

**Policy Name**

Fusarium Graminearum

**Policy Number**

AG-24



**Policy Statement**

To clearly define actions required to prevent an outbreak of *Fusarium graminearum* and to contain the spread of *Fusarium graminearum* if an outbreak occurs in Brazeau County. Also, to support the Alberta Fusarium graminearum Management Plan produced by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

**Policy**

Fusarium head blight (FHB), caused by the fungus *Fusarium graminearum*, is a destructive fungal disease of cereal grains which causes major economic losses through decreased yields, reduced seed quality and mycotoxin production.

It is specified as a pest under the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta. The Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta authorizes inspectors appointed under the act to enter onto land to inspect for a pest and issue a notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

**A. Awareness:**

In order to raise awareness of the problem:

- 1) Use available information as handouts;
- 2) Inform Brazeau County seed dealers of our County policy and concerns and request that wheat and barley seed not be brought into the area from infested areas (eastern Saskatchewan, Manitoba and some northern states), if possible. The Fieldman shall write to each seed outlet in the County and express these concerns yearly;
- 3) Assist and encourage area seed cleaning plants to set and follow policies to accept only wheat and barley that is certified Fusarium graminearum free for cleaning;

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- 4) A.S.B. members shall keep informed of policy and programs and act as ambassadors to educate County residents about *Fusarium graminearum*.

**B. Preventative Measures:**

- 1) When purchasing cereal grain for use as seed, ensure that it is accompanied by a laboratory certificate showing that the seed lot was tested and found free of *Fusarium Graminearum*.
- 2) All cereal seed should be treated with a registered fungicide that includes the genus *Fusarium* on the label list of controlled fungi, particularly if from an out of province or unknown source.
- 3) Cereal grain intended for use as seed that tests positive for *Fusarium graminearum* must be properly and effectively disposed of. These lots may be sold for food or feed but treated lots must be disposed of and buried in a landfill.

**C. Inspection:**

In order to inspect for *Fusarium graminearum*, the Agricultural Fieldman shall:

- 1) Keep staff informed of the symptoms;
- 2) Inform farmers of symptoms and through increased knowledge, garner their assistance for inspection purposes.
- 3) Carry out inspections as required.

**D. Management and Control Measures:**

- 1) The report of laboratory analysis certifying that a representative sample of the lot of cereal seed was tested according to the accepted protocol and *Fusarium graminearum* free must accompany the lot and be available for inspection anytime during the transportation and handling of the lot.

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- 2) The end user of the seed must maintain the reports of laboratory analysis certifying that each lot of seed brought in by end user was found to be free of *F. graminearum*. These certificates must be readily available for inspection.
- 3) If *Fusarium graminearum* is found within Brazeau County the landowner shall either, cooperatively or through enforcement measures:
  - i) Prior to maturity, infested crops may be cut and immediately ensiled. Harvested crop residue should not spill onto the soil and the silage should be fed to cattle in such a way as to prevent spillage onto the soil.
  - ii) Mature crops can be harvested and must be fed to cattle. Avoid spillage while handling, transporting and feeding.
  - iii) All cereal grain transported in the County must be securely covered. No grain is to be allowed to blow off the vehicle while in-transport.
  - iv) Remove and burn or bury crop residue from all equipment before leaving an infested field and tarp all grain transported from the infested field.
  - v) Incorporate cereal residue as deep as possible in the soil after harvest. If soil erosion is a problem, cultivation may be delayed to just prior to planting a non-cereal crop in early spring.
  - vi) If deep tillage is used in the fall, use shallow tillage or direct seeding of non-cereal crops the following spring to avoid bringing infested crop residue to the surface.
  - vii) Control volunteer cereals and grassy weeds on infested land, including headlands.
  - viii) Keep *Fusarium graminearum* infested land in non-host crops such as canola, alfalfa, clover, peas or summer-fallow for a minimum of three years following the detection of the disease.

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- ix) Do not use corn in rotation with small grain cereal. Corn is also a host of *Fusarium graminearum*, where it causes seed to rots, seedling blight, root rot, stalk rot and ear rot.
- x) After a three-year rotation, disease-free cereal seed from a cultivar that has low susceptibility to, or resistance to *F. graminearum* and is treated with a recommended fungicide, can be planted.
- xi) If fields are found to be infected with *F. graminearum* the fields will be subject to the control measures. If an infected field is re-seeded to a cereal the crop will be destroyed as per the Agricultural Pests Act.

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