



## **POLICY 2.6 VIRULENT BLACKLEG**

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Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: March 27, 2018

Rescinds: 971/11/24/15

Council Res. No: 210/03/27/18

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### **PURPOSE:**

To ensure that Virulent Blackleg of Canola is managed and *controlled* under the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Agricultural Pests Regulation* (184/2001).

### **SCOPE:**

Northern Sunrise County recognizes that Virulent Blackleg of Canola is a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta. Northern Sunrise County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to control and promote proper management of the disease within the boundaries of Northern Sunrise County, for the protection of agricultural productivity.

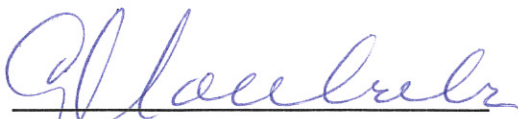
### **DEFINITIONS:**

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

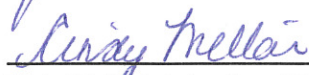
- a. *Agricultural Pests Act* – the *Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8)* and the *Agricultural Pest Regulation (184/2001)* including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
- b. Control – to manage the spread of the disease to a level that does not hinder production or infest any land that isn't infested.
- c. Infestation – any property containing Virulent Blackleg of Canola.
- d. Information package – A package with evidentiary value in support of an Inspector's due diligence.
- e. Notice – a "Notice to Control Pests" is a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline, and outlining acceptable Virulent Blackleg of Canola control options.
- f. Pest Inspector – Inspector appointed by Northern Sunrise County or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pest Act* and the regulations.
- g. Reported Field – any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms of Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

**POLICY:**

1. The Pest Inspector(s) shall attempt to conduct a pest inspection on all Reported Fields within 3 working days of receipt of the report/complaint
2. Infestation complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services Department. The complainant's name shall not be released unless so demanded by a court of law
3. All Infestations observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be controlled by the registered landowner(s) or registered occupant(s).
4. A Pest Inspector shall issue Notices per the Pest I.N.S.P.E.C.T. Matrix and County procedures when a lab test confirms the infestations as Virulent Blackleg.
5. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to contact the registered landowner(s) at their residence and correspondence shall be mailed to landowner(s).
6. The Pest Inspector shall enforce a Notice as per the Agricultural Pest Act, if the landowner(s) or registered occupant(s) is/are unwilling to take measures to control the infestation.
7. To maintain an awareness of Virulent Blackleg, the County staff shall inform (as needed) the stakeholders by:
  - i) Annually printing info in the county newsletter and maintain information as handouts;
  - ii) Informing County based Seed Outlets of our County policy and concerns and requesting that canola seed not be brought into the area from infested areas, if possible;
  - iii) Keeping Agricultural Service Board members and County staff as ambassadors to refer County residents to information on Virulent Blackleg.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer