



Municipal District of Rocky View No. 44

SECTION 500
POLICY NUMBER: 506
SUPERCEDES: N/A

TITLE

Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Programming
(formerly known as Watershed Groups)

AUTHORITY

Authority: Council
Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program

Effective Date: October 18, 2005
Approval: October 18, 2005

POLICY STATEMENT

Environmentally sustainable agriculture programming, supported by funding from the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program (AESA), will be provided to meet the needs of Rocky View agricultural producers, based on Agricultural Service Board input and funding criteria established by AESA.

PURPOSE

To provide agricultural producers in Rocky View with local programming that enhances their production efficiency, health and safety and environmental stewardship.

DEFINITIONS

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program: A program aimed at providing extension and awareness to agricultural producers to:

- Maintain and improve soil quality - Proper agricultural production and agroforestry practices can maintain and improve soil quality through: preventing

wind and water erosion; decreasing salinization; increasing organic matter levels; improving soil structure and increasing soil fertility.

- **Maintain and improve water quality** - Water quality deteriorates when pollutants are present in sufficient concentrations to impair the health of dependent plant and animal life. Adopting beneficial agricultural management practices have the potential to decrease contamination of surface and groundwater supplies through pesticides, nutrients, soil sediments, salinity, and wastes.

PROTOCOL

1. Consistent with the change of the Municipality's three year Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program agreement on January 1, 2005, Agricultural Service Board staff will work directly with agricultural producers throughout the Municipality to encourage responsible stewardship initiatives and implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that result in prosperity among Rocky View's agricultural producers. As per the current AESA agreement, the following objectives will be met by the end of 2007:

Objective 1: Implement 20 BMP's designed to improve the environmental sustainability and economic prosperity of livestock producers within the MD of Rocky View

- 6 Off site watering systems
- 3 Swath Grazing Systems
- 4 Manure management plans
- 4 Riparian Pasture Fences
- 3 IPM Strategies

Objective 2: Implement 30 BMP's designed to improve the environmental sustainability and economic prosperity of crop producers in the MD of Rocky View

- 2 GPS tracking systems used in conjunction with manure application and/or pesticide application
- 10 Manure Application Strategies; (2 Liquid Injection BMPs and 8 Nutrient Requirement-based application plans).
- 3 Riparian Buffers
- 2 Shelter Belts
- 5 Responsible Pesticide Use BMP's (3 application plans and 2 safe storage sheds)
- 3 Reduced Tillage and Direct Seeding
- 5 Crop Rotation Strategies

2. To meet these objectives, a qualified technical resource person will be hired with funding provided through the AESA program to promote beneficial management practices (BMPs); to assist producers one-on-one with designing and implementing BMPs; and to assist in accessing funding.