Sponsored by: County of Grande Prairie No. 1

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: Simple majority

Background:

Noxious and prohibited noxious weeds are of serious concern in the province of Alberta. The spread of these plants is prohibited under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*. Currently, greenhouses and other plant retailers sell a variety of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds, believing them to be ornamentals.

ASBs are tasked with enforcing the *Weed Control Act*, which includes enforcing the part of the legislation that prohibits the spread of noxious or prohibited noxious weed plants. Under the current system, each and every greenhouse and plant retailer must be inspected regularly to ensure that they are not unknowingly selling noxious or prohibited noxious plants. Sec 4 (1).

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) did send out letters this past year to greenhouses within the Province. However, these letters were more suggestive in nature, rather than directive.

Under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, it is an offence to sell rats. There has been an extensive educational campaign over the past 60 years that has resulted in excellent compliance with this Act with regard to rats. Most Albertans are aware of the prohibition of owning rats, and that we are a rat-free province. Although ASBs are tasked with enforcing the *Agricultural Pests Act*, the Regulatory Services Division of Alberta Agriculture also enforces the prohibition of the sale of rats by issuing notices and further educating. This success is enviable, and the program has been proven to work.

If this same forceful, directed education were to be put forward with regards to the sale of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds, it would likely prove successful as well. Currently, the onus is on the ASBs and appointed inspectors under the *Weed Control Act* to find contraventions, not on the greenhouses and other plant retailers to ensure they are compliant. We believe that a shift in responsibility is needed, and that greenhouses and other plant retailers need to be collectively educated on a Provincial scale. Also, this education needs to flow out to all Albertans, to increase their recognition of these plants and the threat they pose. Given that the *Weed Control Act* is a provincial law, we believe that the direction needs to come from the regulator, not the enforcement arm.

If the Regulatory Services Division was also to take part in enforcing the prohibition of the sale of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds as they do with rats, this would further reinforce that this practice is not acceptable. This will result in a stronger message being put forward, and expected results of greenhouses and other plant retailers ensuring they are well educated on the noxious and prohibited noxious weeds so as to remain compliant.

RESOLUTION NO. 11
Cessation of fresh water use by oil and gas industry

WHEREAS there is concern about the enormous waste of fresh water (see Reference 1) by the oil and gas industry in the hydrofracturing and water injection processes (see Reference 7 and 8)

WHEREAS injection of 32 million cubic meters of fresh water is permanently removed from the aquatic cycle (see Member Background)

WHEREAS free and easy access to fresh water for Enhanced Oil Recovery acts as a disincentive for oil and gas companies to pursue alternate methods such as CO₂ injection, light oil fracturing or to drill deeper to locate and pipe non-potable water (see Reference 3 and 7) for injection purposes

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
the Government of Alberta implement an immediate reduction schedule on the use of fresh water to the oil and gas industry for the hydro fracturing and water injection process, in all areas of Alberta where fresh water is required for human consumption

Sponsored by: Brazeau County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Environment and Water
Alberta Energy

Passed: Simple majority

Member Background:

A reliable water supply for a sustainable economy is one of the key goals of WATER FOR LIFE, Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability. The Advisory Committee on Water Use Practices and Policy was formulated in 2003 to examine the use of fresh water for underground injection. The Government of Alberta working in partnership with industry, interest groups and non-government organizations developed the Water Conservation and Allocation Policy for Oilfield injection, with a goal to reduce or eliminate the allocation of non-saline water for deep well injection. Applications for the use of fresh water for injection continues to be filed with the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, and are approved on the basis that there is no economical alternative (saline water or carbon dioxide) that is available or because the diversion of ground water was previously approved through the licensing process. Currently the oil industry holds licenses for up to 32 million cubic meters of ground water diversion. The suggestion that use of non-saline ground water for enhancing oil field production is the most economical means is found on the premise that ground water has no dollar value. Such is not the case for those communities in Alberta that must pipe water to support the residents. With the ever increasing drought conditions across the Prairie Provinces, ground water is becoming a scarce resource that must be conserved. Fresh water flooding of oil fields results in the water being lost to the ecosystem forever. It is imperative that the Government of Alberta establish policies to regulate ground water usage for the protection and sustainability of this vital resource.

REFERENCE

1. Potable Water

Drinkable-Fit to Drink

2. Fresh Water

Non-saline

3. Non-potable/Saline Water

Brackish - Unfit to Drink

4. Surface Water

Water collected on the ground or in a stream, river, lake, wetland, or ocean, it is related to water collecting as ground water or atmospheric water.

5. Ground Water

Water located beneath the ground surface is soil pore spaces and in the fractures of rock formation. A unit of rock or an unconsolidated deposit is called an aquifer when it can yield a usable quantity of water.

6. Water Table

Underground depth at which point the ground is totally saturated by water. The level of a water table can fluctuate considerably. When underground water deposits are large enough to be considered sustainable for use, they are known as aquifers.

7. Fraking - Source Watch

- Fraking also referred to as hydraulic fracturing or hydrofraking.

A process in which a fluid is injected at high pressure into oil or methane gas deposits to fracture the rock above and release the liquid, (oil/gas) below.

- Light-Oil Fraking

Alternative method using tight oil for fraking

- Hydro-Fraking

Process In which water is used as the fluid in fraking

- CO2-Fraking

Process in which carbon dioxide is used as the injection fluid in fraking

Hydraulic Fracture

Formed by pumping the fracturing liquid into the wellbore at a rate sufficient to Increase the pressure downhole to a value in excess of the fracture of the formation rock.

Water Cycle- AKA Hydrologic Cycle or H2O Cycle

Describes the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth.

ERCB

Energy Resources Conservation Board

EUB

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

RESOLUTION NO. 12
Sale of Sustainable Resource Development Lease Lands

WHEREAS many long term Grazing Lease disposition holders have invested time and money improving Sustainable Resource Development Grazing leases, based on the terms and conditions of agreements that were originally in place, or that came as a result of policies developed in the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS disposition holders rightfully anticipated that these improvements would benefit their farm businesses in the long term because they would, at a future date, be allowed to purchase their leased land for a fair market price as assessed on unimproved value, and without competition; and

WHEREAS Grazing Lease disposition holders had reasonable assurance that they would have priority of purchase rights when the land was converted to Farm Development Leases or made available for sale; and

WHEREAS policy changes in the late 1980s amended / rescinded earlier public land sales criteria, and this continues to have a negative impact on a number of long term disposition holders who made improvements (as encouraged by the Province) on their leases prior to policy changes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Sustainable Resource Development review their current land lease / sale policies to ensure that long term disposition holders be allowed to purchase leased lands at prices assessed on unimproved values, and that they are not disadvantaged by a lack of recognition for development costs and improvements on leased land, by the requirement for competition in the sale process. All leaseholders should be compensated for improvement done to the lease incurred at their own expense.

Sponsored By: Municipal District of Big Lakes

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Sustainable Resource Development

Passed: Simple majority

BACKGROUND

Many Grazing Lease disposition holders have invested a considerable amount of money to improve the usability and value of the leased land. Their decision to invest in the leases was based on the terms and conditions of agreements originally in place, or as a result of policies developed in the early 1980s, which were designed to encourage development of leases. Under the provincial policies of the time, the value of improvements would not be included in potential sale price to the leaseholder, because property sale prices were based on unimproved appraised value.

The rationale for policies in the mid-1980s (as described by the Province) was that leaseholders would be more likely to invest in expensive improvements if they had a measure of certainty that long term benefits for their investments would be realized. From this, disposition holders anticipated improvements would benefit their farm business over the long term.

Leaseholders also had reasonable assurance that they would have priority of purchase rights when the land was made available for sale. Again, decisions made by leaseholders were based, in part, on information provided by the Ministers office, through public notices, and news releases.

The Province encouraged conversion of Grazing leases to Farm Development leases, with or without option to purchase, in order to prevent the fragmentation of farm units that incorporated leased lands as part of the farm assets. The Province encouraged the development of Grazing lease lands in settled areas, particularly in northern Alberta, where only a small percentage of the lease lands had intensive development and were desirable for acquisition to farm holdings.

However; by 1990, the province made changes to the land sales criteria which dismissed the priority right to purchase for disposition holders and allowed that lands available for sale would be open to public auction or tender. Additionally, sale price minimums were raised to 85% of market value, which now included the value of improvements.

In a letter to a leaseholder in May of 2010, the Minister (Sustainable Resource Development) indicated that further to the above, an option available to the Grazing leaseholder would be to request conversion to a Farm Development Lease, without the option to purchase the land. The lease would then be issued through a competitive process. The rationale for changes to the previous sale criteria (as explained by the Minister) is the government's fiduciary responsibility to realize a fair return for Albertans - best achieved through the competitive process.

While the need for fiscal responsibility to all Albertans is understood, the current land sales policies disregard the expenditures of those individuals who invested their own money to improve leased land. The current policy forces disposition holders to meet the highest bid on lands available for sale, and allows outside parties to compete for land that the disposition holder has worked to improve at his own expense. In effect, the disposition holder is being penalized for the investment made improving the land, in that,

if he chooses to purchase the land and is the successful bidder, he must pay a *second* time for the value of improvements he had previously paid for.

TIMELINE

August 1985 The Province (Public Lands and Wildlife) announced that changes had been made to the administration of public lands, granting existing Grazing leaseholders the option to convert up to six quarters of leased land to Farm Development leases without competition from other applicants, with or without the option to purchase. It noted recently introduced tendering systems and the opportunity for public auction of land.

September 1985 The Minister's office sent letters to leaseholders advising them that the sale price of lease purchases would be based on appraised unimproved value, unless range improvement funding had been provided by the Province.

November 1985 A news release was issued indicating the waiver of previous posting requirements for saleable lands, and advising that priority would be given to Grazing leaseholders to convert land they have already improved. The press release indicated that saleable land criteria had not changed and referenced an information pamphlet which indicated:

- conversion from GRL to FDL, without competition
- priority right of conversion for current leaseholders
- priority right of purchase for current leaseholders
- safeguards against land speculation
- protection of lands within the Eastern Slopes region

February 1986 Letters were sent to leaseholders reiterating the benefits of conversion of improved Grazing leases to Farm Development leases, the option to purchase improved Grazing leases, and stressing exclusion of public lands in the Eastern Slopes from conversion or sale.

January 1990 All policies created earlier in the decade had been rescinded.

October 1998 A public land sales information document was made available to leaseholders, indicating land sale values are set at fair market value (maximizing benefits to the Crown) using appraisal standards set for private land real estate. Land will be sold at public auction or tender, except for the following:

- land under disposition (with option to purchase)
- current leaseholder can apply to purchase land without competition
- land under disposition (fully developed Miscellaneous / Recreation Lease) - current leaseholder may apply to purchase land without competition

However, in cases of land under disposition (without option to purchase) current leaseholder does not have priority right to purchase land without competition

May 2010 The Minister responded to a leaseholder enquiry and noted the following:

- leased land (up to one section) can be purchased *(1985 - 6 quarters)*
- sales are by public auction / tender *(1985 - without competition)*
- minimum price is 85% of fair market value, and leaseholder has option to meet highest bid price *(1985 - assessed unimproved value)*
- leaseholder may convert Grazing Lease to Farm Development Lease, but without the option to purchase *(1985 - conversions with / without purchase option)*

July 2010 The Minister responded to leaseholder enquiry indicating that all policies introduced in the mid-1980s had been rescinded in the late 1980s. Attached to that letter was information About Public Lands (effective September 2007) outlining criteria regarding public lands sales.

RESOLUTION NO. 13
Liability on Sustainable Resource Development Lease Lands

WHEREAS the province (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development) requires that Agricultural Leaseholders provide access to recreational users on leased lands. This includes Grazing and Farm Development Leaseholders, who are required to provide "reasonable" access to the land for recreation; and

WHEREAS the province requires that leaseholders provide an explanation of their rationale for denying access to the recreational users, and if disputed, SRD may issue an access order requiring the leaseholder to allow access.

WHEREAS leaseholders are required to provide access to recreational users, even if livestock are present, and the onus is on the leaseholder to prove the livestock are/may be impacted by the recreational users.

WHEREAS the leaseholder cannot deny access even if, in his opinion, the fire risk is too high.

WHEREAS the leaseholder cannot restrict the number of people who can access the lease.

WHEREAS the leaseholder may be held liable if recreational users become injured while engaged in activities on the leased lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Province of Alberta (Sustainable Resource Development) review their policies concerning liability on leased lands, to ensure that leaseholders are not held liable for any injury or property damage resulting from the activities of recreational users while on leased land. Further, the Province should hold all liability on leased land where access is granted at the discretion of the Province, not the leaseholder.

Sponsored By: Municipal District of Big Lakes

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Passed: Simple majority

BACKGROUND

Leaseholders have legitimate concerns regarding access granted to recreational users on leased lands. Under current regulations, recreational users are not required to contact the leaseholder in advance of access, except where the land is under a Grazing Lease or Farm Development Lease disposition. Even in those instances, the access is at the discretion of the Local Settlement Officer at Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, not the landowner.

Our society is becoming more and more litigious, and the likelihood of litigation in the event of an injury or death to a recreational user on leased public lands, is increasing. Regardless of the behaviour or recklessness of others, the leaseholder may be held liable for injuries or property damages that may occur.

Recreational users have some legislated responsibilities and requirements, but often the users are unaware of their responsibilities or choose to ignore them. Penalties for failing to contact the leaseholder and request access are minimal. In addition, the responsibility for policing the lease and any infractions usually falls to the leaseholder and the penalty will likely be administered only if the individual is caught during the act of non-compliance.

The leaseholder is responsible for the expense of carrying liability insurance on property that he does not own, and cannot control access to. The Province indicates that leaseholder liability is reduced unless negligence can be proven. But, in the event of injury or death to a recreational user and any subsequent litigation, the leaseholder is still obliged to expend considerable time and energy in defence of the lawsuit.

The current rules of access unfairly place responsibility for liability on the leaseholder, but restrict him from denying access to protect himself from litigation. The responsibility for liability should fall to the landowner (The Province of Alberta) who holds the power of discretion to allow access.

RESOLUTION NO. 14
Short term solid manure storage

WHEREAS weather conditions and other mitigating factors make offsite short term solid manure storage a necessary component of confined feeding operations

WHEREAS municipalities have an opportunity to make comment to the NRCB during the application and approval process for new and expanding CFO's, however, the identification of short term solid manure storage sites is not part of this process

WHEREAS short term solid manure storage guidelines are addressed in the *Agriculture Operations Practices Act* Regulations

WHEREAS short term solid manure storage sites may meet all the guidelines of the AOPA Regulations, however, these areas may not be in the best interest of the Municipality

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) amend the *Agricultural Operations Practices Act* (AOPA) to make the identification of short term solid manure storage sites an application and approval process for new, expanding and existing CFOs.

Sponsored by: County of Lethbridge

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Sustainable Resource Development

Passed: Simple majority

BACKGROUND:

Weather conditions the past two years have forced CFO's to use offsite short term storage (stockpiling) in order to manage their solid manure. In doing so operators have found that in many cases stockpiling is more efficient and cost effective than hauling and spreading in the same process. If this is the case, offsite short term storage will be the norm not the exception.

New and expanding CFO's must go through an application and approval process with the NRCB whereas municipalities are given an opportunity to comment, however, the identification of short term solid manure storage sites is not addressed in this initial process. The guidelines for how and where manure is stored offsite are addressed in the Agriculture Operations Practices Act regulations. These guidelines, which are enforced by the NRCB on a complaint driven basis include, length of time storage can take place, minimum distances to residences, springs and wells and in relation to water tables and floodplains. What the AOPA guidelines do not address are setbacks from roads, intersections, businesses, parks, cemeteries, etc. By making the identification of short term storage sites an application and approval process through the NRCB, municipalities would have an opportunity to voice concerns prior to the stockpiling taking place making the process more efficient for all parties.

RESOLUTION NO. 15
Recycling Program for Agricultural Plastics

WHEREAS safe and responsible disposal of agricultural plastics (eg. grain bags and twine) are becoming more of an issue for farmers and ranchers

WHEREAS these producers wish to be environmentally responsible

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development establish a program to recycle agricultural plastics similar to the Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program.

Sponsored by:	Special Area No. 2
Moved by:	_____
Seconded by:	_____
Carried:	_____
Defeated:	_____
Status:	Provincial
Department:	Alberta Environment
Passed:	Simple majority

Background Information:

Agricultural plastics are an everyday component on most farm and ranches, used mostly for the storage of grain and livestock feed. Although important and needed, these plastics have a short season of use, leaving producers with what turns into a bulky waste product once the bags are emptied or the twine is pulled off the bales.

As more emphasis is on being 'eco-friendly' and doing our part to reduce our carbon footprint; past methods of disposing of these plastics on-farm, such as burning, are no longer practical nor acceptable.

RESOLUTION NO. 16
Funding for Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) Member Groups

WHEREAS these groups are being encouraged and expected to provide more extensive and intensive support for local agricultural producers; and

WHEREAS funding sources have been limited and fragmented for these groups.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Government of Alberta provide stable and appropriate funding to the ARECA member groups to allow them to maintain staff and pursue longer term strategic planning.

Sponsored by: Special Area No. 2

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Passed: Simple majority

Background Information:

Agriculture is growing and changing at a rapid pace. New crop varieties, more advanced machinery and changing marketing methods are things that today's agricultural producers have to deal with regularly. As these new changes come along, we expect that we have the knowledge of applied research associations and other ARECA member groups to inform and support the decisions we make.

Along with being expected to keep on top of these progressive and expensive practices, these groups are also faced with increasing operating costs, staffing problems and other funding related issues. These personnel are instrumental within the agricultural industry. They are highly trained individuals who are spending more time scrutinizing their budgets than on the research itself. They are having to make unfortunate decisions on cutting projects that play fundamental roles in the betterment of agriculture. In order for ARECA member groups to operate at their best capacity, they must have a reliable source of funding that will support them and the projects they undertake.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17
AFSC Seeding intention dates**

WHEREAS the province of Alberta has several distinct agricultural areas, and the dates when seeding is completed may vary significantly between these areas, especially from South to North, and

WHEREAS seeding in the Southern areas of the Province is often completed with crops emerged and establishing prior to April 30th, the AFSC deadline to specify seeding intentions and coverage levels for crop insurance, and

WHEREAS in the Peace Region, it is exceedingly rare that seeding has commenced by April 30th, and

WHEREAS the Southern agricultural producers are often at a distinct advantage due to their crops being established, as it aids in their ability to decide on whether to apply for crop insurance or to elect for higher or lower coverage levels, reducing their risk and if choosing lower coverage levels , reducing their premiums.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE PEACE REGION'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS request the Agricultural Financial Services Corporation change the annual April 30th deadline for the Peace Region to May 20th for producers to apply for crop insurance or make changes to 'elected options' from the previous year to allow more equitable coverage and choices to be made by our producers.

Sponsored by: M.D. of Smoky River No. 130

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Regional

Department: AFSC Risk Management – Insurance

Passed: Simple majority

Background information:

According to the AFSC website;

DEADLINES - Represents the LAST day the item listed can occur. Deadlines occurring when offices are closed, will be extended to the next "business" day

April 30 is the deadline for

- **Apply for Annual Insurance**
- **Make changes to elected option from the previous year including:**
 - coverage level
 - endorsement selection
 - declared acres - include acres that are insured; uninsured; seeded; intended for seeding to annual crops, silage, and greenfeed
 - auto-election of straight hail insurance

According to Alberta Agriculture Crop Reports:

May 3rd, 2011:

Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

Little seeding has been achieved to date. Fields have been slow to dry down and several snow/rainfall events have lengthened the delays. Traditionally, seeding across much of southern Alberta begins in the April 15 – 20th period. Currently, seeding progress is estimated at 0.3% seeded. This is considerably behind the difficult year of 2010 when 8% was seeded. The 5 year average is 29% completed with the 10 year average of 38% seeded by this time.

Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

No seeding is being reported and is not expected to start for another 5 – 10 days due to the slow snow melt. Traditionally, the region is extremely variable from year to year for seeding progress. In 2006, 65% of the region was seeded by May 11, but in 2007, 2008 & 2009 less than 1% had been seeded for that same time period. The 5 & 10 year averages are 15% seeded by early May.

May 8th, 2008:

Southern Alberta

32% of the South region is seeded with approximately 2% emerged. Most areas in southern Alberta have received some precipitation this spring which has benefitted seedbed soil moisture conditions. Virtually all areas will require significant precipitation soon after the completion of seeding to maintain good growth conditions. Subsoil moisture is rated 30% Poor/ 38% Fair/ 27% Good/ 5% Excellent.

Peace River Region

No seeding is reported to date as cool temperatures, slow snow melt and precipitation have caused significant delays across the region. Many areas do not expect seeding to become general until May 15th at the earliest. Soil moisture is generally good to very good with 80% of the region rated good or excellent for both topsoil and subsoil moisture.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18
Special Areas Water Supply Project**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has committed to a 3 year Environmental Assessment of the Special Areas Water Supply Project; and

WHEREAS such assessments include potential impact on all municipalities and their current and future agricultural water accessibility and use.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT SOUTHER ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**
that the Southern Region ASBs express full support for the Special Areas Water Supply Project, including all offstream water storage, during the Environmental Assessment process.

Sponsored by: Special Areas No. 2

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Regional

Department: Alberta Environment

Passed: Simple majority

**EMERGENT RESOLUTION NO. 1
AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT REVIEW**

- WHEREAS** the *Agricultural Pests Act* is currently being reviewed by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
- WHEREAS** other government ministries have requested that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development consider adding additional non-agricultural invasive species to the *Agricultural Pests Act*
- WHEREAS** Agricultural Service Boards want to maintain responsibility to enforcement for only agricultural pests under the *Agricultural Pests Act*
- WHEREAS** Agricultural Service Boards want to ensure that responsibility for enforcing the *Agricultural Pests Act* for other non-agricultural pests lies with the government ministry that requested the addition of that pest to the Act

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

that the *Agricultural Pests Act* review process include the option of adding different Government Ministries to administer parts of the Act not covered by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. In the event that this change is implemented, non-agricultural pests including terrestrial, aquatic and semi aquatic pests and their administration will fall under Sustainable Resource Development or Alberta Environment.

Sponsored by: _____

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: _____

Department: _____

Passed: 2/3 majority

Background information

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development started reviewing the *Agricultural Pests Act* in the fall of 2010. The intent of this review is to carefully look at this Act and ensure that it is current and reflects the issues and concerns of all Albertans at this time.

The review of the Act includes sending it to other government ministries for consultation. Feedback received from this consultation included a request to consider including additional non-agricultural pest species, such as zebra and quagga mussels. The reasoning behind this request is that there is currently no legislation in place to allow these ministries tools to regulate these species. These ministries could draft new legislation to specifically deal with these additional species but the request was made to add them to the existing Act because it would be a simpler and more efficient option.

Legislation currently exists where multiple government ministries are assigned specific roles under the legislation for enforcement of certain parts of the Act. For example, if there were certain aquatic pests such as zebra or quagga mussels that Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) requested to be added to the Act, then SRD would maintain responsibility to monitor and enforce on these species. There are currently several other species on the Act that responsibility for monitoring and enforcement could be transferred to another government ministry. For example, Dutch Elm Disease is currently on the *Agricultural Pests Act*. Responsibility for enforcement of this disease could potentially be transferred to SRD if multiple ministries were able to work together to enforce on this Act and each Ministry was assigned responsibility for enforcement of specific pests.