

## NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

### POLICY NUMBER 080/03

#### VIRULENT BLACKLEG OF CANOLA POLICY

**PURPOSE:** To define the steps required for Northern Sunrise County to control an outbreak of or contain the spread of Virulent Blackleg of Canola in the County.

**REASON:** Virulent Blackleg is a pest under the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta (2000) Inspectors appointed under the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta may enter onto land and inspect for pests and issue notices specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

**POLICY:** **Awareness:**

In order to maintain an awareness of Virulent Blackleg, the Agricultural Fieldman shall:

- i) use available information as handouts;
- ii) inform seed outlets in the Municipality of our concerns and suggest that they avoid bringing in seed from infested areas if possible;
- iii) assist and encourage local seed plants to set and follow policies to accept only Canola that is certified Virulent Blackleg Free;
- iv) keep ASB members informed of Policy and programs and used as information ambassadors to contain the spread of Virulent Blackleg in Northern Sunrise County;
- v) inform farmers of symptoms and through increased knowledge, garner their cooperation.

**Inspection:**

In order to inspect for Virulent Blackleg, the Agricultural Fieldman shall:

- i) keep staff informed of the symptoms;
- ii) design for council approval, an inspection program which ensures an appropriate number of fields are inspected annually.

**Action:**

If virulent Blackleg of Canola is found within the boundaries of Northern Sunrise County the landowner shall either, cooperatively or through enforcement measures:

- i) harvest the Canola crop with the total crop being sold for crushing or feed but not for seed;
- ii) tarp any loads of Canola being transported from the infested land;
- iii) if the canola was under-seeded with a perennial crop, tarp any loads of forage being transported from the infested land;
- iv) clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking them of the infested land;

- v) unless the field was underseeded to a perennial crop, residue must be incorporated, preferably in the fall and preferably with a moldboard plow;
- vi) seed a non-host crop and/or perform summer fallow for 3 consecutive crop years from initial detection;
- vii) following the 3<sup>rd</sup> crop year, the landowner may return to canola;
- viii) if a hot crop is seeded on infested land prior to the 3 year period expiring, then a Notice to Control Pests shall be issued and enforced if ignored;
- ix) landowners adjacent to infested fields shall be contacted, informed of the location of the pest and cautioned against growing canola adjacent to the infested field;
- x) canola crops seeded adjacent to an infested field shall be inspected yearly for Virulent Blackleg for a period of three years as well as random checks throughout the Municipality.

Approved Date:

Motion Number:

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Reeve

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Chief Administrative Officer