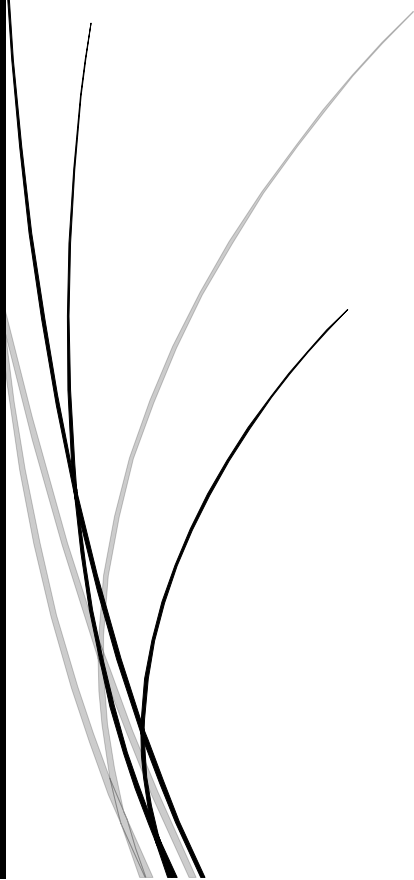




# 2016 Report Card on the Resolutions

Provincial Agricultural Service  
Board Committee



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# INTRODUCTION

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The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee is pleased to provide ASB members and staff with the Report Card on Government and Non-Government Responses to the 2016 Provincial ASB Resolutions. This document includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from each of the resolutions passed at the 2016 Provincial ASB Conference, the associated responses and the grade for each response as assigned by the Committee. Comments from the Committee are included with the grade assigned.

There are four response grades that can be assigned to a resolution response: Accept the Response; Accept in Principle, Incomplete and Unsatisfactory. The grade assigned relates to the quality of the response to the resolution. A definition of what each grade means is included as part of the Report Card. This report also summarizes actions undertaken by the Provincial ASB Committee and provides updates associated with resolution issues.

Please note that the grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction on future activities or follow up with respondents. If you would like to comment on the assigned grade or follow up activities, please contact your Provincial ASB Committee Representative.

<b>Regional Representatives</b>	<b>Alternates</b>
Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, Northeast Region	David Melenka
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Vice Chair, Northwest Region	Darrell Hollands
Corey Beck, Peace Region	Doug Dallyn
Jim Duncan, Central Region	Phillip Massier
Steve Wikkerink, South Representative	Garry Lentz
<b>Other Representatives</b>	
Soren Odegard, AAMDC	
Elden Kozak, Secretary, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP AAAF	
Trent Keller, President AAAF	
Doug Macaulay, Manager, ASB Program, AF	
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ASB Program Coordinator, AF	
Maureen Vadnais, Executive Assistant	

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# DEFINITION OF TERMS

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The Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Committee has chosen four indicators with which to grade resolution responses offered by government and non-government organizations.

## **Accept the Response**

A response that has been accepted is one that addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

## **Accept in Principle**

A response that has been accepted in principle is one that addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates further action is being considered.

## **Incomplete**

A response that is graded as incomplete is one that has not provided enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit the information required for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

## **Unsatisfactory**

A response that is graded as unsatisfactory is one that does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Grading given by the Provincial ASB Committee to government and non-government organization responses to resolutions passed at the 2016 Provincial ASB Conference.

<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Page</b>
1-16	Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	Unsatisfactory	1
2-16	Reinstate Provincial Funding for the Canada and Alberta Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program	Unsatisfactory	4
3-16	Agricultural Plastics Recycling	Accept in Principle	6
4-16	Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research and Forage Associations	Accept the Response	9
5-16	Climate Stations	Accept in Principle	11
6-16	Compensation for Coyote Depredation	Accept in Principle	18
7-16	Hay Insurance Program	DEFEATED	20
8-16	Species at Risk Act (SARA)	Accept in Principle	22
E1-16	Bill 6: Enhanced Protection of Farm and Ranch Workers	Accept in Principle	25

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# 2016 ACTIVITIES

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The Committee met four times in 2016. The Committee was able to meet twice with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (AF) in 2016 and used these opportunities to start developing a strong relationship with the new Minister and government. They had a good discussion with the Minister in September about the resolutions and other issues affecting ASBs. The outcome of this discussion is included in the comments for the resolutions.

The Committee also met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs last March to discuss the review of the *Municipal Government Act*. The Committee appreciated the opportunity to provide some input into this review and made the Minister aware of resolutions brought forward by ASBs regarding the review of the Act.

The Committee has been frustrated that they were not able to meet with the Minister of Environment and Parks in 2016. The Committee had started to develop a good working relationship with Environment and Parks under the previous government and is disappointed that they have not had an opportunity to meet and work with the new Minister. The Committee is continuing to seek a meeting with the Minister and is hopeful they will be able to start working together more closely in 2017.

The Committee worked closely with AF in 2016 to establish a new position on the Committee to lessen its' dependence on AF staff and make it more autonomous. The Committee felt this was best served through an Executive Assistant to help them with administrative work, the resolution process and policy analysis as the Committee's role has grown and become more complex. AF has generously provided a grant for the next three years to assist the Committee with this position and Maureen Vadnais was hired in August to fill this role. The Committee appreciates the support of AF in this endeavour and will continue to work closely with AF to look for solutions to issues in the agricultural industry.

The Committee and AAMDC Executive have agreed to meet annually to ensure that they are working together to advocate on issues related to the agriculture industry. The two groups are committed to working closely to discuss common issues and resolutions, exchanging information and aligning lobby efforts to be more effective when representing their members.

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# 2016 RESOLUTIONS

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## Resolution 1-16

### Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways

- WHEREAS:** The Government of Alberta's strategy to realize savings over the next 3 years by reducing the summer maintenance budget by \$27.8 million in 2015 alone is showing signs that the right-of -ways of Alberta's highways cannot be sustained at that level;
- WHEREAS:** Invasive plants cause significant changes to ecosystems that result in economic harm to our agricultural and recreational sectors. Highway corridors facilitate the spread not just locally, but internationally as well that impacts our neighbor's;
- WHEREAS:** Provincially, reductions were made that specifically state only 1 shoulder cut per year, no full width mowing, on all highways as well as no scheduled weed spraying, only reactive spot spraying after receiving a weed notice from a municipality;
- WHEREAS:** The most cost-effective strategy against invasive species is preventing them from establishing rather than relying on a municipality to hopefully identify an infestation and react by issuing a notice. Allowing other undesirable plants growing increases the risk to human health (poisonous plants) and public safety as well by reduced visibility along the shoulders of the road when wildlife are crossing or grazing;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Transportation in the past had the option of signing Service Agreements with each municipality to do invasive plant control, but that option is no longer available in some districts due to some of the highway maintenance contracts;
- WHEREAS:** With 31,000 kilometers of highway in the province the land base in which it is responsible for weed control within its right-of-way's is regulated by the Weed Control Act which requires attention and sufficient funds to be able to abide by its own legislation.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

The Government of Alberta restores funding levels to Alberta Transportation for summer maintenance programs for vegetation management (weed control and mowing).



## **FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

Alberta Transportation gives the option in all districts of the province to enter into Service Agreements with municipalities for weed control as the prime contractor, but if highway maintenance contracts do not allow for that then the Government of Alberta reopen those contracts to allow municipalities to become prime contractors.

**Status:** Provincial

### **Response**

#### *Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

- Agriculture and Forestry staff have discussed this issue with staff in Alberta Transportation, and Transportation is currently aware of their responsibilities under the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act*. As the owner/occupant of the right of ways along provincial highways, the Crown is bound by these Acts.
- Municipalities have full authority to give notices in order to ensure compliance with the Acts, even if issued to the Crown. Transportation was advised that reactive measures (such as requiring a weed notice every time weed control work was necessary) would be more expensive and time consuming for both the municipalities and Transportation.
- Transportation has informed our staff that no information was provided to contractors that requested they cut their vegetation management program as part of the budget reduction. It appears this was a decision that the contractors are making on their own, possibly as a way to cut back costs. Transportation staff have indicated they may be able to free up additional funding for contractors to use for their vegetation management programs.
- Transportation was referred to the Pest Surveillance Branch if they required any additional help with the legislation.

#### *Alberta Transportation*

Maintaining safety on our province's highways is a top priority and I appreciate the committee's concerns about the adverse impact of reduced chemical vegetation control along the provincial network. Alberta Transportation is committed to working with cross-ministry officials, municipalities, the Agricultural Service Board and the field personnel to control the spread of noxious weeds.

The decision to reduce mowing and weed spraying along provincial highways for summer 2016 was not made lightly. We evaluated and considered all possible risks, including the spread of noxious and prohibited weeds, blocking sight lines at

intersections and curves, the risk of wildlife collisions, and wildfires. Scheduled mowing is limited to a single shoulder cut, and vegetation control is restricted to spraying or hand picking individual patches of noxious weeds, as required by the *Weed Control Act*. Funding for spot spraying of weeds was not affected; however, funding for scheduled area spraying was eliminated.

**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Unsatisfactory

**Provincial ASB Committee Comments:**

This response was graded as “Unsatisfactory” as it did not address the “Further Therefore Be It Resolved” presented in this resolution. The Committee felt that the responses to this resolution were contradictory and is seeking further clarification from Transportation about instructions given to contractors and funding for vegetation management along provincial highways, in addition to seeking a full response to the resolution. The Committee has requested a meeting with Transportation to discuss this resolution and to reinforce to Transportation the effectiveness and cost efficiencies that could be achieved with a pro-active vegetation management program.

**Resolution 2-16**  
**REINSTATE PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR THE CANADA AND ALBERTA**  
**BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) SURVEILLANCE**  
**PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS:** Since 2007, Canada has been recognized by the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) as a controlled BSE risk country
- WHEREAS:** Canada may be at risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country due to tested numbers not meeting the 30,000 animal annual requirement set by OIE
- WHEREAS:** If Canada does not meet these requirements, we may fall into the negligible BSE risk category where OIE and trading partners may close borders to Canadian cattle. International perception on the change in risk status may negatively impact our sound beef export market
- WHEREAS:** By reinstating Provincial funding, it will encourage more producers to participate in the BSE program realizing our target
- WHEREAS:** On September 15, 2011 the province decided to discontinue the \$150 incentive given to producers to allow sampling their animals and for maintaining control of the carcass pending test results

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture & Forestry reinstate the \$150.00 incentive given to producers for participating in the BSE program.

**Status:** Provincial

**Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

- Agriculture and Forestry shares this concern regarding the progressive decline in BSE samples submitted to the Canada/Alberta BSE Surveillance Program (CABSESP), and any possible international repercussions.
- We have explored a number of options to improve the BSE surveillance numbers in the province.

- As of 2012, the Department called for a broader and more inclusive approach on BSE surveillance by creating a Western Canadian BSE Surveillance group, which later became part of the national CanSurvBSE.
  - The objective of this group is to gather different stakeholders, such as cattle industry representatives, veterinary organizations, and provincial and federal governments, in order to propose solutions to improve BSE surveillance in Canada
  - Based on the feedback we received from stakeholders, changes have been made to the CABSESP'S terms and conditions during the past four years in an effort to eliminate restrictions in eligibility criteria to allow more animals to be tested.
- There have also been extensive education and awareness campaigns to highlight these changes and the importance of surveillance. Most recently, we contracted several private veterinarians to work with us in promoting the program and the importance of producer participation to preserve our markets
- Going forward, the Ministry is continuing to examine options to improve BSE surveillance numbers
- We cannot overstate the importance of a collaborative approach and producer identification and submission of eligible samples. This program is a joint program between industry and government that helps to ensure maintenance and expansion of market access and ultimately, the profitability of the industry.

**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Unsatisfactory

**Provincial ASB Committee Comments:**

This response was graded as Unsatisfactory because it did not answer the resolution as written. The Committee is concerned that we may lose our status as a controlled risk country for BSE due to the lack of testing and discussed several options with the Minister to address this problem. Some of the options discussed included requesting the OIE to lower the minimum number of animals tested, to base the number of animals tested on a percentage of the current cow herd and to assist packing plants with developing separate lines to allow them to test animals at slaughter. The Minister acknowledged that the cattle market had changed since the initial discovery of BSE in Alberta but indicated there was no additional funding to put towards BSE testing. He said he would bring forward the option of decreasing the number of animals required for testing to the appropriate agencies.

The Committee feels that decreasing the number of animals required for testing is a viable option because the number of animals in Canada has significantly decreased

since it reached its' peak in 2005. In 2005, there were approximately 6.7 million cattle in Alberta. The most recent information from Statistics Canada's July 1, 2016 estimate shows 5.37 million cattle for Alberta, which is an approximately 20% decrease in the overall cow herd numbers for Alberta since 2005.

This data represents bulls, milk cows, dairy heifers, beef cows, beef heifers, slaughter heifers, calves and steers. More detailed information is included in the Appendix.

## **Resolution 3-16**

### **AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING**

**WHEREAS:** 56% of farms in Alberta use one or more types of agricultural plastics (baler twine, net wrap, silage plastic, grain bags, bale bags/tubes);

**WHEREAS:** The disposal and/or recycling of agricultural plastics is not consistent across the province;

**WHEREAS:** Agricultural plastics are either burned on farm or sent to the landfill;

**WHEREAS:** Agricultural plastics users are concerned with how they deal with agricultural plastics and feel it is important to be able to recycle agricultural plastics;

**WHEREAS:** The Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with a number of stakeholders, has been running a successful pilot program for managing the recycling of agricultural plastics;

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry research, develop, and implement an agricultural plastics recycling program modelled after the pilot program in the Province of Saskatchewan.

**Status:** Provincial

#### **Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

- Agriculture and Forestry is aware of the agricultural plastics recycling pilot program in Saskatchewan.
  - The Saskatchewan Agricultural Stewardship Council, which is made up of representatives from the agricultural industry and formed under the CleanFARMS umbrella, has been tasked to develop and implement a permanent agricultural plastics program for the province. This organization, as well as Simply Agriculture Solutions, is working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to develop waste management regulations and implementation of an overall program plan

- CleanFARMS presented a draft regulation to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment in July 2013. This regulation is still with the Minister, and no real progress on a regulation has been made
- Agriculture and Forestry was working with Environment and Parks to scope and develop options to address the issue in Alberta, beginning with the development of an education program (including a fact sheet) around the harmful effects of burning. However, based on further feedback from producers and other Alberta stakeholders, it was concluded that an education piece alone was not going to solve the issue
- AF contributed to a waste characterization study that was completed by CleanFARMS. The results of the study suggest that agricultural plastic waste is less than one per cent of the total annual waste being sent to landfills in Alberta
- In the interim, we continue to gather information about agricultural plastics, including a study on markets for agricultural plastics.
- Agriculture and Forestry staff have been asked by the Alberta Recycling Management Authority to sit on a committee to develop policy options for agricultural plastic recycling. The first meeting was on December 10, 2015 and consists of members from Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, Alberta Recycling Management Authority, CleanFARMS and Recycling Council of Alberta.

### *Alberta Environment and Parks*

Environment and Parks recognizes that the management of waste agricultural plastics continues to be an important issue to Alberta stakeholders. We encourage all agricultural producers and stakeholders using agricultural plastics to responsibly manage the material at end-of-life, including recycling where facilities exist.

My department is focused on a number of priority waste issues at this time, including regulatory amendments and further consultation for existing programs. We also recognize that we need further information about what a regulated option for managing agricultural material at end-of life in Alberta would look like, including determining stakeholders, the best policy tool for managing a program, the costs of a program and who would pay.

Staff understands that the work in Saskatchewan is a pilot program and the development of regulations in that province are ongoing; we will continue to monitor the progress of this work. However, at this time, our department is not considering a regulated program based on the Saskatchewan model.

We invite agricultural producers and stakeholders to share any information with department staff regarding the management of agricultural waste material at end-of-life to help inform future policy on the issue.

**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Accept in Principle

**Provincial ASB Committee Comments:**

The Committee discussed this resolution with the Minister in conjunction with resolution 12-15. The Committee is frustrated that there has been little progress made since 2006 when the first resolutions were brought forward through ASBs and AAMDC. The Committee continues to work with the Agricultural Plastics Committee that is comprised of members from AF, Environment and Parks, AAMDC and other organizations to push for solutions for recycling of agricultural plastics.

The Committee has included the most recent study conducted by AF on this issue in the Appendix. The 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics study surveyed municipalities to try to understand the current practices used for disposal of agricultural plastics with the goal of using the survey results to make progress towards solutions for recycling of agricultural plastics.



**Resolution 4-16**  
**AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITY FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
AND FORAGE ASSOCIATIONS**

**WHEREAS:** The continuing staffing decline in both provincial and federal government employees has resulted in the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations becoming the primary source of unbiased information for agricultural producers throughout the Province;

**WHEREAS:** Many Research and Forage Associations lack adequate staff to assist with important government initiatives such as pest monitoring without jeopardizing research integrity;

**WHEREAS:** Many of the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations are unable to enact long term research and demonstration programs or develop a capital asset replacement strategy at the current levels of funding provided by the Province;

**WHEREAS:** Many Research and Forage Associations expend a large portion of staff resources seeking funding vs performing program operations;

**WHEREAS:** In March 2014, Agriculture Minister Verlyn Olson announced that the Agricultural Opportunity Fund grant amount had been increased by \$2.5 million and Research and Forage Associations could proceed with program expansion;

**WHEREAS:** In January 2015 the \$2.5 million increase in funding was suddenly revoked.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstate the 2014 Agricultural Opportunity Fund increase that was allocated for the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations.

**Status:** Provincial

## **Response**

### *Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

- The Agricultural Opportunity Fund (AOF) is proud to support eight Applied Research Associations (ARAs) and four Forage Associations (FAs) throughout the Province of Alberta. These organizations, including the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta, are located throughout the province, and virtually all producers in Alberta can access any one of these organizations
- Since 2002, support for this program from Agriculture and Forestry has been consistent and reliable at \$1.95 million (\$1.5 million from AOF and an additional \$450,000 from our Environmental Stewardship Division)
- We have also provided several one-time grants to assist these organizations to support their manpower capacity, capital requirements, and extension programming since 2002. Total support has amounted to an additional \$5 million
- Agriculture and Forestry is unable to reinstate the 2014 funding levels for the AOF.

**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Accept the Response

### **Provincial ASB Committee Comments:**

The Committee felt that the response answered the question posed in the resolution but still feels that there is a need for increased funding to support ARAs and FAs. The Committee discussed this resolution with the Minister and tried to impress on him the impact these organization have on their local communities and the need for increased funding. The Minister replied that increasing funding is not a current financial reality but they were working to maintain the current levels of funding.

## **Resolution 5-16**

### **CLIMATE STATIONS**

**WHEREAS:** Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance is based on the data collected from the nearest approved weather station;

**WHEREAS:** The locations of the weather stations that Agro Climatic Information Service (ACIS) collects data from are not consistently located geographically or reflecting microclimate areas;

**WHEREAS:** Producers are dealing with microclimates that AFSC insurance programs do not have accurate information on;

**WHEREAS:** Producers are situated too far from a weather station for the data to be precise when dealing with AFSC crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance;

**WHEREAS:** The adjusters doing the investigation are not left with the final say on the relevancy of the data of the nearest weather station.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

##### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry increase the amount of weather stations in a geographically consistent manner in the agricultural areas to ensure accuracy of weather data used by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation and other departments.

#### **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**

##### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation give authority to the adjusters to modify the data when the adjuster is of the opinion that the claimant is in a microclimate that is different from the closest weather station for the crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance claim purposes.

**Status:** Provincial

## **Response**

### *Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

- Since 2007, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and Agriculture and Forestry have installed over 120 new weather stations throughout the agricultural areas. This is a historic accomplishment, as no other government agency in the country has ever installed as many new all season, meteorological stations that meet national standards. Alberta's meteorological network is the most dense, complete and sophisticated in Canada. Data is all available publicly through our website and is used for a wide variety of purposes
- We recognize that there are several areas that still need a local weather stations. We will continue to add to the network as resources are available
- AFSC has four area-based insurance programs that utilize the meteorological data provided by the Engineering and Climate Services Branch of Agriculture and Forestry. The programs include:
  - Pasture: Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) Program provides coverage on pasture. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.
  - Hay: Moisture Deficiency Endorsement (MDE) provides additional top-up coverage to clients insuring hay. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.
  - Silage Greenfeed: Lack of Moisture (LOM) Insurance Program provides coverage on annually seeded crops that are intended for livestock feed and not grain production. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.
  - Corn Heat Units (CHU): Insurance is an area based program which provides protection against a lack of heat on irrigated corn. There are 13 weather stations in the irrigation district that clients are allowed to purchase CHU insurance on.

- There are approximately 394 weather stations in the province from which Agriculture and Forestry collects meteorological information during the growing season
- In 2016, for the MDI, MDE and LOM programs, AFSC uses data from an insurable network of 245 stations. AFSC's goal when the programs were introduced in the early 2000s was to have all insurable land no more than 20 km from an insurable weather stations
- The breakdown of the number of stations by owner is as follows:

<b>Operator</b>	<b>Number of Stations</b>	<b>Insured Stations</b>
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	6	5
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	169	167
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development	53	4
Environment and Parks	92	29
Environment Canada	51	31
Fire Observer Network	7	7
NAV Canada	16	2

- In program literature, AFSC clearly states that the four area-based insurance programs may not reflect the actual production, and conditions on insured fields may not reflect conditions at the selected weather stations. Thus, clients know when they sign up that the payments will be based on the independent third party weather information from the insurable weather stations, and will not be based on assessments from the AFSC's inspectors. As such, it is impractical to have the inspector provide an opinion, as they are not involved in the final calculation
- Many provincial and federally-run meteorological stations report hourly, and some specified un-insured stations could be used for insurance; however, these are typically in higher elevations, or areas that do not reflect local agricultural areas. In addition, some stations are not year-round measuring stations, and are therefore not ideal for insurance purposes.
- Across the province there are approximately 150 other "manned" stations that report daily or twice daily information. Some of this data is difficult for quality control, and is often not timely. As such, they are not considered as viable candidates for insurance purposes.

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the **ASB Resolution #5 – Climate Stations**. As the resolution points out, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) utilizes meteorological information from weather stations to provide insurance coverage on. The resolution contains two separate issues.

## **I) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WEATHER STATIONS**

Currently there are four area based programs that use this data. The programs include:

**Pasture - Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) Program** provides coverage on pasture. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.

**Hay - Moisture Deficiency Endorsement (MDE)** provides additional top-up coverage to clients insuring hay. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.

**Silage Greenfeed - Lack of Moisture (LOM) Insurance Program** provides coverage on annually seeded crops that are intended for livestock feed and not grain production. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.

**Corn Heat Units (CHU) Insurance** is an area based program which provides protection against a lack of heat on irrigated corn. There are 13 weather stations in the irrigation district that clients are allowed to purchase CHU insurance on.

AFSC does not own or operate any of the weather stations. We rely on the existing networks in the province of Alberta. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) collect meteorological information from over 390 weather stations from 6 different providers. The locations and owners of the weather stations have been provided in Appendix 1.

AFSC has developed a long-term partnership with AF to continually expand the insurable network to use all the suitable stations. As a result of this partnership, the number of insured stations has increased from 53 stations when the MDI program was piloted in 2002 to the 245 insurable stations that are available in 2016. The breakdown of the number of insurable stations by owner is summarized in the following table:

Owner	Insured Stations
Agriculture and Forestry (Ag)	167
Environment and Parks	33
Environment Canada	31
Agriculture Forestry (Fire)	7
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	5
NAV Canada	2

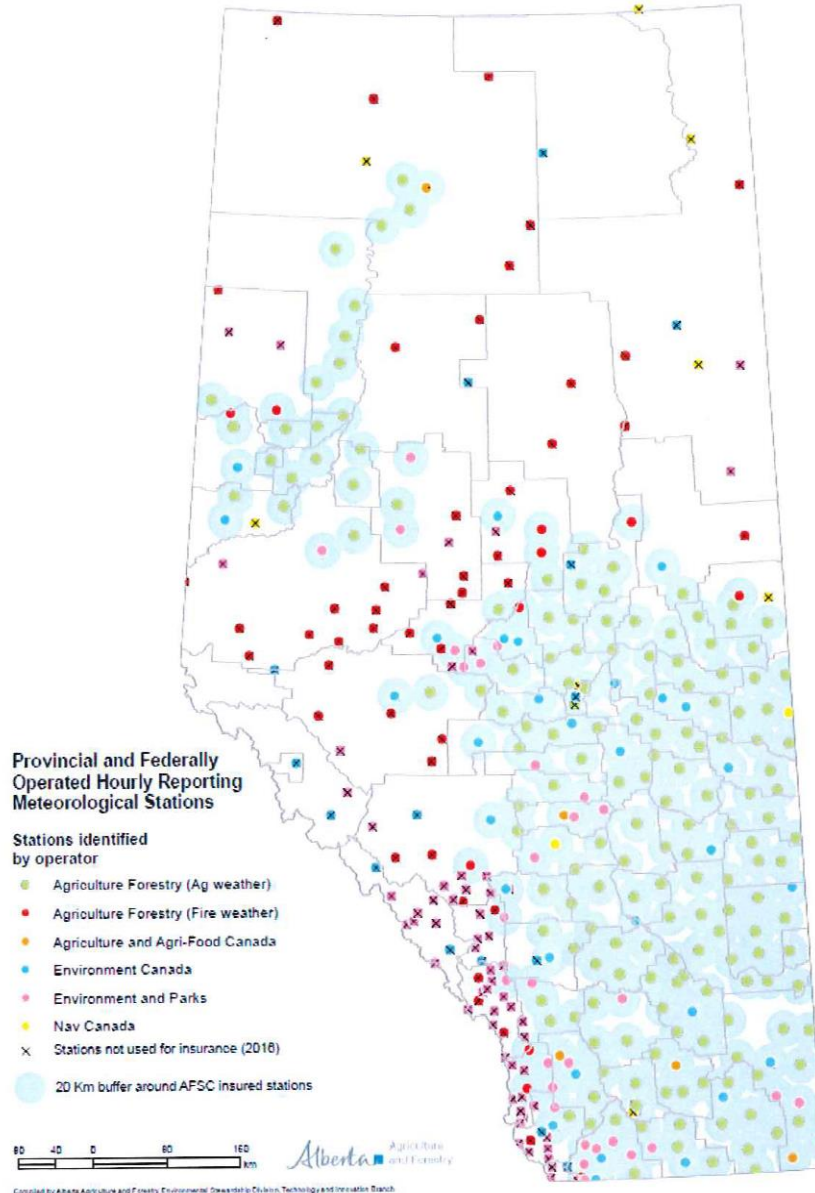
AFSC will continue to monitor our partner's networks and will add suitable stations as new stations are installed and/or upgraded. For example, AF has installed 4 new weather stations in the northern Peace and has plans for an additional 5 stations to be installed in the area in the next two years. As these stations come on-line they will be included in the network.

**II) USE ADJUSTERS OPINIONS TO MODIFY DATA**

In the annual program literature for the area based programs it is clearly spelled out to clients that the program payments may not reflect the actual production and conditions on insured fields. So clients know when they purchase the insurance the payments will be based on the independent third party weather information from the insurable weather stations and will not be based on assessments from the AFSC's inspectors.

This reduces the program administrative costs and also has the added benefit of offering a program that is based on third party data that is not subject to manipulation by AFSC or by the clients. Involving the inspectors in the process will add a level of subjectivity to the process which could add to additional questions as to how payments are arrived at. The administrative costs would also increase disproportionately to the relative benefit that would be seen. Therefore it is impractical to have the inspector provide an opinion because they are not involved.

### APPENDIX 1: Meteorological Stations



Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data



**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Accept in Principle

**Provincial ASB Committee Comments:**

The Committee recognizes that there are still data collection gaps, especially in the northern areas of the province, that impact the payment producers receive. The Committee requested the Minister to provide more detailed information regarding the number of new stations and where the new stations were installed.

## **Resolution 6-16**

### **COMPENSATION FOR COYOTE DEPREDATION**

**WHEREAS:** Coyotes are currently regulated under the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act and Alberta is the only province in Canada to not include coyotes as part of the predatory compensation program;

**WHEREAS:** Wildlife predator compensation is paid for livestock depredation by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles;

**WHEREAS:** Coyotes also cause considerable damage to livestock resulting in 65% of Alberta's beef producers having an economic impact from coyote damage;

**WHEREAS:** Adding coyotes to the Alberta Wildlife Regulation would allow producers to claim compensation for livestock depredation caused by this species.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Minister of Environment and Parks add coyotes to the compensation list as a predator under the Alberta Wildlife Regulation paying the same level of compensation for depredation that is paid for livestock death and injury from wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles.

**Status:** Provincial

#### **Response**

*Alberta Environment and Parks*

The designation of coyotes under the *Agricultural Pest Act*, in conjunction with liberal harvest regulations outlined in the *Wildlife Act*, provide many tools to agricultural producers in addressing coyote problems they may face.

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program strives to balance the loss of livestock with funding from hunting licence fees. Because coyotes are not an important big game species, the addition of coyotes as an eligible species for compensation would not be an appropriate use of hunting licence fees.

Environment and Parks acknowledges the financial cost to agricultural producers due to coyote predation on their property. However, there are currently no plans to consider compensation changes at this time.

**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Accept in Principle

**Provincial ASB Committee Comments:**

The Committee felt that the response from Environment and Parks addressed the resolution as written but that there is still more work that needs to be done to resolve this issue. The Committee understands that there would be a significant stress on the current program without additional new funding and that new funding is not a current financial reality for the province, but coyotes continue to be a problem in certain areas of the province and there is a need for compensation to producers for livestock losses due to coyote predation. The Committee will continue to work with Environment and Parks through some of the working groups they sit on to ensure that this issue remains a high priority to address.

## **Resolution 7-16**

### **HAY INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**DEFEATED AT THE 2016 PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE**

**WHEREAS:** Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance is based on the annual yields by crop type;

**WHEREAS:** Currently, there is no adjustment for hay quality;

**WHEREAS:** Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) is an area-based program which provides coverage on pasture using precipitation information from weather stations and spring soil moisture estimates to reflect moisture conditions across the province;

**WHEREAS:** Feed barley is used as the proxy crop for hay to determine the Variable Price Benefit (VPB) trigger;

**WHEREAS:** The Fall Market Price of feed barley reported for the Edmonton Region must increase by at least 10 per cent above the production insurance spring price for barley, for the VPB to trigger;

**WHEREAS:** The indemnities are paid using the increased price up to a maximum increase of 50 per cent, and producers are absorbing additional costs over 50%;

**WHEREAS:** Producers are left absorbing the cost of feed supplements when it comes to poor hay and pasture quality as well as the trucking cost when it comes to purchasing hay during the droughts and other agricultural disasters.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry update the Hay and Pasture Insurance Program to accurately cover the impact of the market fluctuation on hay production for livestock producers based on hay commodities. Amendments need to include removing the 50% price cap on the VPB, assistance to cover the cost of feed supplements due to poor quality as well as trucking costs due to insufficient quantity of feed.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation give authority to the adjusters to modify the amount when the adjuster is of the opinion that the livestock producer is facing additional expenditures that are directly linked to poor hay and pasture yields.

## **Resolution 8-16**

### **SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA)**

**WHEREAS:** The federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the designated independent committee for habitat protection legislation will have long lasting negative economic impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta and is of great concern to rural municipalities and elected officials;

**WHEREAS:** Agriculture, industry, species at risk and rural development can co-exist;

**WHEREAS:** Rural municipalities are firm supporters of the goals of the Species at Risk Act;

**WHEREAS:** All municipalities, industry and agricultural producers are affected by the above, leading to a shift in the social and economic balance between urban and municipalities in the Province.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

AAAF, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and AAMDC facilitate a round table discussion with representation from the Federal Environment Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister of Environment and Parks to rebuild the current Species at Risk Act to improve it in a way that seeks a balanced and cooperative approach (economic, environmental, and social) to species protection that focuses on ecosystem protection; limiting impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta.

**Status:** Provincial

#### **Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

- If a round-table discussion were recommended by the Government of Canada, as suggested in the Resolution, department staff would be willing to participate
- We agree with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that agriculture and species-at-risk can co-exist on the landscape. The Department

also agrees that protection of biodiversity, species-at-risk and species-at-risk habitat are extremely significant.

#### *Alberta Environment and Parks*

Environment and Parks agrees with Agricultural Service Board that agriculture, industry, and rural development can co-exist with species at risk, if effective stewardship and conservation measures are implemented.

Continuing collaboration with landowners, lessees, municipalities, industry, other stakeholders and the federal government is essential to achieving recovery of species at risk in Alberta, and providing certainty to affected stakeholders.

My department believes challenges related to species at risk conservation can be best addressed through provincial regulatory and policy approaches, federal policy development and improved inter-jurisdictional cooperation and stewardship.

From time to time, legislation is amended. If invited, Environment and Parks would be pleased to provide its input to any federal process for the development of legislative amendments to the *Species at Risk Act*.

#### *Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Thank you for your letter of February 10, 2016, and enclosure, requesting my response to Resolution No. 8: Species at Risk Act (SARA), which was passed by delegates at the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference in January.

I share the view that SARA should be implemented in a manner that seeks a balanced and co-operative approach to species conservation and recovery. As species are listed, recovery strategies and management plans are developed, and as critical habitat is identified for endangered and threatened species, consultation with landowners and others that might be directly affected is undertaken to the extent possible.

I encourage the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee to fully explore the Species at Risk Public Registry at [www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca). This website is designed to help Canadians better understand Canada's approach to protecting and recovering species at risk, learn about what is being done to help them, and get involved in decision making and recovery activities.

There are many examples where landowners and agricultural producers are contributing to the protection and recovery of species at risk in this country. For example, the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk has, for many years, supported voluntary stewardship of organizations and individuals in Canada to take meaningful actions for the protection and recovery of species at risk, including those found in agricultural landscapes.

**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Accept in Principle

**Provincial ASB Committee Comments:**

The Committee is currently working towards initiating a round table discussion with AAMDC, AAAF, AF, Environment and Parks and Environment and Climate Change Canada. The Committee is planning to meet with AAMDC and AAAF this fall to discuss this resolution and determine a course of action to address this resolution.



## **Emergent Resolution E1-16**

### **BILL 6: ENHANCED PROTECTION OF FARM AND RANCH WORKERS**

- WHEREAS:** Safety is a top priority in the farming and ranching industry;
- WHEREAS:** There is no consultation on Bill 6 prior to it being announced;
- WHEREAS:** Some agricultural operations currently offer better insurance than WCB, but have been told that they are not allowed to use that insurance as an alternative;
- WHEREAS:** There was overwhelming opposition to Bill 6 from the agricultural community;
- WHEREAS:** The government forced Bill 6 through the legislature in spite of opposition from those that were most affected by the Bill;
- WHEREAS:** Future consultation is scheduled to start in May, which is the busiest time of year for most farmers and ranchers and their employees;
- WHEREAS:** The Bill creates an unfair situation where some agricultural operations are subject to the legislation while others are not;
- WHEREAS:** Local ASB's represent the grass roots agricultural community in all 70 rural municipalities in the province;
- WHEREAS:** The government was not able to offer any clear explanation on how Bill 6 would impact the agricultural community; economy and cultural mosaic;
- WHEREAS:** Bill 6 will have a negative impact on the "grow local food movement";

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That, since the Government of Alberta has refused to rescind Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers in spite of overwhelming opposition. It is imperative that local Agricultural Service Boards, the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties, the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee, the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, and any and all commissions, boards, associations, and producer or grower groups related to agriculture should be directly involved in any and

all consultations regarding the writing of regulations surrounding any and all legislation amended by Bill 6 Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers.

**Status:** Provincial

## **Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

- The next phase of farm and ranch consultation with the agriculture sector begins this spring. This process will include establishing working groups of stakeholders and experts that will make recommendations on how employment standards, occupational health and safety, and labour relations requirements should be applied
- These technical working groups will provide an opportunity for a broad and diverse range of voices from the farming and ranching sector to ensure their way of life is preserved, while at the same time ensuring paid workers come home safely at the end of each day
- Producers who are members of agricultural organizations and groups can also provide their input and feedback through their organization
- Nominations to become a member of these working groups closed on February 26, 2016
- Once we are ready to select members from the nominations received, we plan to get started right away. We plan to have the initial working group meetings in March before taking a break during the busy spring season to allow farmers and ranchers time to get their work done. The working group meetings will resume in June-July 2016.
- For more information on farm and ranch legislation and for the latest updates, visit [www.farmandranch.alberta.ca](http://www.farmandranch.alberta.ca)

*Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour*

No response was received from Minister Gray at Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour.

**Provincial ASB Committee Grade:** Accept in Principle

## **Provincial ASB Committee Comments**

The Committee decided to not seek a response from Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour as the members of the working groups had already been decided on. Corey Beck, Peace Representative, was selected to sit on one of the six technical working

groups to represent ASBs. The Committee was disappointed that a member from the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) was not selected to participate and discussed this with the Minister on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Committee requested that ASBs and AAAF members be consulted on the Code after it is re-written and circulated for review.

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# UPDATE OF PREVIOUS YEARS' RESOLUTIONS

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Section 3(10) of the Provincial Rules of Procedure states that follow up on resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions. Only those resolutions with grades of "Accept in Principle", "Incomplete" or "Unsatisfactory" are included in this report card. Resolutions from previous years may be included here that are related to a particular issue that the Committee is working on.

A listing of all resolutions with grading can be found on the provincial ASB program website at: [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/asb](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/asb)

## **Agricultural Pests Act Review**

### Related Resolutions

- 1-12: Alberta Rat Control Program
- 6-12: Requiring Seed Cleaning Plants to Test for Fusarium
- E1-12: *Agricultural Pests Act Review*
- 2-13: Inclusion of all Invasive Hawkweed Species as Prohibited Noxious Under the *Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation*
- 2-15: Pest Control Act – Clubroot
- 3-15: Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure
- 5-15: Maintaining Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) as a Noxious Weed under the *Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation*
- E1-15: *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan

The Committee included these resolutions in their discussion with the Minister about the review of the *Agricultural Pests Act*. The Committee was told that ASBs have seen the initial policy document and that Agriculture and Forestry (AF) is currently finishing the policy document and developing a consultation plan. AF expected that consultation would begin in the next six months and the legislation is expected to go to the legislature in the spring or fall of 2018. The Committee will continue to advocate for these resolutions to be considered as part of the consultation process.

## **Funding for ASBs**

Related Resolutions:

- 3-15: Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure
- 4-15: Additional Funding for Municipalities Dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that come from Outside the Province of Alberta

The Committee discussed funding issues with the Minister on September 6, 2016 and highlighted that municipalities are currently paying the majority of expenses related to ASB programs. The Committee requested a review of current funding levels.

The Committee is aware that there is now funding available through Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) Crop Pest Response Fund. This is a fund to provide support for determining the presence and distribution of new or novel pests, to develop a control strategy and implement an eradication or control plan. This is currently a pilot project aimed to support municipalities and other agencies involved in enforcement of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and *Weed Control Act* and currently has a budget of \$500,000. This fund started accepting applications in June 2016 and is currently accepting new applications.

Information about the Crop Pest Response Fund is included in the Appendix.

### **Resolution 1-15: Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties**

The Committee recommends maintaining the response to this resolution as “Unsatisfactory”. The Committee will continue to remind the Minister that there is capacity to use other agencies to assist with enforcement issues related to pests under the current *Agricultural Pests Act*.

### **Resolution 8-15: Monitor Ergot Levels in Livestock Feeds**

The Committee requested additional information from Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Agriculture and Forestry (AF) on this issue. CFIA responded with additional information and this information is included in the Appendix. AF developed posters with information related to ergot in 2014 but information regarding livestock toxicity was not included on these posters.

### **Resolution 9-15: Elk Quota Hunt**

The 2016 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet lists several new special licence hunting seasons that were created in the province. Antlered and antlerless Elk hunting seasons were created in WMUs 128, 142, 156, 158, 160 and 210 and additional Antlerless Elk special licence hunting seasons were created in WMUs 505, 507, 508 and 510.

Landowner Special Licences were also made available for landowners, or eligible designates, who were unsuccessful in the special licence draws for antlerless elk special licence, with exclusion in certain WMUs.

Statistics for the 2015 elk hunt are included in the Appendix.

### **Resolution 10-15: Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer Availability**

Related Resolution:

- Resolution 2-14: Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Committee requested additional information from Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch regarding which offices had been closed, where new staff had been deployed and if any offices had been re-opened. Miles Davis, Superintendent, with Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch provided the following information to the request:

The Information you requested from the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch is as follows.

#### **New officer hire dates and locations (47):**

2016 - Edmonton

2015 – Edson, Grande Cache, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Calgary x2, Slave Lake, Barrhead, Peace River, Cochrane, Fairview, Pincher Creek

2014 – Peace River, Brooks, Grande Prairie, Ft. McMurray, High Prairie, Lac La Biche, Smoky Lake, Lethbridge, Wetaskiwin

2013 –Spruce Grove, Olds/Sundre, High Prairie, Grande Prairie, Cochrane, Ft. McMurray, Whitecourt, Hinton, Calgary, Edmonton, Athabasca

2012 – Bonnyville, Red Deer, Edson, Edmonton, Peace River, Fairview, Slave Lake, Valleyview, Barrhead, Fox Creek, Cold Lake, Ft. McMurray, Lac La Biche, Wetaskiwin.

It should be noted that these locations are for initial postings. Staff may transfer or promote after their initial posting. Most postings are filled due to attrition and staffing priorities. Officer positions have not increased (no net increase).

## **Office Closure**

Since 2012, Coronation is the only office to close. The district was split between Hanna, Oyen, Stettler and Provost. Travel times to respond to the Coronation area have increased slightly; however, that location was a low priority to fill based on effective utilization of officer staff.

### **Resolution 12-15: Agriculture Plastics Recycling**

Related Resolution:

- Resolution 3-16: Agricultural Plastics Recycling

This resolution was discussed with the Minister in conjunction with resolution 3-16.

### **Resolution 14-15: Management of Farm and Agricultural Leases**

The Committee has not had an opportunity to discuss this issue with the Minister of Environment and Parks. The Committee is currently seeking a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Parks to discuss several resolutions related to this Ministry.

### **Resolution 15-15: Farm Property Assessments**

The Committee has been following the review of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* and current indicators are that the legislation will remain the same and farm properties will continue to receive an assessment exemption on farm residences. The Committee will continue to follow the review of the MGA and provide input as required.

### **Resolution E1-14: Licencing of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat in Canada**

There are currently no glyphosate tolerant wheat varieties grown commercially in North America but there have recently been reports of escapes of some of these varieties from research trials in the United States. The Committee will continue to follow this issue and advocate that glyphosate tolerant wheat varieties not be licensed in Canada due to concerns expressed by ASBs regarding market access if these varieties are allowed to be grown in Canada.

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# 2016 EXPIRING RESOLUTIONS

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The Provincial Rules of Procedure state under Section 3(10) that the ASB Provincial Committee will advocate for resolutions for a period of five years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain active must be brought forward for approval at the next ASB Provincial Conference.

The following resolutions will expire in 2016:

<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Resolution Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>
1-12	Alberta Rat Control Program	Accept in Principle
2-12	Promoting Alberta's Rat Free Status	Accept the Response
3-12	Richardson Ground Squirrel Control	Accept the Response
4-12	Wild Boar Eradication Initiative	Incomplete
6-12	Requiring Seed Cleaning Plants to test for Fusarium	Accept in Principle
7-12	Herbicide Selection for Noxious Weed Control on Acreages	Accept in Principle
8-12	2011 Provincial Enforcement of the Weed Act	Unsatisfactory
9-12	Requiring labelling of flower seed mixes with all species present	Unsatisfactory
10-12	Request for ARD to take a more forceful approach to the selling of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds at greenhouses and plant retailers	Unsatisfactory
11-12	Cessation of potable water use by oil and gas industry	Accept the Response
13-12	Liability on Sustainable Resource Development lease lands	Incomplete
15-12	Recycling program for agricultural plastics	Accept the Response
16-12	Funding for ARECA Member groups	Accept the Response
17-12	AFSC Seeding Intention Dates	Regional
18-12	Special Areas water supply project	Regional
E1-12	Agricultural Pest Act Review	Accept in Principle
E2-12	Compound 1080 review by Pest Management Regulatory Agency	Accept in Principle



## *Updates on Expiring Resolutions*

### **Resolution 7-12: Herbicide Selection for Noxious Weed Control on Acreages**

Five municipalities are currently participating in a pilot project to determine if acreage owners will be allowed increased herbicide selection. Alberta Environment and Parks will be reviewing this program and determine if it will be offered province wide.

### **Resolution E2-12: Compound 1080 review by Pest Management Regulatory Agency**

The ASB Provincial Committee recommends that the grade for resolution E2-12 be changed to "Accept the Response" as the review for Compound 1080 has been completed and continued registration of the product was granted provided labels were amended to reduce environmental exposure.

Information on the review and re-evaluation decision may be found at: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/\\_decisions/rvd2014-03/index-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_decisions/rvd2014-03/index-eng.php)

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# APPENDIX

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# Alberta's Cow Herd: Statistics

**Table 48: Cattle and Calves on Alberta Farms, July 1, 1960-2005**

	Milk		Dairy	Beef (1) Beef		Slaughter	Calves	Steers	Total		Alberta as a % of Canada
	Bulls	Cows	Helpers	Cows	Helpers	Helpers			Alberta	Canada	
	'000 Head										
1960.....	55.0	279.0	67.0	827.0	257.0	-	867.0	345.0	2,897.0	11,307.0	23.8
1961.....	57.0	288.0	69.0	890.0	271.0	-	913.0	392.0	2,879.0	11,503.0	24.1
1962.....	57.0	282.0	67.0	910.0	278.0	-	925.0	380.0	2,899.0	12,067.0	24.0
1963.....	58.0	290.0	67.0	940.0	305.0	-	962.0	402.0	3,035.0	12,305.0	24.5
1964.....	63.0	279.0	61.0	1,018.0	401.0	-	1,018.0	480.0	3,329.0	12,894.0	25.8
1965.....	66.0	289.0	55.0	1,108.0	423.0	-	1,076.0	476.0	3,473.0	13,260.0	26.2
1966.....	64.0	243.0	51.0	1,119.0	362.0	-	1,080.0	521.0	3,449.0	12,878.0	26.7
1967.....	65.0	224.0	48.0	1,113.0	405.0	-	1,035.0	503.0	3,393.0	12,697.0	26.7
1968.....	62.0	208.0	44.0	1,098.0	381.0	-	1,018.0	530.0	3,341.0	12,487.0	26.8
1969.....	61.0	192.0	40.0	1,097.0	381.0	-	988.0	526.0	3,296.0	12,366.0	26.6
1970.....	65.0	195.0	38.0	1,170.0	430.0	-	1,070.0	525.0	3,493.0	12,826.0	27.2
1971.....	72.0	198.0	38.0	1,270.0	451.0	-	1,157.0	528.0	3,702.0	13,270.9	27.9
1972.....	75.0	178.0	32.0	1,364.0	500.0	-	1,225.0	590.0	3,924.0	13,736.0	28.6
1973.....	79.0	171.0	34.0	1,509.0	522.0	-	1,319.0	567.0	4,201.0	14,249.0	29.5
1974.....	87.0	185.0	35.0	1,690.0	559.0	-	1,434.0	655.0	4,595.0	15,315.0	30.0
1975.....	87.0	157.0	36.0	1,692.0	550.0	-	1,458.0	709.0	4,699.0	15,622.0	30.0
1976.....	88.0	163.0	51.0	1,530.0	270.0	368.0	1,435.0	770.0	4,875.0	15,063.0	31.0
1977.....	87.0	190.0	50.0	1,500.0	280.0	318.0	1,315.0	690.0	4,350.0	14,292.9	30.4
1978.....	82.0	158.0	51.0	1,400.0	240.0	320.0	1,239.0	645.0	4,135.0	13,352.7	31.0
1979.....	85.0	162.0	53.0	1,370.0	230.0	325.0	1,205.0	650.0	4,080.0	13,238.0	30.8
1980.....	90.0	168.0	56.0	1,400.0	245.0	306.0	1,290.0	600.0	4,155.0	13,361.9	31.0
1981.....	89.5	166.0	54.5	1,368.0	243.0	325.0	1,300.0	607.0	4,153.0	13,364.5	31.1
1982.....	90.0	159.0	50.0	1,394.0	227.0	320.0	1,260.0	590.0	4,080.0	13,170.0	31.0
1983.....	91.0	146.0	48.0	1,388.0	217.0	300.0	1,235.0	540.0	3,995.0	12,835.7	30.9
1984.....	91.0	141.0	49.0	1,368.0	233.0	296.0	1,255.0	540.0	3,975.0	12,581.9	31.6
1985.....	91.0	132.0	49.0	1,345.0	222.0	264.0	1,245.0	492.0	3,840.0	12,190.0	31.6
1986.....	91.0	124.0	51.0	1,315.0	232.0	285.0	1,252.0	426.0	3,746.0	11,787.7	31.8
1987.....	90.0	121.0	52.0	1,369.0	259.0	271.0	1,297.0	465.0	3,924.0	11,815.7	33.2
1988.....	91.0	117.0	50.0	1,444.0	283.0	287.0	1,351.0	526.0	4,149.0	12,153.2	34.1
1989.....	92.0	112.0	51.0	1,506.0	303.0	319.0	1,421.0	571.0	4,375.0	12,459.9	35.1
1990.....	94.0	109.0	49.0	1,567.0	305.0	320.0	1,478.0	598.0	4,490.0	12,590.2	35.7
1991.....	95.0	105.0	47.0	1,635.0	324.0	330.0	1,560.0	575.0	4,671.0	12,842.9	36.4
1992.....	97.0	105.0	47.0	1,667.0	325.0	348.0	1,581.0	631.0	4,911.0	13,025.1	36.9
1993.....	103.0	98.0	42.0	1,790.0	313.0	410.0	1,666.0	549.0	4,941.0	13,251.8	37.3
1994.....	112.0	100.0	43.0	1,917.0	400.0	359.0	1,818.0	567.0	5,316.0	13,824.4	38.2
1995.....	120.0	101.0	43.0	2,050.0	455.0	374.0	1,901.0	564.0	5,808.0	14,729.6	39.1
1996.....	119.0	103.0	44.0	2,023.0	390.0	459.0	1,945.0	653.0	5,796.0	15,051.4	38.1
1997.....	109.0	98.0	42.0	1,859.0	370.0	550.0	2,020.0	700.0	5,948.0	15,053.3	38.8
1998.....	104.0	92.0	39.0	1,820.0	330.0	625.0	2,035.0	900.0	6,045.0	14,944.4	40.4
1999.....	105.0	88.0	37.0	1,960.0	325.0	635.0	1,915.0	900.0	6,056.0	14,753.4	41.0
2000.....	109.0	89.0	38.0	2,030.0	350.0	690.0	2,043.0	930.0	6,279.0	14,968.4	41.9
2001.....	114.0	91.0	39.0	2,060.0	370.0	720.0	2,146.0	960.0	6,590.0	15,424.5	42.1
2002.....	110.0	90.0	38.0	2,040.0	345.0	750.0	2,146.0	868.0	6,387.0	15,435.7	41.4
2003.....	109.0	85.0	38.0	1,990.0	350.0	690.0	2,050.0	798.0	6,100.0	15,738.2	38.8
2004r.....	113.0	88.0	39.0	2,150.0	320.0	785.0	2,145.0	780.0	6,400.0	16,758.0	38.2
2005.....	119.0	91.0	38.0	2,200.0	352.0	825.0	2,245.0	830.0	6,700.0	17,063.0	39.3

Note: Cattle statistics prior to 1975 are as of June 1.

(1) Complete heifers for beef herd replacement. Prior to 1976, included slaughter heifers.

Source: Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE STATISTICS YEARBOOK, 2005

July 1, 2016 Cattle Inventory  
 Statistics Canada

Alberta

**Cattle inventories, by province  
 (Alberta)**

	As of January 1, 2016	As of July 1, 2016
	<b>thousand head</b>	
<b>Alta.</b>		
<b>Cattle</b>	<b>4,915.00</b>	<b>5,370.00</b>
<b>Bulls</b>	90	88.7
<b>Milk cows</b>	77.9	82.5
<b>Beef cows</b>	1,564.80	1,499.30
<b>Dairy heifers</b>	39.5	37.3
<b>Beef heifers</b>	795.3	1,009.50
<b>Beef heifers for breeding</b>	224.8	257.7
<b>Beef heifers for market</b>	570.5	751.8
<b>Steers</b>	656	923.6
<b>Calves</b>	1,691.50	1,729.10
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Bull:</b> An uncastrated male bovine</li> <li>- <b>Heifer:</b> Female cow that has never borne young</li> <li>- <b>Steer:</b> A castrated male bovine</li> </ul> <p><b>Source:</b> Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 003-0032 and Catalogue no. 23-012-X (free).            Last modified: 2016-08-18.</p>		

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: LS16-2

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Section monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

The estimates present potential marketings (i.e. supply which could become available), based on the size of the breeding herd and imports. Such information is useful to producers and others when making decisions relating to marketings, pricing, future production, as well as in estimating farm income and farm expenses.

The process involves verifying commodity supply and disposition variables to arrive at ending stocks. The supply variables are opening stocks, births and imports (Interprovincial/International), while the disposition variables include deaths and condemnations, marketings, and exports (Interprovincial/International). Administrative data are used where available, supplemented with some estimates where data are not timely or available. Hence, the inventory estimates are subject to revision. Given this limitation, users are advised to exercise some caution when using the estimates.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/\\$docs/aff/aff/aff5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/$docs/aff/aff/aff5270)

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section.



## July 1, 2016 Livestock Inventory Estimates Alberta/Canada

On August 18, Statistics Canada released the July 1, 2016 inventory estimates for cattle, pigs, and sheep on farms in Alberta and other Canadian provinces.

### Key Messages

#### Cattle and Calves Inventories

- ⇒ Cattle and calves on Alberta's farms totalled 5.4 million head, up 1.0 per cent from July 1, 2015.
- ⇒ The increase in inventory was mainly due to a rise in all cattle classes with the exception of beef cows and steers.
- ⇒ The decline in beef cow numbers was largely due to high cow slaughter levels during the first half of 2016, compared to the same period in 2015.

#### Pig Inventories

- ⇒ Alberta's total pig herd on farms was estimated at 1.5 million head, up 1.3 per cent from July 1, 2015.
- ⇒ The major factor impacting pig inventories was the strong consumer demand for pork.

#### Sheep and Lamb Inventories

- ⇒ The size of the provincial flock on farms in Alberta was 185,000 head, down 5.1 per cent from a year earlier.
- ⇒ Strong slaughter lamb and sheep prices continue to encourage marketings.

#### Other Comparisons

- ⇒ Nationally, cattle and calf, and pig inventories grew, while sheep and lamb inventories decreased.
- ⇒ Alberta continues to rank first in the nation in cattle and calf inventories; third in sheep and lamb inventories; and fourth in pig inventories.

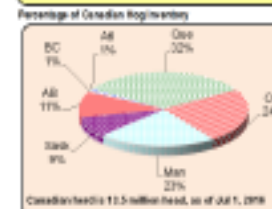
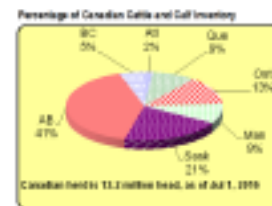
August 19, 2016

(Please turn over)

# Selected Livestock on Alberta Farms, as of July 1, 2016

Agri-Food Statistics  
Update: LS16-2

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016p	% Change ('15/'16)	% of West, Cdn	% of Canada
	(head)							
<b>Total Cattle and Calves</b>	5,460,000	5,333,000	5,455,000	5,215,000	5,270,000	1.0	53.4	40.7
Bulls, 1 year plus	91,700	91,300	91,200	88,700	88,700	0.0	47.2	29.8
Beef Cows	1,505,900	1,600,300	1,576,100	1,509,100	1,499,300	-0.6	45.2	29.3
Milk Cows	80,600	80,300	79,900	81,400	82,500	1.4	36.6	8.8
Heifers: dairy replacement	40,300	40,100	39,800	39,800	37,300	1.4	35.9	8.2
Heifers: beef replacement	252,000	261,300	252,100	248,100	257,700	3.9	45.0	40.2
Heifers: slaughter	756,400	776,600	764,600	724,600	751,800	3.8	77.8	62.5
Steers, 1 year plus	896,000	911,500	905,500	899,500	923,600	-1.7	73.7	56.3
Calves, under 1 year	1,756,900	1,771,800	1,740,800	1,866,800	1,729,200	2.5	50.6	40.2
<b>Total Pigs</b>	1,395,000	1,440,000	1,475,000	1,495,000	1,515,000	1.3	28.0	11.3
<b>Breeding Stock</b>	140,300	140,300	140,400	140,900	141,300	0.3	24.3	11.4
Boars, 6 months plus	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,400	2.3	39.3	18.0
Sows & bred gilts	136,000	136,000	136,100	136,600	136,900	0.2	24.0	11.2
<b>All Other Pigs</b>	1,254,600	1,299,700	1,334,600	1,354,100	1,373,700	1.4	36.2	11.3
Under 23 kg	463,200	466,300	463,800	491,200	503,600	2.5	24.1	10.4
23 - 53 kg	226,200	224,400	247,400	247,900	257,400	3.8	26.6	10.0
54 - 80 kg	314,500	320,800	323,000	304,400	320,200	5.2	28.1	13.2
Over 81 kg	250,700	256,200	298,400	310,600	292,500	-5.8	27.9	11.6
<b>Total Sheep and Lambs</b>	201,000	204,000	203,000	193,000	185,000	-5.1	42.4	17.8
Rams	5,200	5,200	4,900	4,600	4,300	-6.5	46.7	17.7
Ewes	91,600	91,400	90,200	89,400	85,700	-4.1	40.2	15.0
Replacement lambs	14,800	15,300	14,200	14,000	13,000	-7.1	39.9	14.8
Market lambs	86,200	93,100	93,700	87,000	82,000	-5.7	43.1	20.8



### Alberta's Cattle and Calf Inventory increased 1.0 per cent

As of July 1, 2016, cattle and calves on Alberta farms totalled 5.4 million head, up 1.0 per cent from July 1, 2015. This marks the first year-over-year increase following two consecutive years of decline. The increase in inventory was mainly due to a rise in all cattle classes with the exception of beef cows and steers. Alberta cattle prices trended downwards in the first half of 2016 from the peak levels observed in 2015. However, prices remain well above the five-year average.

Alberta's total beef breeding herd, comprising cows and heifers remained flat at 1.8 million head. Total beef cow numbers fell marginally by 0.6 per cent to 1.5 million head, while beef heifers for replacement were up 3.9 per cent to 257,700 head. The small decline for beef cow numbers was due to higher cow slaughter levels during the first half of 2016, compared to the same period in 2015.

Bulls remained flat at 88,700 head, while steers decreased 1.7 per cent to 923,600 head. Posting gains were heifers for slaughter which increased 3.8 per cent to 751,800 head, and calves which rose 2.5 per cent to 1.7 million head. The provincial dairy herd, comprising of milk cows and dairy replacement heifers increased 1.4 per cent to 119,800 head, compared to July 1, 2015.

### Alberta's Pig Inventory grew 1.3 per cent

Alberta's total pig herd estimated at 1.5 million head, was up 1.3 per cent from July 1, 2015. Inventories increased for all classes of animals with the exception of market hogs in the "Over 81 kilograms" class. The major factor impacting pig inventories was the strong consumer demand for pork.

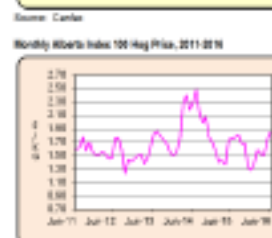
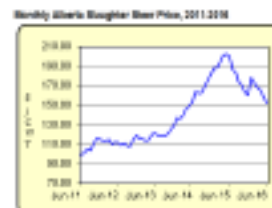
The total market hog inventories grew 1.4 per cent to 1.4 million head. Hogs in the "Under 23 kilograms" class rose 2.5 per cent to 503,600 head, while hogs in the "23 to 53 kilogram" class increased 3.8 per cent to 257,400 head. Similarly, hogs in the "54 to 80 kilogram" class were up 5.2 per cent to 320,200 head, while hogs in the "Over 81 kilogram" class fell 5.8 per cent to 292,500 head.

The estimated breeding inventory, comprising boars, sows and bred gilts, was up 0.3 per cent from July 1, 2015 to 141,300 head. Sows and bred gilts marginally increased 0.2 per cent to 136,900 head, while boars increased 2.3 per cent to 4,400 head.

### Alberta's Sheep and Lamb Inventory declined 5.1 per cent

As of July 1, 2016, the size of the provincial sheep and lamb flock on farms was 185,000 head, down 5.1 per cent from a year earlier. The drop in inventory was mainly due to a decline in all classes of animals. Strong slaughter lamb and sheep prices continue to encourage marketings.

Ewes, at 85,700 head, were 4.1 per cent below July 1, 2015. Replacement lambs declined 7.1 per cent to 13,000 head, and market lambs decreased 5.7 per cent to 82,000 head. The total number of rams fell 6.5 per cent to 4,300 head.



Source: Statistics Canada; Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF)

p - Preliminary and may be subject to revision r - Revised

Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section  
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August 19, 2016

## Agricultural Plastics Recycling



### Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipalities

#### A challenging issue

With the increasing usage of agricultural plastics, like grain bags, twine, net wrap and silage bags, it is more important than ever to properly manage used agricultural plastics. Finding cost-effective, environmentally friendly ways to manage used agricultural plastics remains a serious challenge in Alberta.

Several Alberta studies and surveys have looked into this issue. For example, a 2013 report entitled *Alberta Agricultural Waste Characterization Study: Final Report* estimated that between 6,600 and 14,000 tonnes of agricultural plastic waste are generated in Alberta every year. The report *Agricultural Plastics Recycling: Agricultural Producers Survey, Final Report* detailed the results of a 2012 survey of 660 agricultural producers in Alberta. It found that producers dealt with used plastics in various ways such as burning them, sending them to a landfill, sending them for recycling, burying them on-farm, and reusing them. The surveyed producers said they used burning as a means of dealing with various used plastics including: baling twine (52% of respondents), silage pit or pile covers (42%), bale wrap (27%), grain bags or tubes (20%), and silage bags or tubes (15%).



6,600 tonnes of used agricultural plastic = total combined weight of 77 fully loaded SuperBe with cabs

Burning of plastics can release highly toxic substances, like dioxins, heavy metals and volatile organic compounds. These substances have many potential health impacts ranging from headaches and dizziness to lung disease, cancer and growth defects. Burning of plastics can also leave toxic residues that

impair soil and water quality. Due to these serious health and environmental impacts, burning of plastics is illegal under Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

For proper disposal, agricultural plastics should be either buried in a landfill or diverted from the waste stream into a market. Examples of possible markets include recycling into other plastic products, conversion into fuel, and conversion into electricity. However, the 2012 producer survey results showed that producers faced barriers for the proper disposal of their used agricultural plastics. In addition, a 2012 report entitled *Agricultural Plastics Recycling: Municipal Waste Authorities Survey, Final Report* found that municipal waste authorities in Alberta also encountered challenges in managing used agricultural plastics.

#### About the 2015 survey

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) conducted the 2015 *Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics* study to get a deeper understanding of the current practices for disposal of used agricultural plastics. In this study, AF conducted a survey of municipalities in Alberta through the agricultural fieldmen and a similar survey followed for the Alberta municipal waste authorities. The two surveys build on the previous Alberta research. The goal is to use the survey results as a springboard to move forward on this issue and make progress toward solutions.

This summary highlights the key findings from the survey of municipalities with agricultural fieldmen. Agricultural fieldmen interact with agricultural producers, with municipal agencies, and in some cases with plastic recyclers. So agricultural fieldmen have valuable perspectives on the challenges involved in managing used agricultural plastics.

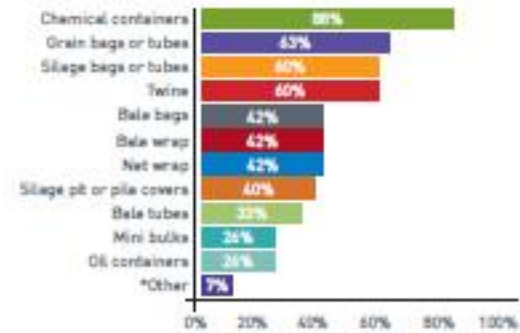
Agricultural fieldmen from 61 out of Alberta's 69 municipalities participated in the survey. The survey was conducted by phone, which allowed AF to provide greater context to the results.



### Highlights of 2015 municipalities survey results

**Various used agricultural plastics were accepted at many municipal waste sites:** Respondents were aware of assorted types of used agricultural plastics that were being accepted at their municipality's waste site. Grain bags or tubes and silage bags or tubes were the most commonly identified type (after chemical containers, which are collected in the CleanFARMS recycling program) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Used Agricultural Plastics Accepted at Municipal Waste Site (n=57)



\*Other: Antifreeze jugs, hay tarps  
 \*Chemical containers accepted through CleanFARMS recycling program

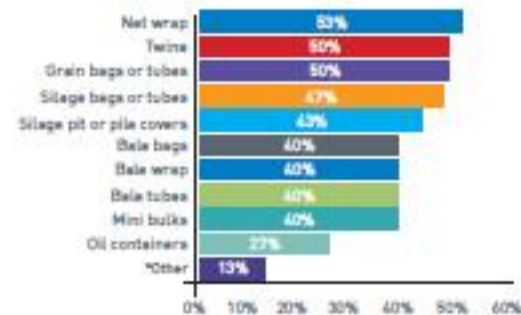
**Used agricultural plastics were brought to landfills/transfer stations mainly by producers:** The respondents said agricultural producers were the main agents bringing used agricultural plastics to landfills/transfer stations. Drop-off sites organized by municipalities and pickups by 4-H groups played a role in getting the plastics to the waste sites.



These results suggest that, for at least some producers, the distance to a landfill/transfer station was not an insurmountable barrier to taking their used plastics for proper disposal.

**Some used agricultural plastics were not accepted at municipal waste sites:** About half of the respondents believed that one or more types of used agricultural plastic were not being accepted at their municipal waste site. As Figure 2 shows, the most commonly identified unaccepted plastics were net wrap (53% of respondents), twine (50%), grain bags or tubes (50%), silage bags or tubes (47%), and silage pit or pile covers (43%). It is important to remember that these responses reflect the perceptions of agricultural fieldmen, and that some of the agricultural fieldmen said they did not know if agricultural plastics were accepted at their municipal waste site. However, if a municipal waste authority does not accept certain types of agricultural plastics, then that would be a critical barrier for local producers wanting to properly dispose of their plastics.

Figure 2. Used Agricultural Plastics Not Accepted at Municipal Waste Site (n=38)



\*Other: Hay tarps, tarps, totes, chemical barrels

**Some municipalities accessed markets for used agricultural plastics:** In this survey, "markets" are businesses that obtain used agricultural plastics for purposes such as recycling or energy production opportunities.

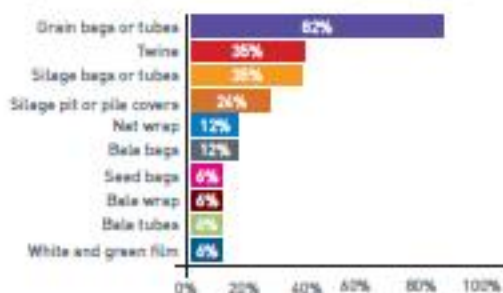
The only market type identified by the respondents was recycling. About 30% (18 municipalities) said they were sending used agricultural plastics to recycling companies.

**Grain bags or tubes were the most popular used agricultural plastics for recycling:** In a follow-up question, the 18 municipalities identified 11 types of used agricultural plastics that were going to recyclers (Figure 3). According to the survey responses, the following recycling companies were being accessed:

- Blue Planet Recycling
- Capital Paper
- Crowfoot Plastics
- Everclean
- Meridian Wealth Management Inc.
- Merlin Plastics
- SWA Developing Company Ltd.
- Vikoz Enterprises



Figure 3. Used Agricultural Plastics Entering Market by Type (n=18)



\*Chemical containers were noted through the CleanFARMS recycling program.

The intent of sharing the survey results is to communicate and not to endorse one company over another. Municipalities interested in accessing markets for used agricultural plastics would need to contact the individual companies to find out what types of used agricultural plastics are being accepted.

**Used agricultural plastics had to meet a variety of requirements to be accepted for the recycling market:** The requirements most commonly identified by the respondents related to proper preparation, cleanliness, shipping weight, and quality control/consistency of the plastics.

- **Preparation:** Respondents defined "properly prepared" in various ways, but generally it meant the plastic has to be baled, bundled or rolled for easy handling, transportation and storage.
- **Cleanliness:** Most respondents said the plastic has to be clean. However, there were different definitions of "clean" such as "less than 5% contamination" or "less than 10% contamination." Used agricultural plastics should contain only minimal amounts of dirt, plant matter and other materials because biological contaminants above a certain amount can negatively affect the recycled process.
- **Weight:** Responses about weight requirements ranged from 30,000 pounds to 33 tonnes. Weight and volume affect transportation costs. For instance, a recycling company or municipality may not want to transport used agricultural plastics until a full truckload is ready if transporting partial loads is not cost-effective. Similarly, a recycling company that ships used agricultural plastics overseas may need to fill a shipping container to a certain minimum weight to be profitable.
- **Quality control/consistency:** Respondents noted that prolonged sun exposure can negatively impact the quality of the plastic.

Some respondents indicated that their municipal waste authority accepted used agricultural plastics but the plastics

needed to be clean and baled/bundled/rolled to enable access to recycling markets. Municipalities interested in accessing markets for used agricultural plastics would need to contact the individual companies to find out their requirements.



**Most municipalities that were sending used agricultural plastics to a market did not have a formal written agreement with a company:** Of the respondents who said their municipality was sending agricultural plastics for recycling, most (53%) said their municipality did not have an established agreement with the recycling company. Nineteen percent had verbal agreements, and 13% had written agreements. Not having a formal agreement can be risky for payment or delivery logistics.

**Most municipalities were not making money from marketing used agricultural plastics:** Respondents reported various prices for the plastics. For many municipalities, the inability to recover costs for handling and transporting used agricultural plastics was a significant barrier to recycling these plastics. Municipalities would need to contact the individual companies to find out their current prices.

**Handling of used agricultural plastics required equipment, space and manpower:** Respondents identified various types of equipment used by their municipality for handling used agricultural plastics such as grain bag rollers, vertical balers, ramps, forklifts and skid steers. A total of 23 types of equipment were identified, indicating that there is no particular "right" way of handling used agricultural plastics. In a follow-up question, respondents identified assorted challenges with this equipment such as troubles with old equipment and difficulties with twine getting tangled in the equipment. They also identified the need for space for the equipment and labour to operate it.

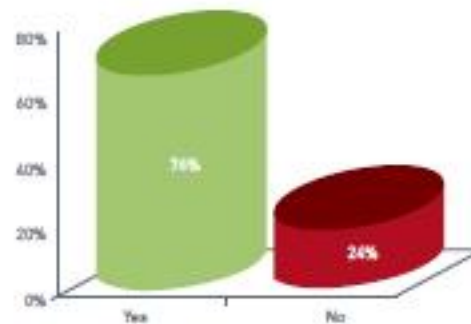
**Municipalities faced significant barriers when attempting to access markets for used agricultural plastics:** Respondents were asked several questions regarding barriers to accessing markets for used agricultural plastics. Table 1 lists examples of the identified barriers.

Table 1. Examples of identified barriers to participating in markets for used agricultural plastics

Government and/or programming barriers	Equipment, facility, manpower and cost barriers	Barriers related to marketing and/or companies	Barriers related to agricultural producers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of an organized program</li> <li>• Lack of support/ direction from municipality's council or managers</li> <li>• Not a priority for waste management authority</li> <li>• Lack of coordinated information on dealing with these plastics</li> <li>• Lack of leadership</li> <li>• View this issue as the responsibility of Alberta Environment</li> <li>• View this issue as the responsibility of vendors</li> <li>• Lack of legislation</li> <li>• No regulatory body</li> <li>• No public demand; no push from ratepayers</li> <li>• No demand from producers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs associated with getting the plastic to market</li> <li>• Poor rate of return; costs are higher than payment</li> <li>• Need to close the gap between overhead and capital expense</li> <li>• Need to move the plastic to market before winter</li> <li>• Site logistics</li> <li>• Insufficient manpower, insufficient storage space, insufficient funding for manpower and storage</li> <li>• Additional equipment needed for plastic handling</li> <li>• Difficulties in handling the plastics</li> <li>• Preparation required for the plastics to go to recycler</li> <li>• Poor location or insufficient number of transfer stations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty in getting company's confirmation to accept the plastics</li> <li>• Problems with reliability of company to accept the plastics on a yearly basis</li> <li>• Distance to market</li> <li>• No market contact</li> <li>• Requirements for agricultural plastics from companies</li> <li>• Difficulty in getting the right information to enter market</li> <li>• No certain market opportunities</li> <li>• Limited markets for specific agricultural plastics</li> <li>• Difficulty in getting enough volume/weight to make a load</li> <li>• Difficulty in getting enough supply of quality material</li> <li>• No market opportunity for smaller quantities of the plastics</li> <li>• Shipping or transportation issues</li> <li>• Need for clean plastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to raise producer awareness of the issue</li> <li>• Need to educate producers on how to properly clean and prepare the plastics</li> <li>• Time, effort and expense involved for producers to clean, bundle and deliver their plastics to waste site</li> <li>• No financial incentive for producers to clean, bundle and deliver their plastics</li> </ul>

Many respondents were considering entering markets for used agricultural plastics in the future: The respondents were asked several questions about potential markets they were aware of. Then they were asked if they were considering entering these markets in the future. Seventy-six percent said yes (Figure 4). In many cases, future participation was conditional on removal of some key barriers. Nevertheless, the strong "yes" response indicates a significant interest among agricultural fieldmen in participating in markets for used agricultural plastics.

Figure 4. Are You Considering Entering into Used Agricultural Plastic Markets in the Future? (n=55)



# Crop Pest Response Fund

[http://www.acidf.ca/index.htm\\_files/CropPestResponseBrochure.pdf](http://www.acidf.ca/index.htm_files/CropPestResponseBrochure.pdf)

## Crop Pest Response Fund Objectives

This Program provides financial support to approved projects to:

*Establish the presence and geographic distribution of new or novel plant pests,*

*Assist in the costs to develop a control strategy*

*Support the implementation of an eradication plan or a control plan.*

The Crop Pest Response Fund is specifically to protect crops and yields in those situations where additional or incremental response is warranted. This is targeted at regulated pests or new invasive pests establishing or expanding in Alberta.

## What Support is Available?

The program is designed to assist response efforts. These can include:

- Cost of surveys to establish distribution
- Costs to develop or test mitigation strategies
- Costs of implementing eradication or control
- Reasonable extension costs as part of response

There are many possibilities. More information on eligible activities is available on the website. Application requests are expected to be less than \$100,000.

## A Definition

*Pest: a weed, disease, or insect identified as noxious, prohibited or economically threatening affecting an agricultural or commercial horticulture crop.*

## Overview

The Crop Pest Response Fund is a pilot program to support rapid response to crop-related pest and disease threats within Alberta. This makes funds available to address or minimize production risks. Approved projects will be relevant to administration of the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, the Alberta Weed Control Act, and associated regulations.

Applications will be accepted starting June 2016, until available funding is depleted.

Grants approved must be spent before December 31, 2017.

## To Apply or for Information:

Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund Ltd  
Agriculture Building  
5030-50 St  
LACOMBE, AB, Canada. T4L 1W8

e-mail: [info@acidf.ca](mailto:info@acidf.ca)  
phone: 403-782-8034

web: [www.acidf.ca/croppest](http://www.acidf.ca/croppest)

## Crop Pest Response Fund

Improving production security through pest and disease control and prevention.



## So much to do... So little time. What can you do under this program?



### Get The Big Picture

Identify the presence and geographic distribution of new or emerging pests affecting crop production or commercial horticulture.

### Formulate an Effective Plan of Action

A pro-active plan is better than a rushed reaction. Build a plan that includes people, resources needed, and timing of actions.

### Eradicate and Control

A plan is of no value without action! Eradication and control both need to be adapted to the situation. This is about the right step at the right time.

### What Can't We Do?

The program does not support non-crop pests. This is a pilot program with limited scope.



## Who Can Apply?

The program is aimed at municipalities, institutions, governments and other agencies supporting the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, and the Alberta Weed Control Act. This includes:

- ✓ Provincial or Local Authority as defined in the Alberta Municipal Government Act
- ✓ Not-For-Profit agriculture-based organization registered under a federal or provincial act
- ✓ Band as defined in the Indian Act
- ✓ Métis Settlement
- ✓ Post-secondary educational institutions

## What is the Process?

Applications are on the website at:

[www.acidf.ca/croppest](http://www.acidf.ca/croppest)

Applications will be reviewed by an expert review committee, who in turn make recommendations to the ACIDF Board. All applications will be subject to technical review. Applications will be judged for clearly defined deliverables, value for cost, likelihood of success, and sound project design. Projects will be evaluated based on benefit to Alberta, even if some work happens outside the province.

## **Ergot Awareness**

Resources from AAFC and CFIA

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909?chap=1>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909?chap=0>

<http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/ergot-low-levels-cause-big-problems-bergen/>

[http://www1.foragebeef.ca/\\$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/frg4868](http://www1.foragebeef.ca/$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/frg4868)

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ergot-of-cereal-grasses>

<https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/fact-fait/ergot-eng.htm>

<https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/oggg-gocg/ggg-gcg-eng.htm>

[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/swine/facts/info\\_ergot.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/swine/facts/info_ergot.htm)

[http://www.bfr.bund.de/en/frequently\\_asked\\_questions\\_on\\_ergot\\_alkaloids\\_in\\_cereal\\_products-189083.html](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en/frequently_asked_questions_on_ergot_alkaloids_in_cereal_products-189083.html)

<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?doc=100057&id=100058>

<https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/oggg-gocg/04/oggg-gocg-4e-eng.htm>

Resources from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Impact of Ergot Toxicity on Sheep and Lambs 2015

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sg16048](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sg16048)

Pest Control in Fall Rye

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex4462](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex4462)

**Big Game Harvest Estimates 2015 - Elk**

Hunting, Hunter Harvest

WMU: Wildlife Management Unit

WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
102	17	39	2	57	69%
104	1	6	0	8	12%
108	19	18	0	37	66%
118	3	0	0	3	13%
119	3	0	0	3	14%
124/144/148/150	87	150	24	261	76%
151	10	3	0	14	11%
151/152	22	9	3	33	55%
152	3	0	0	3	4%
162	14	0	0	14	22%
162/163/164/166	34	25	0	58	47%
164	3	0	0	3	25%
166	7	0	0	7	10%
200	14	0	0	14	16%
200/202/203/232/234	55	98	23	176	29%
202	3	0	0	3	4%
204	3	0	0	3	25%
204/228/230	0	0	0	0	0%
206/222/226/244/246	9	5	0	14	20%
208	10	0	0	10	18%
208/220	12	6	0	18	28%
212	21	103	16	140	15%
214	21	0	0	21	10%
214/314	0	99	6	105	42%
216	35	0	0	35	15%
216/320	0	26	0	26	38%
220	0	3	0	3	4%
221	7	0	0	7	9%
221/322	0	0	0	0	0%
224	21	4	3	28	11%
232	17	0	0	17	17%
234	17	0	3	21	15%
236	3	0	0	3	5%
236/238/256/300	7	26	0	33	53%

WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
240/242	4	9	0	13	37%
242	10	0	0	10	16%
246	3	0	0	3	7%
252	3	0	0	3	9%
252/254/258/260	5	9	9	22	28%
254	0	3	0	3	9%
300A	16	25	6	48	23%
300B	28	37	0	65	34%
302	80	150	22	252	33%
303	3	3	0	6	10%
304	105	132	9	245	17%
305	101	181	7	290	20%
306	24	52	6	82	18%
308	84	21	0	105	12%
310	84	40	0	124	22%
312	185	132	21	339	23%
314	49	24	0	73	8%
316	0	0	0	0	0%
318	7	7	0	14	3%
320	35	3	0	38	7%
322	10	0	0	10	8%
324	3	7	0	10	4%
326	3	0	0	3	1%
328	14	0	0	14	3%
330	0	3	0	3	1%
332	24	28	8	61	7%
334	17	10	0	28	10%
336	21	19	5	45	9%
337	10	31	0	42	11%
338	17	7	3	28	4%
339	7	0	0	7	1%
340	17	3	3	23	6%
342	7	5	0	12	5%
344	45	19	0	64	10%
346	59	85	0	144	13%
347	7	0	0	7	3%
348	35	74	0	109	14%
349	24	0	0	24	10%
350	3	0	0	3	2%
351	3	0	0	3	5%
352	21	10	0	31	10%

WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
353	24	18	11	54	7%
354	21	3	0	24	7%
355	7	3	3	13	8%
356	66	57	0	123	13%
357	196	457	76	729	28%
358	178	269	48	496	29%
359	210	187	39	436	28%
360	94	186	19	299	29%
400	63	0	0	63	7%
402	38	3	0	41	4%
404	11	9	0	21	13%
406	14	5	0	19	8%
408	3	3	0	5	7%
410	7	0	3	10	4%
412	0	0	0	0	0%
414	0	0	0	0	0%
416	0	0	0	0	0%
418	4	0	0	4	33%
420	0	0	0	0	0%
426	3	0	0	3	5%
428	0	0	0	0	0%
429	7	0	0	7	4%
430	0	0	0	0	0%
432	0	0	0	0	0%
434	0	0	0	0	0%
436	0	0	0	0	0%
437	0	0	0	0	0%
438	7	4	4	14	9%
439	0	0	0	0	0%
440	17	0	0	17	15%
441	0	1	0	1	2%
442	3	0	0	3	8%
444	14	2	0	16	16%
445	0	0	0	0	0%
446	0	0	0	0	0%
500	0	0	0	0	0%
504	10	0	0	10	14%
505	3	5	0	8	6%
506	10	0	0	10	6%
507	14	41	5	60	14%
508	0	4	0	4	3%

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WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
509	12	26	0	38	21%
510	38	41	0	80	11%
511	0	27	0	27	15%
520	21	4	0	25	30%
521	175	380	46	601	33%
522	136	209	23	369	32%
523	94	121	24	239	31%
524	0	0	0	0	0%
525	0	0	0	0	0%
526	66	96	0	162	19%
527	70	76	4	150	19%
528	0	0	0	0	0%
535	14	0	0	14	15%
537	0	0	0	0	0%
544	0	0	0	0	0%
732	312	504	112	928	36%
936	18	5	5	27	23%

	Male	Female	Young	Total
Estimated Total	3,631	4,495	601	8,734