



## **POLICY 2.12 RIGHT TO FARM**

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Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: August 12, 2014

Rescinds: N/A

Council Res. No: 736/08/12/14

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### **PURPOSE:**

To acknowledge existing provincial legislation, the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000 Chapter A-7), and further ensure there is a clear support established for the agricultural operations in Northern Sunrise County's daily function to prevent adverse impacts from neighbouring residents, interest groups, and industry.

### **SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all agricultural operations of Northern Sunrise County who conduct agricultural activities within its boundaries.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Act" means the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*.
2. "Agricultural operation" means an agricultural activity conducted on agricultural land for gain or reward or in the hope or expectation of gain or reward, and includes:
  - a. the cultivation of land,
  - b. the raising of livestock, including domestic cervids within the meaning of the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act* and poultry,
  - c. the raising of fur-bearing animals, pheasants or fish,
  - d. the production of agricultural field crops,
  - e. the production of fruit, vegetables, sod, trees, shrubs and other specialty horticultural crops,
  - f. the production of eggs and milk,
  - g. the production of honey,
  - h. the operation of agricultural machinery and equipment,
  - i. the application of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides, including application by ground and aerial spraying, for agricultural purposes,
  - j. the collection, transportation, storage, application, use, transfer and disposal of manure, composting materials and compost, and
  - k. the abandonment and reclamation of confined feeding operations and manure storage facilities.
3. "Agricultural Services staff " means County employees responsible for the administration of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

4. "Generally accepted agricultural practices" refers to a practice that is conducted in a manner consistent with appropriate and accepted customs and standards as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing and includes the use of innovative technology used with advanced management practices.

**POLICY:**

1. Northern Sunrise County acknowledges existing provincial legislation, the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*, and further demonstrates its support for agriculture, ensuring farmers and ranchers have the continued right to engage in "generally accepted agricultural practices", without unnecessary restrictions imposed upon their operations.
2. Other Northern Sunrise County policies will abide by the intent of this policy and the Act it is based upon.
3. Agricultural Services staff will provide appropriate information to owners and operators of agricultural operations and residents to support this policy.
4. Agricultural Services staff will:
  - a. provide owners and operators of agricultural operations with information on beneficial management practices to assist in minimizing any potential nuisance complaints.
  - b. provide residents with information on generally accepted agricultural practices to assist in minimizing adverse impacts on agriculture.
  - c. maintain open communications with Government of Alberta departments to ensure referral of complaints to appropriate agencies.
5. As Northern Sunrise County policies are reviewed, adherence to the intent of this policy will be considered and incorporated whenever possible.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer