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| POLICY NO: | AG 006 |
| POLICY TITLE: | PEST CONTROL SERVICES |
| DEPARTMENT: | AGRICULTURE |
| APPROVAL DATE: | ASB 04-02-94 (February 1994) |
| REVISION DATE: | |
| REVIEW DATE: | |

Background:

Because the County is located along the Saskatchewan border, it is part of the Provincial Rat Control Area. A full time Pest Control Inspector is employed by the County to provide minimum levels of rat control/inspection services as required under contract (entered into annually between the County and the Province). The Province pays 100% of the cost of this program.

Additionally, there are other pest control services required to meet the agricultural needs within the County. Through the Agricultural Service Board Act, provisions are made for cost sharing (60% grant from the province) of such programs as Livestock Predator Control (i.e.: coyotes), Agricultural Land Flooding (i.e.: beaver control) and other programs that deal with minimizing the effects of animal pests and nuisances on agricultural productivity. The Agricultural Fieldman position includes the responsibility generally, for implementing such programs.

In reality the expertise, interest and various activities of the personnel involved in Rat Control often overlap with those of the Agricultural Fieldman, in terms of Pest Control and Problem Wildlife. This policy recognizes these circumstances, and attempts to clarify the appropriate situations for interaction and cooperation.

Policy Objectives:

1. Provide responsive and effective Pest Control service in the County.
2. Efficiently utilize the available resources in terms of manpower, training and funding.

Procedure:

1. PROGRAMS

For the purpose of this policy, the following programs are specifically listed:

- a. Rat Control
- b. Beaver Flood Control
- c. Livestock Predation Assistance

- d. Rabies Vector Control
- e. Others as approved from time to time by Council

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The primary responsibility of the Pest Control Inspector is Rat control (as per contract with the province)
- b. The Pest Control Inspector may assume other tasks related to pests and problem wildlife (i.e.: coyote, beaver, skunk, etc.) in as far as those tasks entail the provision of services for which the County is responsible
 - i. specifically those programs listed above (1. b-e)
 - ii. with the provision that they do not become assigned responsibilities which could under certain circumstances, interfere with his primary responsibility (2.a)
- c. In general terms, the responsibility for Pest Control and Problem Wildlife programs remains with the Agricultural Fieldman (excluding Rat Control)
 - i. budgeting, record keeping, applicable grants, reports, etc.
 - ii. implementing the required procedures to provide the services

3. AUTHORIZATION AND TRAINING

- a. Many of the procedures to implement pest control programs require special training and authorization under law. Examples of this type of requirement include a Pesticide Applicators License, Permit to Use and Issue Toxicant, and Explosives Handling Permits. Occasional or regular training and updating is often part of the method for obtaining appropriate authorization.
- b. The Agricultural Fieldman and the Pest Control Inspector will maintain the necessary permits, licenses, training and authorization to perform their respective and joint responsibility as outlined in this policy.

4. SPECIAL NOTE ON BEAVER

Because of the additional impact that beaver have on Public Works, (i.e.: damage to roads and culverts), particular objectives and procedures addressing beaver concerns are outlined in the County's Beaver Control Policy.

Summary:

Due to the real and perceived responsibilities the County has for providing adequate pest control service, the intent of this policy is to define an efficient method of implementing the programs for pest and problem wildlife concerns. By following this outline of the procedures in the policy we can maximize the use of County staff, maintain adequate response levels, and perhaps reduce the effects of agricultural pests in the County.