



# Agricultural Service Board

2017 Report Card on the Resolutions



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PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD COMMITTEE

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## Introduction

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The Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Committee is pleased to provide ASB members and staff with the Report Card on Government and Non-Government Responses to the 2017 Provincial ASB Resolutions. This document includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections, response, response grade, and comments from the Committee for each resolution from the 2017 ASB Provincial Conference. The resolutions are also posted on the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry website at: [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/asb](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/asb).

There are four grades that can be assigned to a resolution response: Accept the Response; Accept in Principle; Incomplete and Unsatisfactory. The quality of the response determines the grade that is assigned to each resolution. A definition of what each grade means is included in the Report Card. This report also summarizes actions undertaken by the Provincial ASB Committee on current and previous resolutions.

The grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction on advocacy efforts for each resolution. Please contact your Regional Representative on the Committee if you have questions or comments on the grade assigned to a resolution or advocacy efforts.

### 2017 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Members	Alternates
Patrick Gordeyko, Northeast, Chair	David Melenka
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest, Vice Chair	Darrell Hollands
Elden Kozak, AAAF, Secretary	Doug Dallyn
Corey Beck, Peace	
Jim Duncan, Central	Phillip Massier
Steve Wikkerink, South	Garry Lentz
Randy Taylor, AAMDC	
Trent Keller, AAAF	
Doug Macaulay, Agriculture and Forestry	
Pam Retzloff, Agriculture and Forestry	
Maureen Vadnais, Executive Assistant	

## Definition of Terms

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The Provincial ASB Committee has chosen four indicators to grade resolution responses from 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.

## Executive Summary

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Grading given by the Provincial ASB Committee to responses by government and non-government organizations to resolutions passed at the 2017 Provincial ASB Conference.

<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>
1-17	Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	Accept in Principle
2-17	Ensuring Competition for Seed and Crop Protection Products	Incomplete
3-17	Incorporating Agriculture and Agri-Food Education in the Classroom	Incomplete
E1-17	Carbon Levy Exemption on Natural Gas and Propane for All Recognized Agricultural Production	Accept the Response
E2-17	Agricultural Disaster Policy	DEFEATED
E3-17	Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park	Unsatisfactory

## 2017 Activities

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The Committee met five times in person and via conference call as of September. Additional meetings are planned for November and December of 2017 as the Committee prepares for the 2018 ASB Provincial Conference. These meetings included meeting with the Agriculture and Forestry (AF) Deputy Minister in January, the AF Assistant Deputy Minister in March and the AF Minister in July. The Committee appreciated the opportunity to start developing a stronger relationship with the senior staff of AF, especially the Assistant Deputy Minister, as he was new to overseeing the ASB Program. The Committee feels that they have a strong relationship with the Minister and his senior staff now and they have open and frank discussions on the resolutions and other issues related to ASBs. Some of the issues the Committee discussed with the Minister and his staff were: current resolutions, the review of the *Agricultural Pests Act*, review of the ASB Program, vegetation management along provincial highways and AFSC's management of their crop insurance program for central and northern Alberta.

The Committee also met several times via conference call to review the responses to the resolutions and provide input on issues such as Ag Policy Framework, tax treatment for deferred grain cash tickets and the review of the wild boar at large ear bounty program and proposed wild boar eradication strategy. The Committee has sent letters and provided their input on these issues throughout the year.

The Committee continues to strengthen their relationship with the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) and the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF). The Committee, AAMDC and AAAF met jointly with Transportation to ensure that they had a collective voice regarding the current state of roadside vegetation management and to work together for an improved plan for 2017. The Committee would like to thank AAAF for their work with AF and Transportation to develop an integrated roadside vegetation management plan for 2017 and will work with AAAF and AAMDC to ensure the plan gets implemented.

The Committee is developing a new relationship with Ag for Life and AF's Education Specialist to help them advocate on resolution 3-17. The Committee gained a better understanding of how Alberta Education's curriculum works and the best way to incorporate more agriculture education into the curriculum. The curriculum review will be ongoing for several more years so the Committee feels the partnership they are forming with these organizations will be the most effective way to advocate for these changes.

The Committee was unsuccessful in arranging a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Parks. The Committee will continue to try to meet with Environment and Parks as there are several resolutions that fall under their mandate that need to be discussed.

2017 RESOLUTIONS

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## RESOLUTION 1-17: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBERTA PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

**WHEREAS:** The lack of noxious and prohibited noxious weed control is affecting neighboring landowners, as invasive plants are spreading into their fields;

**WHEREAS:** Spot spraying vegetation is costlier than blanket spraying vegetation control;

**WHEREAS:** Landowners adjacent to provincial highways (both two digit and three digit) are faced with increased costs to their vegetation control programs as a result of lack of control along the highways;

**WHEREAS:** Invasive plants cause significant changes to ecosystems resulting in economic harm to our agricultural and recreational industries. Highway corridors facilitate the spread of invasive plants not just locally, but internationally as well which impacts our neighbors;

**WHEREAS:** The most cost-effective strategy against invasive species is preventing them from establishing rather than relying on a municipality to identify an infestation and react by issuing a notice. Allowing undesirable plants to grow increases the risk to human health (poisonous plants) and public safety by reducing visibility along road shoulders where 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 delivers a more effective maintenance program for vegetation management (weed control and mowing) along the primary and secondary highways in the province.

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

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

The Government of Alberta deliver a more effective vegetation management plan on all primary and secondary highways to control noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds and any unsafe vegetation on the full right of way. This plan should include but not be limited to

an appropriately timed herbicide application in order to control all legislated weeds and mowing of the full right of way at a time that limits the spread of weed seeds.

**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.

**Status:** Provincial

**Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

The *Weed Control Act* defines the regulation of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds, which includes responsibility for weed control along provincial highways. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry communicates that responsibility to all land managers/owners, including government departments that manage land, to ensure regulated weeds are actively controlled and land managers/owners are in compliance with their legislative requirements.

Agriculture and Forestry understands that the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen discussed concerns regarding weed control along provincial highways with Alberta Transportation at its September 9, 2016 meeting with the AAAF executive, and Transportation has reviewed their management of weed control along highways.

For further information:

- Paul Buryn, Operations Manager, Alberta Transportation, [paul.buryn@gov.ab.ca](mailto:paul.buryn@gov.ab.ca) or 780-968-4218 (toll-free by dialing 310-0000 first).

*Alberta Environment and Parks*

Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation, will address Resolution 1: Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways in a separate letter, as this topic falls under the purview of his ministry.

*Alberta Transportation*

Thank you for your February 1, 2017 letter to Minister Mason regarding the Agricultural Service Board's Resolution 1: Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways.

I value the relationship between the Agricultural Service Board and Alberta Transportation, and I share the Board's wish to collaborate on addressing weed growth in the provincial highway rights-of-way.

In response to stakeholder concerns, Alberta Transportation has restored funding for vegetation control and mowing, starting in spring 2017. Through recent discussions with your association, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and Alberta Transportation, we have worked together to identify a comprehensive and mutually agreeable vegetation management control plan.

In the 2017-18 fiscal year, the department is planning:

- Chemical vegetation control:
  - All class highways: one full right-of-way spray every four years.
  - All class highways: one percent of total hectares reactive spraying for prohibited noxious weeds annually and/or localized noxious weed concerns. Mowing may be completed instead of spraying if appropriate.
- Mowing:
  - Class 1A highway: one full-width right-of-way cut and one shoulder cut annually.
  - Class 1B highways: one full-width right-of-way cut every four years and one shoulder cut annually.
  - Class 2 and 3 highways: one full-width right-of-way cut every four years and one shoulder cut annually.

In addition to restoring funding for vegetation control and mowing in spring 2017, Alberta Transportation districts will arrange to meet with the respective Agricultural Fieldmen and/or other municipality representatives prior to the growing season to discuss vegetation control plans. The discussion should include the mowing and chemical vegetation control plans and locations of the planned activities; how to manage reactive weed control, including communication between Alberta Transportation and the municipalities; and specific locations where there may be concerns requiring special consideration or that may fall outside the vegetation control guidelines.

Regarding your request for the option of the province entering into service agreements with municipalities for weed control work will be directed through the highway maintenance contractors, with the exception of Special Areas. Work will not be directly contracted with municipalities; however, if the highway maintenance contractor and the municipality are in agreement and approval is granted by Alberta Transportation, the municipality may be able to perform the vegetation management. The chemical vegetation control budget will be provided to Alberta Transportation districts; however, if there is mutual agreement between Alberta Transportation and the Agriculture Fieldmen/municipality, the chemical budget may be used to fund mowing activities.

Should you have any further questions regarding proactive vegetation control along provincial highways, please contact Mr. Paul Buryn, Operations Manager. Mr. Buryn can be reached toll-free at 310-0000, then 780-968-4218, or at [paul.buryn@gov.ab.ca](mailto:paul.buryn@gov.ab.ca).

**Grade: Accept in Principle**

**Comments:**

The Committee graded this resolution as "Accept in Principle" as they will be monitoring the implementation of the plan proposed by Alberta Transportation over the next four years. The Committee feels that all government departments need to be doing a better job of complying with the Alberta *Weed Control Act*. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry need to

ensure that other departments, such as Alberta Transportation, are complying with the *Weed Control Act* in addition to educating them. The Committee strongly encourages Agriculture and Food to develop a strategy for ensuring the *Weed Control Act* is being complied with by other government departments.

The Committee thanks the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) and Nicole Kimmel, AF's Weed Specialist, for the work they have done to educate and work with Transportation ministry staff to develop this plan. AAAF worked extensively with Transportation and AF over the past year to develop an integrated vegetation management plan for Alberta's primary and secondary highways. This plan encourages timely and appropriate vegetation management along Transportation right of ways to ensure compliance with the *Weed Control Act* and management of unsafe vegetation.

The Committee appreciates the support that the new Alberta Transportation Deputy Minister, Barry Day, expressed for this plan during their meeting in January 2017 and will continue to meet with Transportation as the plan is implemented to assess its effectiveness. The Committee will continue to work with AAAF, AAMDC and Transportation to monitor and adjust the plan as necessary.

This resolution is related to Resolution 1-16: Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways.

## RESOLUTION 2-17: ENSURING COMPETITION FOR SEED AND CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS

- WHEREAS:** Global Agribusiness Bayer has offered to purchase another Global Agribusiness, Monsanto;
- WHEREAS:** A compilation of agriculture statistics indicates that in 2010, 46% of Canola grown in Canada was Liberty Link (Bayer) 47% was Roundup Ready (Monsanto), 6% was Clearfield (BASF). Based on those statistics, seed and the related pesticides sales on approximately 93% of Canola grown in Canada could conceivably belong to a merged Bayer/Monsanto company;
- WHEREAS:** Competition encourages research, more choices on seed and crop protection products and lower prices, which is better for primary producers as well as consumers;
- WHEREAS:** Section 90.1 (1) (a) of the Competition Act states: If, on application by the Commissioner, the Tribunal finds that an agreement or arrangement — whether existing or proposed — between persons two or more of whom are competitors prevents or lessens, or is likely to prevent or lessen, competition substantially in a market, the Tribunal may make an order

(a) prohibiting any person — whether or not a party to the agreement or arrangement — from doing anything under the agreement or arrangement.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada work cooperatively to ensure a merger between Bayer and Monsanto is prevented.

**Status:** Provincial, Federal

#### **Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

The purchase of Monsanto by Bayer has elicited widespread concern about market consolidation in the canola and crop protection sectors. Section 90.1 of the Government of Canada *Competition Act* is intended to ensure that competition is not substantially prevented or lessened as a result of mergers or acquisitions, and is aimed at preventing anti-competitive practices in the marketplace.

The federal Competition Bureau has primary jurisdiction over mergers and acquisitions, as it is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the

*Competition Act*. The Competition Bureau usually consults widely with government and industry stakeholders when it conducts its reviews of mergers and acquisitions.

With respect to the Bayer Monsanto merger, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry shares concerns similar to those expressed by the Agriculture Service Board and other industry stakeholders. In October 2016, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry met with Competition Bureau representatives and discussed the potential impact of the Bayer Monsanto merger. Representing industry stakeholders, the Canadian Canola Growers Association has also met with Competition Bureau representatives and is currently preparing a submission to the Competition Bureau, with a focus on the potential impact of the merger on canola producers.

For further information:

- Darren Chase, Executive Director, Policy, Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, [darren.chase@gov.ab.ca](mailto:darren.chase@gov.ab.ca) or 780-417-3338.
- Competition Bureau can: [www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf.eng/home](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf.eng/home)

#### *Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada*

I acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to the Chairperson of the Competition Tribunal dated February 1, 2017 indicating that the ASB Provincial Committee is requesting a response from the Competition Tribunal and/or the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada for your resolution (i.e. *Resolution 2: Ensuring the Competition for Seed and Crop Competition Products.*)

In addition, on page 2 of your letter, as part of your Resolution 2, it states:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada work cooperatively to ensure a merger between Bayer and Monsanto is prevented.

It is important to provide you with some background information as it relates to: (1) the Competition Tribunal; (2) the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada (the "ATSSC"); and (3) the Commissioner of Competition.

First, the Competition Tribunal is a specialized economic tribunal that adjudicates cases that arise under the civil provisions of the Competition Act (the "Act") and which are predominantly initiated through a filing of Notice of Application by the Commissioner of Competition.

To be clear, the Competition Tribunal is strictly an adjudicative body that operates independently and at arm's length from the Government of Canada and its departments, including the Commissioner of Competition. This also applies equally to provincial governments and their respective departments.

Secondly, the ATSSC is the federal department responsible for providing support services to eleven federal administrative tribunals, including the Competition

Tribunal. As such, ATSSC-staff provide legal and registry support service to the Competition Tribunal but have no adjudicative or investigatory functions.

Lastly, the Commissioner of Competition is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Act and carries out such responsibilities and related investigations with the support of the staff at the Competition Bureau.

Therefore, neither the Competition Tribunal nor the ATSSC can be part of the initiative contemplated in your resolution.

Since the Commissioner of Competition is the primary investigator of complaints under the Act, it may be worthwhile for you and your organization to raise your concerns with the Commissioner of Competition using the following link:

<http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/frn-eng/GH%C3%89T-7SEN3J>

#### *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

With respect to Resolution 2 regarding the Bayer-Monsanto merger, under the *Competition Act*, mergers are reviewed by the Competition Bureau to determine whether they will likely result in a substantial lessening or prevention of competition. The Competition Bureau is an independent agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Competition Act*.

Generally speaking, as part of its merger review process, the Competition Bureau may contact affected parties, relevant agencies/departments, industry associations, suppliers, etc. to determine the impact of the potential merger. The Competition Bureau also regularly co-operates with other international enforcement partners in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiencies of merger reviews that have international implications. This collaboration also has benefits for the merging parties, creating certainty over legal treatment and expediency of the reviews in numerous jurisdictions.

Given the role of the Competition Bureau and its responsibilities under the *Competition Act*, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is not in a position to comment on its review of the proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger. For more information on the Competition Bureau and its review process, please refer to its website, at [www.competitionbureau.gc.ca](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca).

#### **Grade: Incomplete**

#### **Comments**

This resolution was graded as "Incomplete" as the resolution should have also been sent to the Competition Bureau based on the response received from the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada. The Committee forwarded the resolution in its' entirety to the Competition Bureau through their website and is monitoring the Competition Bureau website for any decision made regarding this merger.

## RESOLUTION 3-17: INCORPORATING AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

- WHEREAS:** Alberta Education is currently reviewing the Alberta school curriculum;
- WHEREAS:** Education about agriculture is limited within the current school curriculum;
- WHEREAS:** The Classroom Agricultural Program is only able to spend one hour with grade 4 students;
- WHEREAS:** Consumer interest of how agriculture production is achieved, and food is produced is increasing;
- WHEREAS:** Less than 2% of the population have a direct role in primary agriculture production, people have a less direct experience with growing their own food or participating in the agriculture industry;
- WHEREAS:** The availability of incorrect or incomplete information on the agriculture and agri-food industry is increasing;
- WHEREAS:** Consumer purchases can be influenced by the amount and quality of agriculture and agri-food awareness and education they have received.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

that the Minister of Education, during the pending review of the Alberta School Curriculum, include agriculture and agri-food and its importance to Canadians as part of the new curriculum at elementary, junior high and high school levels.

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

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

that Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry increase the amount of time spent in the school curriculum to discuss food and agriculture.

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

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

that Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create a panel of Agricultural and Nutrition experts to create the curriculum that will be taught in Alberta classrooms.

**Status:** Provincial

### **Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

There are currently several entry points for agriculture to be integrated into the Alberta school curriculum. Alberta offers the Green Certificate program for high

school students, whereby students can gain industry certification while earning high school credits in a variety of agriculture areas including cow/calf operations, equine, pig, greenhouse, and field crops. This program is unique in Canada and serves as a model for other provinces like Saskatchewan.

Through the Career and Technology stream of courses, about 30 different agriculture courses are offered, six of which can be taken through distance education. This is also unique in Canada. These courses are not part of the curriculum development process currently underway and are not slated for significant changes.

In core subjects, there are also currently several entry-points for agriculture to be integrated in the curriculum. Grade 2 Science has a unit on small flying and crawling creatures, where teachers may choose to focus on composting and the role worms play in soil health. Grade 4 has a strong focus on both plants in science, and agriculture as part of Alberta's culture and history. Alberta's Grade 7 Science unit, Plants for Food and Fibre, is another excellent entry point to teach about modern agriculture. Finally, Health in all grades provides opportunities to discuss healthy eating, and many teachers integrate school gardening and discussions about agriculture into health. In high school, agriculture can be used as an example to support topics like globalization, genetics, and climate change.

One of the best ways to ensure agriculture is brought to life for students in the existing and future curriculum is for external organizations to offer high quality curricular-linked agriculture programs and resources that meet teacher needs. Classroom Agriculture Program is one such program. There are also many other programs and resources available from groups like Agriculture for Life, Inside Education, Agriculture in the Classroom, The Reynolds Museum, Stony Plain Multicultural Heritage Centre, Northlands, Calgary Stampede, and the many commodity groups. Industry support for these programs is essential for them to continue and to expand.

Agriculture Service Boards can review Alberta Education's opportunities for the public to engage in the curriculum development process. As the new curriculum is rolled out in classrooms, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's agriculture education consultant is able to work with industry groups to create and adapt programs to ensure they align with the new curriculum.

For further information:

- Karen Carle, Agriculture Education Consultant, [karen.carle@gov.ab.ca](mailto:karen.carle@gov.ab.ca) or 403-340-5339
- Alberta Education, <https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development>

#### *Alberta Education*

Thank you for your February 1, 2017 letter regarding the resolution made by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee to incorporate agriculture and agri-food education in future curriculum.

Our government is committed to ensuring that all students are provided with an education that enriches their lives and prepares them for success. Alberta students

deserve the best education we can deliver, and we will strive to ensure our education system is one we can be proud of.

Agriculture is a vitally important industry in Alberta, and there are many opportunities for students to learn about agriculture in our current Science and Social Studies programs of study. Students may also learn about agriculture through optional programming in Career and Technology Foundations, Career and Technology Studies, and Green Certificate and Dual Credit programs.

As you know, our government is looking ahead to the future and working to ensure that provincial curriculum continues to give all students the best possible start in life and enables them to meet the demands of living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are working to create new Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) provincial curriculum in six subject areas over the next six years: Language Arts (English, French, Francais), Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Arts and Wellness Education. This will allow us to build better connections across subjects.

A number of other education stakeholders are involved in the process, including the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta School Boards Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, the Association of Alberta Deans of Education and the Alberta School Councils' Association. We are also seeking input throughout the development process from a broad range of Albertans with an interest in K-12 education, including teachers, post-secondary institution professors and instructors, parents, and representatives from business and industry.

Curriculum Working Groups have been established to develop draft provincial curriculum content for Alberta Education's consideration. School authorities and post-secondary institutions in Alberta were invited to nominate staff with expertise within subjects and across grades. These groups are currently in the process of drafting a subject introduction and a scope and sequence in each subject area.

As part of the many opportunities for Albertans to provide input into our provincial curriculum development work, Alberta Education posted on its website an opportunity for non-profit organizations to make 15-minute presentations to one or more working groups of their choice. We are pleased that 39 non-profit organizations responded to this opportunity and made presentations on topics of interest related to future curriculum content development.

Opportunities for future involvement will continue to be posted on the Alberta Education website at [www.education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development](http://www.education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development). Should you wish to meet directly with Education ministry staff to discuss opportunities for agriculture and agri-food in future curriculum, you may contact Caroline Nixon, Senior Manager, K-12 Sciences and Biology, by phone at 780-422-3219 (toll-free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000) or by email at [caroline.nixon@gov.ab.ca](mailto:caroline.nixon@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you for writing to express your interest in the curriculum development process. I encourage you and your board members to participate in the opportunities being made available for all Albertans to contribute to this important work.

## **Grade: Incomplete**

### **Comments**

The Committee graded this resolution as “Incomplete” as the responses didn’t answer the questions posed regarding amount of time dedicated to agriculture in the curriculum or setting up a panel of agricultural and nutrition experts to consult on the curriculum.

The Committee is seeking a meeting with the Minister of Alberta Education to discuss this resolution with him. In addition, the Committee is planning to work with Karen Carle, Agriculture Education Consultant with Agriculture and Forestry, and Luree Williamson from Ag for Life to move forward on this resolution. Ms. Carle and Ms. Williamson met with the Committee in March 2017 and helped the Committee gain a better understanding of how the curriculum works and opportunities for incorporating more agriculture into the curriculum. The Committee feels that working with these organizations will provide greater synergy to meet the requests of this resolution as Ms. Carle and Ms. Williamson have already been working with Alberta Education to integrate agriculture into the curriculum. The Committee will request their assistance to develop an expert panel to review and create agriculture resources for teachers for the Alberta curriculum.

The Committee appreciates the support shown by the provincial and federal government to support additional agriculture education through funding announcements made in June 2017. The province has committed up to \$400,000 annually to cover course fees for the Green Certificate program and the federal government announced a \$568,000 one year commitment to support Agriculture in the Classroom Canada. These programs both assist with educating students about agriculture and career opportunities within the agriculture sector in schools. The funding for Ag in the Classroom Canada will fund projects such as creating an online searchable tool for teachers to find curriculum linked material on agriculture and food, an online library of one page information sheets for teachers on hot topics called Snap Ag and introducing students to careers related to the agriculture sector. The funding for the Green Certificate program will cover course fees for students enrolled in the program.

## EMERGENT RESOLUTION E1-17: CARBON LEVY EXEMPTION ON NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR ALL RECOGNIZED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

- WHEREAS: the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act* effective January 1, 2017 states that every recipient shall pay a carbon levy on purchases of natural gas and propane;
- WHEREAS: As purchasers, farmers cannot pass the additional cost of a carbon tax on to consumers or the international market;
- WHEREAS: Grain dryers that have natural gas meters and separate propane tanks for drying can be easily accounted for in their use by the retailer;
- WHEREAS: Farmers who don't dry their own grain use the grain elevators who offer grain drying as a service and should not be penalized with a carbon levy;
- WHEREAS: Programs are in place through the Climate Leadership Plan to help farm operations reduce their emissions through efficiency upgrades, but they do not apply to grain dryers;
- WHEREAS: Farmers are exempt on marked fuel by way of the carbon levy exemption certificate.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

that the Government of Alberta provide farmers and grain elevators with a carbon levy exemption certificate on natural gas and propane for all recognized agricultural production.

**Status:** Provincial

#### **Response**

*Alberta Environment and Parks*

Farmers must currently pay the appropriate carbon levy rate for any purchases of natural gas or propane which are not covered by any of the exemptions listed in Part 1, Division 1, Section 8(4) or Part 1, Division 3, Section 15(1) of Bill 20 Climate Leadership Implementation Act, respectively.

There are several existing Government of Alberta initiatives and programs offered through Energy Efficiency Alberta ([www.encyalberta.ca](http://www.encyalberta.ca)) and Agriculture and Forestry ([www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca)) which would apply to grain drying, in addition to those noted in the resolution's background information:

- Through the Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit program, eligible farmers are fully exempt from the provincial fuel tax (not the carbon levy) on propane used for farming purposes (See [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/All/pgmsrv9](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/All/pgmsrv9)).

- Farmers can receive a rebate for propane used for grain drying under the Remote Area Heating Allowance, even if the dryer is situated in a gas franchise area. (See [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf.all/pgmsrv294](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf.all/pgmsrv294)). The rebate is 25 per cent of the propane cost.
- Farmers who demonstrate strong environmental stewardship can sell carbon offsets to large emitters (See [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs/nsf/all/cl11618](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs/nsf/all/cl11618)).
- Improvements to grain drying operations are eligible under the Business, Not-Profit and Institutional Energy Savings Program (see [www.encyalberta.ca/business-non-profit-and-institutional](http://www.encyalberta.ca/business-non-profit-and-institutional)) if they involve high-efficiency retrofits to lighting, heating, cooling or hot water systems.
- The reduction in the small business tax rate from 3 to 2 per cent is applicable to grain drying operations.

**Grade: Accept the Response**

**Comments**

A grade of "Accept the Response" was assigned to this resolution as the Committee felt that it was answered in its' entirety.

The response outlined that there are several programs available to producers and small business to offset the costs of the carbon levy. Producers are encouraged to look into these programs.

## EMERGENT RESOLUTION E2-17: AGRICULTURAL DISASTER POLICY

### DEFEATED AT THE 2017 ASB PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

**WHEREAS:** Counties, municipalities, and the Province declared an Agricultural Disaster after the North West Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference, therefore this resolution was not developed;

**WHEREAS:** When a natural disaster with extreme moisture\* or drought conditions occurs, it has been proven that the impact can be as significant as other more dramatic disasters;\*\*

**WHEREAS:** Although crop insurance provided by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) does cover short falls in crop production it does not cover the extreme situation of total crop loss to weather conditions;

**WHEREAS:** Other natural disaster occurrences have had disaster relief funding from the Provincial and the Federal government;

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

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

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create an agricultural disaster policy that will allocate funding from provincial and federal governments to be accessed in addition to the existing programs by producers in the event of an agricultural disaster.

## EMERGENT RESOLUTION E3-17: ERADICATION OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS AND BRUCELLOSIS PREVALENT IN BISON WITHIN AND SURROUNDING WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

- WHEREAS:** Nationally, wood bison are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of the Federal Species at Risk Act, and designated as of Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). In Alberta, only free-roaming wood bison that occur within Alberta's Wood Bison Protection Area (West of Highway 35, North of the Chinchaga River and Keg River Metis Settlement) are considered endangered wildlife; and as such are recognized and protected under Alberta's Wildlife Act;
- WHEREAS:** The inability of Alberta to formally protect all other free-roaming wood bison (East of Highway 35, North, Northeast and Southeast of Fort Vermilion) under the Provincial Wildlife Act leaves; these animals vulnerable to year-round unregulated hunting, successful hunters at risk of harvesting wildlife with Zoonotic diseases, and other wildlife and livestock at risk of contracting the diseases;
- WHEREAS:** The recently released draft Federal Recovery Strategy for the Wood Bison (2016) states the greatest threat to wood bison recovery is the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis;
- WHEREAS:** At the end of October 2016, at least thirty ranches in Southeastern Alberta were put under quarantine after the discovery of a single case of bovine tuberculosis. Thus leaving producers unable to sell their animals and fearful that their income for the year may evaporate;
- WHEREAS:** On January 5, 2017 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) released a statement confirming that 50 premises are currently under quarantine and movement controls, affecting approximately 26,000 cattle, with an additional 10,000 cattle set to be tested and destroyed at 18 of those properties;
- WHEREAS:** Mackenzie County is located within direct proximity of Wood Buffalo National Park; thus the risk of diseased free-roaming wood bison transmitting bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis to domestic livestock is of immediate concern to all local beef producers;
- WHEREAS:** The Government of Alberta (GOA) continues an annual regulated hunt of the disease-free Hay-Zama local population; designed to contain this disease-free herd to the Wood Bison Protection Area, with the goal of maintaining a population size of 400 – 600 animals;
- WHEREAS:** A population survey conducted in February 2016, found 625 wood bison belonging to the Hay-Zama herd; sufficient enough to continue the hunt and increase license numbers. As such, the GOA has issued 250 Aboriginal licenses and 125 non-Aboriginal licenses provincially for the 2016/17 Hay-Zama wood bison hunting season;

**WHEREAS:** Any wood bison sighted travelling West of Wood Buffalo National Park, towards the Wood Bison Protection Area; is presumed diseased and therefore destroyed as a precautionary measure, in order to maintain the disease-free status of Alberta's only verified disease-free local population;

**WHEREAS:** The Alberta First Nations Food Security Strategy, released January 2015, found that efforts to increase northern Aboriginal food security; fundamentally include the restoration and increase of sovereignty over local food systems, improved access to local food, including hunting of culturally traditional wildlife such as buffalo;

**WHEREAS:** In 1990, a Federal Environment Assessment Panel recommended completely eradicating all bison from Wood Buffalo National Park, followed by restocking with disease-free animals;

**WHEREAS:** In 2016, Environment and Climate Change Canada acknowledge that, at present, the only effective tool to successfully eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park is by depopulation;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

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

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and Parks Canada; to support the depopulation of diseased wood bison as the only effective tool to successfully eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park.

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS**

urge Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and Parks Canada; to develop an effective measureable plan to successfully eradicate all diseased bison from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park. In order to prevent further disease outbreaks Province-wide; that would inevitably have adverse effects for the National, Provincial and local domestic cattle and beef industries.

**Status:** Provincial, Federal

**Response**

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry*

This resolution has identified several key factors that highlight the importance of this issue and the need to eliminate the risk of these diseases spreading from this population. While there is no known link between disease in this northern bison population and the recent detection in Southern Alberta, the current TB investigation in cattle in Southern Alberta has reminded us of the time and resources required for investigations into livestock cases.

We have recently seen progress around Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park, which may provide valuable insight for future direction with Wood Buffalo National Park. With that said, Manitoba is faced with a much lower prevalence of disease in

the wild population, but also a much smaller buffer, and therefore, greater interaction between wildlife and livestock.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry sees this as an important issue that requires input from a broad range of stakeholders with varying perspectives. In the meantime, there are ongoing surveillance efforts in the area to closely monitor the situation and any potential risks for livestock.

For further information:

- Dr. Keith Lehman, Chief Provincial Veterinarian, [keith.lehman@gov.ab.ca](mailto:keith.lehman@gov.ab.ca) or 780-427-3448.

#### *Alberta Environment and Parks*

Alberta is working with the federal government and the Northwest Territories to develop a strategy to eliminate the risk of disease transmission from these bison. This strategy will be developed through a collaborative, consensus-based approach, engaging with indigenous communities and relevant stakeholders. The draft terms of reference for the committee are currently being reviewed by the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee.

As noted in the resolution's description, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency conducted a risk assessment of the potential transmission of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from Wood Buffalo National Park bison to the cattle industry. This assessment concluded that the risk was insignificant, and as such, the prospect of implementing a costly and socially unsupported eradication program is less likely.

#### *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

With respect to Resolution 3, I understand the concern about diseased bison in and around Wood Buffalo National Park. As you know, achieving a long-term solution to this issue will be difficult and will require a significant commitment by all stakeholders, including Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Parks Canada. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) remains supportive of activities that will mitigate the risk posed by a wildlife reservoir of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. However, in light of the low degree of risk to livestock, the CFIA's involvement is limited to supporting other lead federal, provincial, and territorial partners by providing veterinary advice/expertise and diagnostic laboratory testing, as required.

#### *Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Thank you for your correspondence of February 1, 2017, regarding the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee's recent resolution with respect to the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis prevalent in bison within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada.

I understand your concern with regard to the potential for transmission of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from herds in and around the Park to disease-free wood bison and cattle herds in neighbouring agricultural areas, particularly given the

recent detection of bovine tuberculosis in cattle in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan.

While depopulation of diseased bison herds has been proposed as a solution in the past, it has never received widespread support from all stakeholders and governments. Finding a permanent solution to this issue remains a challenge due to the need to recover wood bison—a threatened species with major cultural significance to Indigenous Peoples and Canadians in general—as well as the need to maintain the ecological integrity of its habitat in Wood Buffalo National Park, while reducing the risk of disease transmission to neighbouring disease-free bison and cattle. I am encouraged to see ongoing co-operation between the federal government and the provinces of Alberta and the Northwest Territories as they explore a full range of options for the development of a long-term solution to the issue.

I anticipate that recent undertakings, including a review of the effectiveness of the buffer zone between Wood Buffalo National Park and the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, as well as work by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to quantify the risk of disease transmission, will help to inform this process in the management of the issue. One key remaining priority is to ensure the early and full engagement of concerned Indigenous groups in the context of federal and provincial commitments to a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

For further discussion on this matter, please contact Mr. Jonah Mitchell, Field Unit Superintendent, Southwest Northwest Territories, Parks Canada, at [Jonah.mitchell@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Jonah.mitchell@pc.gc.ca) or by telephone at 867-872-7943, and Mr. Gilles Seutin, Chief Ecosystem Scientist, Parks Canada, at [gilles.seutin@pc.gc.ca](mailto:gilles.seutin@pc.gc.ca) or by telephone at 819-420-9269.

**Grade: Unsatisfactory**

**Comments**

The Committee felt the responses were focused on this issue from the perspective of the bison and did not account for the impact these diseases could have on the cattle industry.

The Committee discussed this with the Minister at their July meeting and obtained a copy of the strategy referred to in the response regarding management of these animals. This can be found at: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/info/plan/plan1>

The Committee has contacted Alberta Beef Producers to see if they have a position on this issue and to potentially work with them to advocate for better protection of cattle from transmission of Tuberculosis (TB) from infected bison in that region. Lastly, the Committee has contacted Parks Canada to make them aware of our concern and to ask for a strategy to be developed that better protects cattle in that region. The Committee will update the ASB members as information is received from these organizations.

## UPDATE OF PREVIOUS YEARS' RESOLUTIONS

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Section 3(10) of the Provincial Rules of Procedures 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 an 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

There are several resolutions related to the *Agricultural Pests Act (APA)* that the Committee has recommended be included as part of the updated *APA*. The Committee is frustrated that consultation on this Act has not started and was informed at their meeting with the Minister that the *APA* has been delayed in the legislative review schedule. The Committee will continue to remind the Minister of these resolutions and ensure that they are included as part of the consultation process. Resolutions related to the *Weed Control Act (WCA)* are included as there are indicators that the *APA* and *WCA* may be combined into one Act with different regulations.

Additional information on individual resolutions is found below.

Related Resolutions:

- Resolution 2-13: Inclusion of all Invasive Hawkweed Species as Prohibited Noxious under the Alberta *Weed Control Act and Regulation*
- Resolution 5-13: *Agricultural Pests Act Review/Invasive Species Act*
- Resolution 1-15: Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties
- Resolution 2-15: Pest Control Act – Clubroot
- Resolution 5-15: Maintaining Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) as a Noxious Weed Under the Alberta *Weed Control Act and Regulation*
- Resolution E1-15: *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan

### Agricultural Plastics Recycling

#### **Resolution 3-16: Agricultural Plastics Recycling**

Grade: Accept in Principle

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

Grade: Unsatisfactory

Meetings with all industry and government stakeholders are planned for August 2017 to review the current situation and develop a plan to move forward regarding agricultural plastics recycling. The Committee is actively involved with the group investigating this issue and feels that with recent changes made to the recycling committee and more interest from Environment and Parks on this issue that progress can be made and a plan developed to start a recycling program for agricultural plastics in Alberta.

The Committee will advocate for a plan similar to Saskatchewan's as voted on by the ASB members. The Committee would like to see Alberta's program more robust than

Saskatchewan's as only grain bags and silage bags used to store grain are the only types of plastic that are part of the product stewardship program (PSP) for Saskatchewan's agricultural plastics recycling program. The Committee would like to see all agricultural plastics and twine included as part of an Alberta program.

ASB members can find out more information about Saskatchewan's agricultural plastics recycling program at:

<http://simplyag.ca/ag-plastics-recycling/>

<http://www.cleanfarms.ca/SKGrainBag.html>

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/E10-22R4.pdf>

### **Resolution 1-16: Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways**

Grade: Unsatisfactory

This resolution relates to Resolution 1-17. The Committee feels that the grade should be changed to Accept in Principle and the two resolutions monitored together over the next four years as Transportation implements their plan for an integrated vegetation management plan along provincial highways.

### **Resolution 2-16: Reinstate Provincial Funding for the Canada and Alberta Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program**

Grade: Unsatisfactory

The Committee asked the Minister in July if this was discussed at the spring provincial-federal agriculture minister's meeting. The Minister replied that he had not had a chance to discuss this with his counterparts.

The Committee will continue to request that the Minister discuss this with his federal and provincial counterparts and has recommended that the Minister request that the number of animals tested be based on a percentage of animals of the current cow herd rather than a static number.

### **Resolution 5-16: Climate Stations**

Grade: Accept in Principle

Agriculture and Forestry is screening for new weather station sites within the Peace Region and has currently approved locations for four new sites. Three sites are planned to be installed within the next year.

Locations of the proposed sites are below:

Site Name	Sited Location			Elevation (m)	Projected Installation Year
	Twp_Rng	Lat	Long		
Whitemud Creek AGCM	074-21-W5	55.404	- 117.180	615	2017
Worsley AGCM	085-08-W6	56.371	- 119.183	653	2017
Eureka River AGCM	087-06-W6	56.509	- 118.844	676	2017
Spirit River AGCM	079-06-W6	55.898	- 118.899	599	(Replace Auto Station) 2018

**Resolution 6-16: Compensation for Coyote Depredation**

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee was not able to discuss this with the Environment Minister at this time. The Committee is part of the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group (AGMAG) working group that is investigating issues related to predators and compensation and will continue to advocate to adding coyotes as a predator to the Alberta Wildlife Regulation so that compensation can be paid for livestock injury and death.

**Resolution 8-16: Species at Risk Act (SARA)**

Accept in Principle

The Committee is working closely with AAMDC on this issue. AAMDC has several resolutions currently active related to this issue and has reviewed the draft Species at Risk policies and provided a submission back to the federal Environment Minister. The Committee will continue to work with AAMDC on this issue and provide input as appropriate.

**Resolution E1-16: Bill 6: Enhanced Protection of Farm and Ranch Workers**

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee recommends the grade on this resolution be changed to "Accept the Response" as members from the ASB Provincial Committee, AAMDC, individual farmers and agricultural organizations were represented on the technical working groups.

The Committee continues to follow this Act as the recommendations from the technical working groups are released for review and consultation to ensure that the regulations put in place are practical and fair. Some of the Bill 6 technical working groups have completed their review and submitted their recommendations to government. Government has reviewed and accepted some of the recommendations put forward and included them into Bill 17: *Fair and Family Friendly Workplaces Act*.

More detailed information can be found online at <https://www.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch.aspx>.

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

Grade: Unsatisfactory

The Committee met with Jamie Curran, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Agriculture and Forestry, in March 2017 and were told that the government is conducting a policy review of AFSC to determine what their mandate should be. ADM Curran indicated that Agriculture and Forestry felt that AFSC's role was to provide insurance to farmers and that they should not be used as a cross compliance tool for regulatory purposes.

The Committee will continue to follow the policy review of AFSC and remind the Minister of the potential to use AFSC as a tool to assist ASBs in the enforcement of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

### **Resolution 2-15: Pest Control Act – Clubroot**

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee continues to follow the review of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and will ensure that this resolution is included as part of the consultation process of the Act.

### **Resolution 3-15 Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure**

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee continues to follow this resolution as part of the *Agricultural Pests Act* review and will include it as part of the consultation process of the Act.

This resolution will also be brought forward as part of the discussion regarding the review of the ASB Program. The Committee will request that additional funding be made available to support this resolution as part of the program review.

### **Resolution 4-15: Additional Funding for Municipalities Dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that Come from Outside the Province of Alberta**

Grade: Accept in Principle

The response to this resolution indicated that municipalities would be able to access funding through the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) Crop Pest Response Fund pilot project. Some funding was awarded from this fund for spotted knapweed monitoring, mapping and control programs but there is no long term commitment in place to assist these municipalities. The Committee is concerned that the funding for this initiative is administered by ACIDF as all projects through ACIDF must be completed by March 31, 2018. The ACIDF website states that ACIDF will cease to exist on this date.

The Committee will include this resolution as part of the ASB Program Review starting in 2017 to highlight the need for additional funding to assist municipalities.

### **Resolution 5-15: Maintaining Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) as a Noxious Weed under the Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation**

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee (AWRAC) wants to complete a full review of all species on the current *Weed Control Act Regulation* to determine which species should remain in the Regulation and if there are any new species that should be

added to the Regulation. The timeline for the review of the species has not been determined.

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

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee has requested updates on this resolution from CFIA and Dr. Joe Kendall, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF). CFIA has provided a response which is included in the Appendix in its entirety. The response from CFIA indicates that they are reviewing the federal *Feeds Regulations* and there will be an opportunity for consultation this summer. The Committee will work with CFIA to provide input during this consultation process.

AF had committed to publishing information on use of ergot contaminated feed on their website and to work with industry to communicate this hazard. A review of AF's website shows that information regarding ergot toxicity for sheep was posted in 2015 but there was no information posted for any other species. The Committee discussed this with the Minister and requested additional information for cattle and other species also be included on Alberta Agriculture's website. The Minister told the Committee that the website is currently being updated and this would be taken into consideration.

There is additional information available to producers through a white paper published by the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada and information posted on foragebeef.ca and Grainews.

Links to information:

Animal Nutrition Association of Canada: Reducing the Impact of Ergot in Livestock Feeds

- [http://www.anacan.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/anac\\_white\\_paper\\_-\\_ergot\\_-\\_22-july-2016\\_final.pdf](http://www.anacan.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/anac_white_paper_-_ergot_-_22-july-2016_final.pdf)

Grainews: Even a small dose of ergot is harmful

- <https://www.grainews.ca/2016/03/23/a-small-dose-of-ergot-is-harmful/>

Foragebeef.ca

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

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

Grade: Accept in Principle

The 2016 Hunter Harvest Report is included in the Appendix. This report includes statistics regarding the number of elk harvested in the province based on location and sex of the animals.

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

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee was not able to discuss this with the Minister of Environment and Parks to receive further updates. The 2016 Report Card on the Resolutions included information on staffing levels as requested in the resolution.

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

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee was not able to discuss this with Environment and Parks to date. Indicators from Agriculture and Forestry are farm and agricultural leases will remain with Environment and Parks to manage.

**Resolutions 15-15: Farm Property Assessments**

Grade: Accept in Principle

The review of the *Municipal Government Act* is almost completed and the legislation appears to remain unchanged regarding farm property assessments. Farm properties will continue to receive an assessment exemption on farm residences.

## 2017 EXPIRING RESOLUTIONS

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 2017:

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-13	Weed Control in Provincial Waterways	Unsatisfactory
2-13	Inclusion of all Invasive Hawkweed Species as Prohibited Noxious under the Alberta <i>Weed Control Act and Regulation</i>	Accept in Principle
4-13	Wild Boar Eradication Initiative	Accept in Principle
5-13	<i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> Review/ <i>Invasive Species Act</i>	Unsatisfactory
6-13	Composition of <i>Soil Conservation Act</i> Appeal Committee	Accept in Principle

### Updates on Expiring Resolutions

#### Legislation Related Resolutions (2-13, 5-13, 6-13)

The Committee will continue to advocate for resolutions 2-13 and 5-13 while the *Agricultural Pests Act* is under review. Consultation on this Act is scheduled for 2017 and the Committee will ensure that the recommendations put forward by ASBs through these resolutions will be considered as part of the consultation process.

The Committee will also continue to monitor for when a review of the *Soil Conservation Act* is started and submit resolution 6-13 to the government for consideration at that time.

#### Resolution 1-13

##### Weed Control in Provincial Waterways

Environment and Parks has focused primarily on aquatic invasive species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, and put little effort towards controlling aquatic weed species within the province. The 2015 Annual Report on the Alberta Aquatic Invasive Species Program indicates that more attention will be placed on controlling flowering rush in 2016-2017. The Committee will continue to work with government on this issue to ensure that Environment and Parks also works on controlling aquatic weed species within provincial waterways.

The 2015 Annual Report may be found here: <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/invasive-species/documents/AquaticInvasiveSpeciesAnnualReport-2015A.pdf>

**Resolution 4-13: Wild Boar Eradication Initiative**

The Committee is aware that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is currently working on an eradication strategy for wild boar at large. Fencing standards for wild boar farms are now in place and being enforced which has allowed AF to move forward on development of an eradication strategy for wild boar at large. AF will be starting work on a Wild Boar at Large Eradication Project focused on research, surveillance and determining the best ways to effectively capture wild boar at large in areas where large populations are known to exist. Municipalities that are not participating in the Eradication Project but are currently part of the Wild Boar at Large Bounty Program can continue to participate in the Bounty Program. Municipalities not currently part of the Bounty Program but considering joining are requested to work with Agriculture and Forestry Inspection and Investigation Section prior to entering into an agreement for the Bounty Program to determine the best approach for eradicating wild boar within their municipality. Municipalities may contact Perry Abramenko at 403-627-1177 (dial 310-0000 first for toll free access in Alberta) for further information about the Eradication Project.

# APPENDIX

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Resolution 8-15: CFIA Additional Information



PRC 019136

July 10, 2017

Ms. Maureen Vadnais  
Executive Assistant  
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
[maureen.vadnais@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.vadnais@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Vadnais:

Thank you for your email of June 20, 2017, addressed to Mr. Paul Glover, President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), on behalf of the Alberta Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee, regarding Resolution 8-15 with respect to monitoring ergot levels in livestock feeds. Mr. Glover has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The CFIA verifies that livestock feeds manufactured and sold in Canada, or imported, are safe, effective, and labelled appropriately to contribute to the production and maintenance of healthy livestock and safe foods of animal origin. The CFIA confirms compliance with standards by a variety of activities, including pre-market assessments and inspection of products in the market (e.g., product sampling and testing) that includes monitoring for the presence of known contaminants such as mycotoxins.

Under the National Feed Inspection Program, the CFIA has been monitoring for several mycotoxins in domestic and imported feeds for over 25 years because of their impact on health and safety. The maximum level for aflatoxins is currently set in Section 19 of the *Feeds Regulations*. Action levels for additional mycotoxins such as ergot alkaloids, deoxynivalenol and fumonisins have been established and published in regulatory guidance, RG-8 Regulatory Guidance: Contaminants in Feed. For more information, please see [www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909). These standards are used to determine risk management options for non-compliant feeds and feed ingredients.

Recently, the CFIA embarked on a comprehensive change agenda to strengthen its foundation of legislation, regulatory programs, and inspection delivery. These objectives set a context for the modernization of the federal *Feeds Regulations*, and provided an opportunity to review existing maximum levels for contaminants, including ergot alkaloids. The CFIA has proposed setting

.../2

Ms. Maureen Vadnais

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standards for an expanded range of contaminants, and will do so using incorporation by reference to include these standards in the Regulations. For more information about incorporation by reference, please see [www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/acts-and-regulations/incorporation-by-reference/policy/eng/1450356693608/1450356805085](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/acts-and-regulations/incorporation-by-reference/policy/eng/1450356693608/1450356805085).

A proposal for biological contaminants standards is being finalized and will be subject to consultation this summer. This proposal will include the reduction of the maximum limits for ergot alkaloids in feeds. The Alberta ASB Provincial Committee will be notified directly by the CFIA when this consultation is launched.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jaspinder Komal  
Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate  
Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer

Resolution 9-15: Elk Quota Hunt

Source: <https://mywildalberta.ca/hunting/documents/Elk-2016HunterHarvest-May2017.pdf>

**Big Game Harvest Estimates 2016 – Elk**  
My Wild Alberta – Hunter Harvest

WMU*	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est. Hunter Success (%)
102	18	40	4	61	66%
104	8	9	7	24	41%
108	33	54	2	89	88%
118	3	0	0	3	11%
118	3	0	0	3	7%
124/128/142/144/148 /150	95	242	63	400	95%
151	3	0	0	3	4%
151/152	6	7	7	19	41%
152	3	0	0	3	5%
156/158/160	18	0	0	18	36%
158	7	0	0	7	33%
160	30	0	3	33	29%
162	10	0	0	10	19%
162/163/164/166	22	22	4	48	47%
166	10	0	0	10	13%
200	3	0	0	3	5%
200/202/203/232/234	96	74	18	193	31%
202	3	0	0	3	7%
204/228/230	0	0	0	0	0%
206	3	0	0	3	11%
206/222/226/244/246	7	29	0	36	36%
208/210/220	18	19	0	37	54%
210	3	0	0	3	14%
212	23	36	5	64	8%
214	20	0	3	23	11%
214/314	0	76	2	85	36%
216	7	3	0	10	4%
216/320	0	17	0	17	34%
221/322	0	0	0	0	0%
224	20	17	5	42	14%
228	3	0	0	3	33%
232	7	3	0	10	11%
234	17	3	0	20	13%
236	7	0	0	7	13%
236/238/256/500	12	17	0	28	45%
240/242	4	3	0	7	17%
242	7	0	0	7	12%

WMU*	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est. Hunter Success (%)
246	3	0	0	3	20%
248	0	0	0	0	0%
252/254/258/260	8	22	0	30	33%
254	3	3	0	7	13%
300A	20	37	5	61	38%
300B	45	40	0	85	52%
302	63	100	12	184	23%
303	10	0	0	10	10%
304	83	94	15	193	14%
305	97	165	10	272	19%
306	60	54	6	120	23%
308	63	16	0	79	9%
310	43	33	3	79	15%
312	163	165	13	347	24%
314	57	7	0	63	7%
316	0	0	0	0	0%
318	7	0	0	7	1%
320	30	0	0	30	6%
322	3	0	0	3	2%
324	0	5	0	5	1%
326	0	0	0	0	0%
328	10	0	0	10	2%
330	3	0	0	3	1%
332	30	13	5	47	7%
334	7	8	0	14	6%
336	20	23	3	49	11%
337	10	6	4	20	5%
338	10	0	0	10	2%
339	0	0	0	0	0%
340	13	0	5	18	5%
342	13	13	0	27	10%
344	27	4	0	31	5%
346	63	73	4	140	13%
347	13	0	0	13	6%
348	27	26	0	61	8%
349	7	0	0	7	4%
350	3	0	0	3	2%
351	0	0	0	0	0%
352	3	5	5	13	5%
353	17	12	3	31	4%
354	17	9	0	25	9%
355	0	7	2	10	7%
356	33	16	0	50	6%

WMU*	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est. Hunter Success (%)
357	183	354	35	599	26%
358	147	154	40	352	23%
359	197	209	13	422	26%
360	67	148	21	238	23%
400	37	0	0	37	4%
402	33	3	0	37	4%
404	15	4	0	19	13%
406	8	0	0	8	3%
408	0	2	0	2	2%
410	13	3	0	17	7%
412	0	0	0	0	0%
414	0	0	0	0	0%
416	0	0	0	0	0%
417	0	0	0	0	0%
418	3	0	0	3	50%
420	0	0	0	0	0%
422	0	0	0	0	0%
426	3	0	0	3	7%
428	0	0	0	0	0%
429	3	0	0	3	2%
432	0	0	0	0	0%
434	3	0	0	3	10%
436	0	0	0	0	0%
437	7	0	0	7	10%
438	13	3	0	17	8%
439	0	3	0	3	3%
440	3	0	0	3	3%
441	0	0	0	0	0%
442	0	0	0	0	0%
444	7	0	0	7	8%
445	3	0	0	3	13%
446	7	0	0	7	8%
504	7	0	0	7	6%
505	10	9	7	28	22%
506	3	8	0	11	8%
507	27	21	6	54	14%
508	10	10	0	20	14%
509	7	32	0	39	19%
510	40	20	10	70	10%
511	0	10	0	10	6%
520	10	2	0	12	13%
521	140	150	15	308	21%
522	177	139	28	348	27%

WMU*	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est. Hunter Success (%)
523	50	157	13	224	25%
525	7	0	0	7	13%
526	63	85	0	149	17%
527	67	66	4	141	20%
528	3	0	0	3	6%
535	0	0	0	0	0%
537	7	1	0	8	49%
544	0	0	0	0	0%
732	318	338	156	811	80%
936	10	15	8	33	32%
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>3,321</b>	<b>3,566</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>7,464</b>	

\*WMU = Wildlife Management Unit