

# **Fusarium Graminearum (FHB) Seed Viability Policy**

**Subject:** Fusarium Graminearum

**Reference:** ASB

**CODE:** 63

**Date Approved:** August 25, 2015

**Motion #941/25/08/15**

**Replaces:#09/25/11/22**

The County of Northern Lights believes in promoting programs that will prevent the establishment of *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg) or Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) within the boundaries of the County. *Fusarium graminearum* is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) of Alberta since 1984 under Section 2 of the Agricultural Pest Act due to its ability to lower quality and yield of cereal crops.

The prevention programs will consist of local meetings, inspections of grains at the seed cleaning plant, field inspections and farms visits. If the Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan control measures are not carried out by confirmed cases of Fg the owner/occupant will be subject to enforcement under the APA. To promote the detection of *Fusarium graminearum* the County, in conjunction with the Manning Seed Cleaning Co-op, will provide a 50/50 cost share program to detect *Fusarium graminearum* and test for seedling vigour and germination.

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Chief Elected Official

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Chief Administrative Officer

**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide direction for the County of Northern Lights to reduce the impacts of *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg), effectively controlling the spread of Fg in the County and Peace Region.
- 1.2 To administer, direct and enforce the APA for *Fusarium graminearum* of cereals in an equitable, consistent and effective manner within the financial and human constraints of the County.
- 1.3 To protect agricultural land from the infestation of Fg.
- 1.4 To inspect Cereal crops in the County for the presence of Fg.

**2.0 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 Will provide direction, supervision and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman for carrying out this policy.

**3.0 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 Is the Pest Inspector for the County under the Agricultural Pests Act Section 6.
- 3.2 Will supervise, direct and be responsible for other Council appointed municipal Pest Inspectors under APA section 10.
- 3.3 Will be solely responsible for the issuance and enforcement of Notice to Control Pests.

**4.0 PEST INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITY**

- 4.1 Will follow the Fg Inspection Procedures as determined by the Agricultural Fieldman.
- 4.2 Will carry out a minimum of 1 annual inspection per entire township in seeded cereal crops within the county, chosen fields will be fields known to have tight rotations and high traffic areas.

**5.0 PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5.1 An individual shall not knowingly perpetuate the propagation, spread and establishment of Fg within the County, under Section 5 pertaining to the APA.
- 5.2 The County requires Landowner/Occupants to follow the Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan on land that is confirmed positive with Fg.

## **6.0 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES**

6.1 A Notice to Control Pests will be issued to the Landowner/Occupant only upon the confirmation of FG on their land via a plant tissue analysis from an accredited laboratory.

6.2 The Notice to Control Pests may include the following restrictions:

6.2.1 Harvest the crop with all seed being sold or fed, **not** being used for seed.

6.2.2 Use the Best Managements Practices as outlined in the Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan must be followed for all products intended for feed that contain Fg.

6.3 Tarp all loads being transported from infected fields, straw and grain.

6.3.1 Clean all crop residue and debris from equipment prior to leaving infected field.

6.3.2 If erosion occurrence is low, incorporate residue in the fall.

6.3.3 Seed a non-host crop or fallow for a period of 3 consecutive years after initial infestation.

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## **7.0 NOTIFICATION OF INFESTATION**

7.1 As per Section 10 of the APA Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, a letter may be sent to all adjacent landholders notifying them of the legal land location of the Fg infestation as well as general information and recommendations for the prevention and control of Fg.

7.2 The seed source of the infested field will be traced and subsequent fields will be inspected.

7.3 The ASB shall be informed and enforcement will be directed by the Agricultural Fieldman under the APA in conjunction with the ASB.

## **8.0 RECOVERY OF EXPENSES**

8.1 Non-compliance of a Notice to Control Pests will result in the recovery of all expenses to the County during enforcement under section 19 of the APA.