

POLICY:  
LEVEL OF SERVICE PEST CONTROL

**POLICY:**

Beaver County is committed to fulfilling its duties under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. As such, it endeavors to allocate sufficient resources for the purpose of pest control and to apply those resources efficiently, so as to maximize the benefits derived by the agricultural sector. Beaver County also understands of the severity of damage caused by non-agricultural and crop pests. Detecting, monitoring and if required, management of these pests will be undertaken to protect land and livelihood of agricultural producers.

**APPLICATION TO VISION STATEMENT**

Beaver County will monitor the municipality for declared agricultural nuisance pests and respond to declared pest infestations to improve and maintain efficiency and sustainability of our agriculture industry.

**LEVEL OF SERVICE:**

1. For all pests, Beaver County is committed to providing education on an integrated pest management strategy.
2. A fee may be charged for services provided.

**Vertebrate Pests – Agricultural**

**Gopher Control:**

1. When it is registered for use by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency, Beaver County may dispense 2% Liquid Strychnine to qualified agricultural producers for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels (*Spermophilus richardsonii*) and Northern Pocket Gophers (*Thomomys talpoides*).
2. The maximum quantity available to each customer per week will be 2 cases.

**Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Control:**

1. Beaver County will investigate the coyote complaints of livestock producers located within the County. Proof of predation must be obtained before authorizing issuance of control material and devices.

**Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) Control:**

1. Beaver County will provide skunk traps for short term use.

**Wild Boar Program:**

1. Beaver County will participate in Alberta Agriculture's Wild Boar Program to assist producers in managing Wild Boar populations within Beaver County.

**Council Approval**

Date: August 18, 2018

Motion: 18-235

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Last Revision: January 24, 2018

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Vertebrate Pests – Non Agricultural

**Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) Control:**

1. Beaver County will respond to requests from ratepayers, or other agencies, as well as initiate control at no charge for beaver control on municipal lands and will actively pursue and eradicate beaver and beaver dams on all municipal controlled property, road allowances or municipally licensed drainage ditches.
2. Beaver Control on private lands, including dam removal, will be the responsibility of the landowner
3. The County may initiate beaver(s) or beaver dam(s) removal on private land, with land owner agreement, if there is an impact to County infrastructure.
4. The removal of beaver shall be addressed with due consideration for site specific opportunities and constraints that might be present and in a fashion that reduces the risk of non-target animal capture, with human safety being of paramount importance

**Crop Pests**

**Blackleg (*Leptosphaeria maculans*) Control:**

1. The Agricultural Fieldman will implement field surveys to detect Blackleg infestations.
2. When Blackleg is confirmed in a field, a Notice to Control Pests will be issued for that field, as per the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

**Clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) Disease of Canola and Mustard Control:**

1. The Agricultural Fieldman will implement field surveys to detect Clubroot infestations.
2. When Clubroot is confirmed in a field, a Notice to Control Pests will be issued for that field, as per the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

**Insect Pests**

**Grasshopper, Bertha Armyworm and Other Insect Pest Surveys**

1. Beaver County will implement field surveys to detect infestations of Grasshopper, Bertha Armyworm, and other nuisance species. These surveys will be in accordance with Alberta Agriculture's guidelines.

Administration shall develop procedures to implement this Policy, which may be amended from time to time to improve the Policy's effectiveness without compromising the intent of the policy.