

A

AGENDA
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK
July 2, 2025
1:30 pm

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

B. DELEGATIONS

- a) Kelly Cooley, ALUS

C. MINUTES

- a) Draft Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2025

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Provincial Resolutions
- b) Agricultural and Environmental Service Board Strategic and Operational Plan 2025-2029
 - ASB would like to see more opportunities for workshops for ranchers in the area
 - ASB Member will bring information regarding costs and timelines to the speaking session for the meeting in July
 - 2011 Strategic and Operational Plan attached
- c) Bear Safety Workshop
 - Potential dates?
- d) Wildlife Predation Identification Training
 - ASB Member will bring information
- e) Policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation
 - Tabled at March ASB
 - Current C-AES-001 attached
- f) Agricultural Disaster
 - MD Council declared an Agricultural Disaster at the meeting of June 10, 2025
 - Letter and Condition Statement Tool attached
- g) MD Deadstock Bin discussion

F. AES DEPARTMENTAL REPORT AND CALL LOG

- a) Agricultural Fieldman Report – July, 2025

G. WEED NOTICES

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. For Action

2. For Information

- a) Grants that Support Agriculture
 - June 2025 list prepared by Community Grant Specialist

I NEW BUSINESS

- a) Request for Municipal Data on Gopher Damage and Agricultural Impacts
 - Letter from John Barlow, Member of Parliament for Foothills
- b) Cardston Council post regarding Strychnine Update

J. NEXT MEETING – September 3, 2025

K. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Minutes of the
Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9
May 28, 2025

Present: Chair Anna Welsch, Councillor Tony Bruder, Councillor Jim Welsch, Members Mark Zoratti and Martin Puch, and Frank Welsch.

Also Present: CAO Roland Milligan, Agricultural Fieldman Shane Poulsen, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Chair Anna Welsch opened the meeting at 1:30 pm.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councillor Jim Welsch

25/011

Moved that agenda for May 28, 2025 be amended to include:

Business Arising

- Wildlife Predation Identification

New Business

- Blue Weed on Therriault Dam
- Drought Preparedness

AND THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

C. MINUTES

Councillor Tony Bruder

25/012

Moved that the minutes of March 3, 2025, be approved as presented.

Carried

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Provincial Resolutions

- Still not available, will try again for the July ASB Meeting.

b) Agricultural and Environmental Service Board Strategic and Operational Plan 2025-2029

- Will be amended as discussed and brought back to a future ASB meeting for approval.
- ASB would like to see more opportunities for workshops for ranchers in the area. Mark Zoratti will bring information regarding costs and timelines to the speaking session for the meeting in July.

- c) Calgary Stampede Attendees
 - Frank Welsch and Jim Welsch (plus guests) are attending.
- d) Wild Turkeys
 - No changes yet as to compensation for wild turkey damage.
- e) Bear Safety Workshop
 - ASB is requesting that a bear safety workshop be arranged for the public
 - Councillor Bruder has been in contact with Jeff Bechtal.
- f) Wildlife Predation Identification Training
 - Anna Welsch is looking for information on training to become a wildlife predation specialist, unsure if it is similar to BC, where a rancher can get the training and be able to identify a wildlife kill on another property.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F. 2025 AES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Frank Welsch

25/013

Moved to accept for information the departmental reports from the Agricultural Fieldman for April, and May 2025.

Carried

G. WEED NOTICE

ASB Fieldman stated he needed to write the letter on MD letterhead and would come into the office for addresses. Administration reminded him that if he had a list of names, administration could compile the needed addresses.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. For Action

2. For Information

Councillor Tony Bruder

25/014

Moved that the following be received as information:

- a) Women's Grazing School in Twin Butte - July 17 – 19, 2025
- b) Managing Wild Boar Farms

Carried

I. NEW BUSINESS

a) ALUS Update

The ALUS Update for May 2025 was reviewed and discussed.

b) Policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation

Discussion took place regarding possible changes to policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation, especially regarding farming practices and losing road allowances for the MD.

Martin Puch

25/015

Moved that the changes to Policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation be tabled to the ASB meeting in July, 2025.

Carried

c) Blue Weed on Therriault Dam

ASB mentioned the amount of blue weed on the Therriault Dam, AES Manager is aware and has crews at that location annually.

d) Drought Discussion

Mark Zorratti

25/016

Moved that ASB recommend to Council to declare an agricultural disaster due to MD water shortages and drought concerns.

Carried

J. CLOSED SESSION

K. NEXT MEETING – July 2, 2025 at 1:30 pm

L. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Tony Bruder

25/017

Moved to adjourn the meeting, the time being 3:33 pm.

Carried

ASB Chairperson

ASB Secretary

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

Agricultural Service Board



Municipal District of Pincher Creek

www.mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

Serving Our Community Since 1946

Pincher Creek Municipal Airport - 1001 Twp Rd 7-0

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VISION - Healthy And Productive Land & Water Resources For The Benefit Of Our Citizens.

MISSION:

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek #9 is committed to promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, & protection of our agricultural & ecological resources, with a view to improve long-term economic outlook for our citizens.

VALUES:

Economic and Ecological Health

The ASB will assist our agricultural citizens in achieving optimum agricultural production & long-term profitability, while promoting protection & enhancement of land & water resources to all citizens & area visitors, to help achieve our vision.

Continuing Education and Understanding

The ASB will strive for ongoing awareness and education of ASB members, staff, and our citizens, in all aspects of ASB programming, to improve understanding of the land and water management practices necessary to help achieve our vision.

Working Cooperatively and Effectively With Others

The ASB will encourage and engage participation of citizens, neighboring jurisdictions, private industry, other agricultural & environmental organizations, and various provincial & federal government departments to help achieve our vision through reaching out both within and beyond our municipal boundaries.

GOALS & STRATEGIES:

1. Develop and/or facilitate efficient & effective activities/programs supporting our vision.

- Develop/deliver/facilitate programs for sustainable land and water use.
- Develop/deliver/facilitate programs for sound management of weeds, rural pests, & livestock disease.

2. Encourage continuing educational opportunities for ASB members, staff, & citizens supporting our vision.

- Obtain/maintain certification training for Agricultural Fieldmen and staff related to ASB programming.
- Access workshop/conference opportunities for ASB members/staff related to ASB programming.
- Sponsor interested citizens to attend relevant workshops/conferences.
- Subscribe to periodicals that relate to ASB programming.
- Utilize the various forms of mass media as a means to communicate with the larger public concerning ASB vision, mission, values, goals, strategies, and actions.

3. Participate in inter-jurisdictional activities, organizations, & initiatives supporting our vision.

- Membership/active participation in relevant non-government organizations/committees.
- Cooperate with provincial/federal government departments whose mandates coincide with ours, and who represent opportunities for partnership.
- Cooperate with other municipal departments to improve overall municipal cooperation.
- Cooperate with local stakeholder groups whose mandates represent opportunities for partnership.
- Cooperate with industry to better understand how their mandates fit in context of our vision.

4. Encourage and recognize excellence from ASB members, ASB staff, and local citizens in carrying out their responsibilities and/or practices supporting our vision.

- Foster atmosphere of excellence in ASB members/staff, with incentive/recognition of creative, effective, efficient work.
- Challenge our citizens to help the ASB achieve its vision, and recognize those contributions privately and/or publicly.

5. Provide quality equipment & materials for use by ASB staff & local citizens supporting our vision.

- Keep up-to-date, well maintained equipment and supplies for use by ASB members & staff.
- Keep up-to-date, well maintained rental equipment & supplies for purchase or use by our citizens.

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

STRATEGIES: Goal One:

Develop and/or facilitate efficient & effective activities/programs supporting our vision.

- Develop/deliver/facilitate programs for sustainable land and water use.
- Develop/deliver/facilitate programs for sound management of weeds, rural pests, & livestock disease.

Action	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results/Outcomes
Soil Erosion Prevention/Monitoring Soil Conservation Act Awareness and Enforcement	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF/AAF enforcement officers under Soil Conservation Act ○ ASB and DO provide guidance on enforcement ○ Use multimedia awareness campaigns promoting sustainable cropping practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF reports to DO and ASB on erosion events and any enforcement actions recommended to be taken ○ AF reports on multimedia awareness to make citizens aware of the short and long term economic and ecological consequences of soil erosion
Agricultural Service Board Act Enforcement – Sections 9 - 16	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF/AAF designated officers under the ASB Act ○ ASB on advice of AF may recommend MD Council to take private land under supervision, rehabilitation, or reclamation to deal with unchecked weed infestation, soil degradation, or other factors severely limiting productivity of the land or lands adjacent ○ Costs for supervision, rehabilitation, or reclamation are fronted by ASB and subject to appeal can be charged to the landowner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enforcement of these provisions of the ASB Act would only be taken as a last resort on a property with ongoing problems as described ○ Goal in a potential enforcement situation would be to enter into a voluntary agreement with the landowner to remediate the problems themselves to prevent follow through by the ASB under the Act
Southwest Alberta Conservation Partnership (SACP) between the ASB's from the MD's of Pincher Creek, Willow Creek, & Ranchland, plus Public Lands and Fish & Wildlife Divisions of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approx 12 meetings per year rotated b/w MD's to direct SACP activities ○ Review on SACP program direction from ASB as required ○ SACP Coordinator carries out scheduled activities ○ Funding for SACP Coordinator from AESA program; support funding from SACP partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long term benefits of dealing with conservation issues regionally and proactively ○ AF and/or SACP coordinator report detailed SACP updates at ASB meetings
AARD Crop Production, Weed, Pest, Disease, & Climate Monitoring	Ongoing – bulk of work during summer months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF/AAF and designated staff may assist with or carry out surveys in cooperation with AARD and/or Ag. Canada officials ○ Reports may be shared with ASB/media/AARD/Ag Canada ○ Cost shared under ASB grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May assist local producers in accessing provincial or federal disaster relief or other farm support programs ○ Provides a regional/provincial picture for ASB, citizens, and AARD to address these issues ○ Continue exploration and monitoring of "wet blade" weed & brush control technology on large-acreage plots established in 2008 and 2009
Assistance With Agriculture Canada and Alberta Shelterbelt Tree Program	Tree Distribution: May Ongoing - Assistance to Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF facilitates delivery of shelterbelt trees for local citizens; ASB covers freight ○ Info on proper tree establishment and maintenance distributed by AF and AAF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shelterbelt trees protect against erosion, retain moisture, and add other value to the landscape both economically and ecologically ○ Encourage citizens to plant/establish/maintain trees
Empty Pesticide Container Collection Site Maintenance	Ongoing – bulk of work during summer months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AAF to ensure clean and well maintained temporary site at Pincher Airport and deliver containers to main facility at Cowley Landfill as required – approx. 5 – 10 times/season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities are expected to be well maintained, clean and orderly at all times

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

Action	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results/Outcomes
Weed Control Act – Awareness and Enforcement	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF/AAF enforcement officers under Alberta Weed Control Act and inspect local private and public lands ASB Members provide guidance on enforcement Use multimedia awareness campaigns on integrated weed management practices Weed Inspector (WI) first point of contact for rural residents for weed awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF reports to DO & ASB on weed inspections and any enforcement actions recommended to be taken AF/AAF/WI encourage citizens in proactive integrated weed management Multimedia awareness designed to make citizens aware of the short and long term economic and ecological consequences of unmanaged invasive plants
Restricted and Noxious Weed Management Program	April – October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAF daily crew supervision/direction/training in consultation with AF AF coordinates purchase of herbicides and equipment with assistance of AAF AF coordinates/manages GIS data collected by AF/AAF/WI & field crews Related equipment & associated operational & maintenance costs including herbicide, fuel, and safety Premixed herbicides sold to rural landowners for Restricted/Noxious weed control as per AB Env. criteria AF coordinates sponsorship of Ag. Canada Biocontrol research plots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out ongoing, effective Restricted and Noxious weed management on all municipal lands including local roads and gravel areas, municipal reserves, and watercourses Maintain ongoing GIS database for area weed infestations AF to report on progress to DO & ASB as required with input from AAF/WI
Roadside Brush Spraying	August or September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAF plus designated seasonal staff in consultation with PW staff Related equipment & associated operational & maintenance costs including herbicide, fuel, and safety (refer to Goal 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accomplished through dialogue with MD Public Works department to facilitate removal of roadside brush species that constitute a problem, particularly related to winter snow management
Seed Cleaning Plant Inspections and Advisory to Co-op SCP Board	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAF to inspect, license, and monitor local permanent and mobile seed cleaning plants Designated ASB members sit on local co-op SCP Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and protection of integrity of local seed cleaning, which is vital to preventative weed, insect pest, and crop disease management
Agricultural Pests Act – Awareness and Enforcement	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF/AAF enforcement officers under Agricultural Pests Act AF/AAF require certification to distribute vertebrate toxicants Related pesticides, equipment & operational/maintenance costs including fuel and safety (refer to Goal 5) ASB Members provide guidance on enforcement AF/AAF use multimedia awareness campaigns on integrated pest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF monitors and reports to DO & ASB on pest inspections and infestation levels, plus any enforcement actions recommended to be taken AF/AAF to assist citizens in integrated management of agricultural and rural pests Highly variable annually due to rise and fall of specific pests such as grasshoppers, ground squirrels, coyotes, etc Multimedia awareness make citizens aware of economic and ecological consequences of unmanaged agricultural pests
Animal Health Act Involvement	Ongoing Contingent on direction/agreement w/ provincial/federal livestock disease control officials & ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of expenses necessary to control livestock disease outbreaks in our municipality as outlined in the Animal Health Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly irregular but always potential for outbreaks to occur Forecasting costs difficult until outbreak is confirmed and agreements with provincial and federal officials are reached

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

Program Administration, Budgets, Strategic and Operational Plan, Legal Requirements, & Safety	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF/AAF/DO/ASB Reports to ASB/AARD or other agencies as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective, efficient, legal, and safe administration of all ASB programs and staff
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STRATEGIES: **Goal Two:**

Encourage continuing educational opportunities for ASB members/staff, & citizens supporting our vision.

- Obtain/maintain certification training for Agricultural Fieldmen and staff related to ASB programming.
- Access workshop/conference opportunities for ASB members/staff related to ASB programming.
- Sponsor interested citizens to attend relevant workshops/conferences.
- Subscribe to periodicals that relate to ASB programming.
- Utilize the various forms of mass media as a means to communicate with the public at large concerning our ASB vision, mission, values, goals, strategies, and actions.

Action	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results/Outcomes
Agricultural Fieldman (AF), Assistant Agricultural Fieldman (AAF), and Seasonal Crew Certification Training and Recertification	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF/AAF and staff access training materials and courses that allow them to retain certification in areas such as pesticide application, sales, and usage, plus health/safety AF/AAF & designated staff require First Aid certification Training, safety, delegate fees, travel & subsistence, stationery budgets required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification results in improved technical expertise and professionalism in staff Ongoing technical updates allow staff to remain current Allows ASB to meet legislated requirements for safety, pesticide application, sales, and usage, etc.
ASB Member and Staff participation in ASB related meetings, conferences, tours, workshops, etc.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF/AAF/staff/ASB Members as relevant in consultation with DO/ASB Training, safety, delegate fees, travel & subsistence, stationery budgets required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yields improved technical expertise, professionalism, and understanding of issues related to ASB vision and mission in staff and ASB members Ongoing updates allow staff and ASB members to remain current and involved ASB Members and staff expected to give reports on results at regular ASB Meetings Materials and info relevant to citizens shared (multimedia)
Citizen participation in ASB related meetings, conferences, tours, workshops, etc.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF/AAF in consultation with DO/ASB Members may recommend to sponsor citizens to relevant events (delegate fees only); may simply encourage participation Training, safety, delegate fees, travel & subsistence, stationery budgets required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yields improved technical expertise and understanding of issues related to ASB vision and mission in local citizens Ongoing updates allow citizens to remain current and involved Citizens expected to write reports on sponsored events Materials and info relevant to citizens shared (multimedia)
Relevant Organizational Memberships and Subscriptions To Periodicals	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memberships & Subscriptions May be paper or online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yields improved technical expertise, professionalism, and understanding of issues related to ASB vision and mission in staff and ASB members Ongoing updates allow staff and ASB members to remain current and involved ASB Members and staff expected to give reports on results at regular ASB Meetings Materials and info relevant to citizens shared (multimedia)

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

STRATEGIES: Goal Three:

Participate in inter-jurisdictional activities, organizations, & initiatives supporting our vision.

- Membership/active participation in relevant non-government organizations/committees.
- Cooperate with provincial/federal government departments whose mandates coincide with ours, and who represent opportunities for partnership.
- Cooperate with other municipal departments to improve overall municipal cooperation.
- Cooperate with local stakeholder groups whose mandates represent opportunities for partnership.
- Cooperate with industry to better understand how their mandates fit into the context of our vision.

Action	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results/Outcomes
Southwest Alberta Conservation Partnership (SACP) between the ASB's from the MD's of Pincher Creek, Willow Creek, & Ranchland, plus Public Lands and Fish & Wildlife Divisions of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approx 12 meetings per year rotated b/w MD's to direct SACP activities ○ Review on SACP program direction from ASB as required ○ SACP Coordinator Jeff Porter carries out scheduled activities ○ Funding for SACP Coordinator from Environmental Stream; support funding from SACP partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long term benefits of dealing with conservation issues regionally and proactively ○ AF and/or SACP Coordinator report detailed SACP updates at ASB meetings
Support local citizen-led initiatives such as local watershed-based community groups who work towards sustainable land and water management in our area	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most support through SACP Coordinator Jeff Porter ○ Occasional supply support for group activities such as the PCWG Blueweed Blitz ○ Occasional AF/AAF participation in meetings and tours to support groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF and/or SACP Coordinator report detailed SACP updates at ASB meetings Groups will continue to form and remain stable/productive
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) – Provincial	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involves paid membership and participation in provincial AAAF-related business through executive or committee work ○ Facilitate annual AAAF business meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF reports to DO/ASB on AAAF participation ○ Allows staff to broaden their approach on issues from the local to the provincial level ○ Provide access to relevant Alberta expertise & materials
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) – South Region	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involves paid membership and participation in regional AAAF-related business; usually 2 meetings/year ○ South AAAF host provincial conference every 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF reports to DO/ASB on South AAAF participation ○ Allows staff to broaden their approach on issues from the local to the regional level ○ Provide access to Southern Alberta expertise & materials
Crown Managers Partnership (CMP) including Crown Invasive Plant Network (CIPN)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB Chair/designate attends CMP meetings with AF ○ AF/AAF sits on CIPN - Usually 1 meeting per year plus conference calls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal of CMP is to foster management continuity within "Crown of the Continent" (BC/Alberta/Montana) ○ ASB Chair and AF/AAF report to DO/ASB as required
Cooperative Weed Mgmt Areas (CWMA's) Participation & Support	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF/AAF/staff in consultation with DO/ASB ○ Currently participating in Southwest Alberta CWMA (Waterton Area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal of current CWMA is to foster management continuity within "Crown of the Continent" (BC/Alberta/Montana) ○ Chair/AF reports-ASB meetings
Alberta Invasive Plants Council (AIPC)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF keeps aware of AIPC activities and materials ○ MD of PC is a founding member of AIPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF reports on relevant AIPC info to DO/ASB
Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta (IVMAA)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF/AAF may attend IVMAA Conference (March) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IVMAA <i>Industry Standards & Good Practices</i> ○ Access to expertise of public & private vegetation control specialists from around Alberta

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

Action	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results/Outcomes
Inter-municipal Cooperation	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B/w MD's of Willow Creek, Ranchland, Cardston, Piikani Nation, Kainai Nation, Town of Pincher Creek, Village of Cowley, & Crowsnest Pass on ASB issues of mutual concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to address ASB-related issues on a regional basis across political boundaries Opportunities for partnership
Involvement With Federal and Provincial Government Depts.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, Alberta Parks Involves contract weed control work on provincial lands as approved by the ASB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract work outlined in ASB Budget and subsequent reports Improved weed control on provincial lands Improved communication with WLNP weed strategies Opportunities for partnership
Involvement with Industry	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF/AAF meet with industry representatives (such as Shell Waterton Gas Plant, TransCanada Pipelines, Canadian Pacific Railway, Dow AgroSciences, etc.) to discuss issues like weed control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved weed control and general land stewardship on industry-controlled lands Improved communication with industry on how our mandate coincides with their mandates Opportunities for partnership
Regular and Special ASB Meetings	Monthly or at discretion of DO/ASB Chairman in consultation with the Agricultural Fieldman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB Members, AF, AAF, and/or invited guests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packages delivered to ASB members on Friday prior to meeting whenever possible Written reports as required Chance to share info on ASB-related matters Adopted ASB Minutes to AARD
ASB South Region Conference	October/November or as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB members from across Southern Alberta meet on issues of mutual concern; location rotates around Southern Alberta annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regional forum & process (through South Region ASB Committee) for issues of local/regional concern to be brought forward as ASB Resolutions; stronger message to related stakeholders
ASB Provincial Conference	January/February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB members from across Alberta meet on issues of mutual concern; Edmonton Hosted b/w five AAAF regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides forum & process (through Provincial ASB Committee) for issues of provincial concern brought forward as ASB Resolutions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

STRATEGIES: Goal Four:

Encourage and recognize excellence from ASB members, ASB staff, and local citizens in carrying out their responsibilities and/or practices supporting our vision.

- Foster atmosphere of excellence in ASB members/staff; incentive/recognition of creative, effective, efficient work.
- Challenge our citizens to help the ASB achieve its vision, and recognize those contributions privately and/or publicly.

Action	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results/Outcomes
Recognize quality work of ASB Members, Staff, and Citizens – may be verbally or in writing; personally or publicly if appropriate	Ongoing; Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB Members and all staff need to make this effort at all times during the year ○ May require media outreach from advertising budget ○ May involve flexible work schedules or bonuses if performance warrants additional consideration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All members and staff should represent the ASB in a positive light whether on or off duty ○ ASB culture of excellence ○ Improved morale across organization and in community ○ Positive profile increase for ASB
Regular and Special ASB Meetings	Monthly or at discretion of DO/ASB Chairman in consultation with the Agricultural Fieldman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB Members, AF, AAF, and/or invited guests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieve increased ASB program relevance, efficiency and effectiveness through discussion and consensus ○ Recognize quality work of ASB Board members, Fieldmen, and staff as necessary ○ Constructive, respectful feedback on areas of concern
Calgary Stampede Farm Family Award Nomination	January (selection) July (family attends Stampede)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB members nominate an outstanding farm family from the municipality according to award criteria ○ AF forwards information on the family to the Calgary Stampede organization ○ Representative from ASB attends as a delegate to the Stampede with the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition of outstanding community participation of local farm operations ○ Positive profile increase for ASB
MD Annual Weekend BBQ and Campout – Syncline Camp Area	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB members and all staff as available to attend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved MD staff morale and sense of camaraderie ○ Often ASB seasonal staff are unable to attend
ASB Seasonal Staff Wrap-Up Party	Late August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF, AAF, and staff ○ Either dinner out or BBQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved ASB staff morale and sense of camaraderie
MD Christmas Party	December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB Members and all staff as available to attend ○ AF generally delivers thanks on behalf of the ASB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved staff morale and sense of camaraderie ○ Recognition of outstanding contributions of ASB members, staff, and citizens who support the ASB in achieving the vision ○ Positive profile increase for ASB

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

STRATEGIES: Goal Five:

Provide quality equipment & materials for use by ASB staff & local citizens supporting our vision.

- Keep up-to-date, well maintained equipment and supplies for use by ASB members & staff.
- Keep up-to-date, well maintained rental equipment & supplies for purchase or use by our citizens.

Action	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results/Outcomes
<p><u>Portable Livestock Equipment</u> Rental – Squeeze, Chute, Corral Panels, Electronic Scale, Hoof Trim Table; Rental Rates \$50/day +GST Weekends Charged As 1 Day \$20 discount if returned clean</p>	<p>Ongoing (Rentals) Purchase/Construction/Repairs (Ongoing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purchased through ASB Capital Equipment Replacement Program (CERP) ○ Parts and repairs budgets ○ AF/AAF research equipment purchase & replacement with review of DO/ASB ○ AF/AAF and designated staff take bookings and arrange repairs as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF tracks equipment rental stats; assists DO/ASB in CERP ○ Equipment always in good working order ○ AF, AAF and designated staff ensure renters are trained in safe and proper usage of equipment ○ Renters expected to return equipment clean to prevent spread of livestock disease between farms
<p><u>ASB Crew Weed Control Equipment</u> 5 Trucks with 600L Spot Sprayers, 1 Mule with 300L Spot Sprayer, 1 Quad with 50L Spot sprayer, 1 Truck Mounted Boom and 2000L Sprayer with 2 product Raven Injection systems, 5 Backpack Sprayers, 2 Power Brush/Weed Cutters and all related safety equipment.</p>	<p>April – October (Usage) Purchase/Construction/Repairs (Ongoing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB Trucks purchased through ASB CERP ○ Sprayer parts/repairs budgets ○ Truck maintenance budget ○ AF/AAF research equipment purchase & replacement with review of DO & ASB ○ AAF arranges repairs ○ Safety equipment (details in ASB Safety Manual) through ASB safety budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equipment operated by ASB staff (AF/AAF/staff) ○ AAF tracks equipment condition throughout season; ○ AF/AAF/DO assist ASB members in CERP decisions ○ Spraying and safety equipment always in good working order ○ All staff fully trained and signed off for working with all spraying and safety equipment and related materials such as herbicides and adjuvants
<p>ASB Rural Pest Management Equipment and Supplies Coyote control toxicants (1080) 4 Skunk Live Traps – no rental fee; renter charged replacement cost of trap if not returned in good condition within 1 month 2 - Grasshopper Bran Spreader 1 Truck Mounted 1 Quad Mounted \$50/day plus GST Weekends Charged As 1 Day</p>	<p>March – November (Rentals and Sales) Purchase/Repairs (Ongoing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bran Spreaders purchased through ASB CERP ○ AF/AAF research equipment & supplies purchase & replacement with review of DO & ASB ○ Other equipment/supplies purchased/repairs from parts and repairs budgets ○ AF/AAF/designated staff/ take bookings and arrange repairs as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF tracks equipment rental and sales statistics; assists DO & ASB members in CERP ○ Equipment and supplies always in good working order ○ AF/AAF/designated staff ensure renters are trained in safe and proper usage of equipment ○ Renters expected to return equipment in good condition
<p>ASB Office Technology & Various Office Furnishings</p>	<p>Ongoing (Usage) Purchase/Repairs (Ongoing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purchased through ASB CERP ○ Parts and repairs budgets ○ AF/AAF research equipment purchase & replacement with review of ASB members ○ AF/AAF arrange repairs as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF/AAF track equipment condition; assists DO/ASB members in CERP ○ AF/AAF/staff obtain training in efficient use
<p>ASB Shelterbelt Tree Planter Free Rental; First Come/First Serve</p>	<p>May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purchased through ASB CERP ○ Parts and repairs budgets ○ AF/AAF research equipment purchase & replacement with review of ASB members ○ AF/AAF/designated staff take bookings and arrange repairs as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF tracks usage; assists DO/ASB members in CERP ○ AAF ensures planter in good working order ○ AF/AAF designated staff ensure renters are trained in safe and proper usage of equipment ○ Renters expected to return equipment in good condition

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

MUNICIPAL CHARACTERISTICS, CHALLENGES, AND HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PROGRAMS:

The 2011 Federal Census reports our MD population at 3,158 people living in 1,536 private dwellings. Total municipal land base is approximately 860,500 acres.

We continue to note increases in the numbers of country-residential landholders, mainly through subdivision, in areas near the Oldman River Dam, Gladstone Valley, Waterton Lakes National Park, and the Burmis/Lundbreck corridor. The ASB's relationship with these citizens is important, as they are "stewards of their land" along with their more traditionally agricultural neighbours.

Awareness, promotion, & demonstration of economically & environmentally sustainable land and water use practices continue to be the top priority for our ASB, and influence all our subsequent activities. We are proud to be a part of the Southwest Alberta Conservation Partnership (along with the ASB's from the MD's of Willow Creek and Ranchland). Local citizen-led initiatives such as the Drywood/Yarrow and Pincher Creek Watershed Groups, which developed in part from encouragement and technical support from our ASB, are making a positive impact towards sustainable range and water management in our area.

Soil erosion from wind and water continues to be a major concern in our jurisdiction, although area producers have taken measures to reduce these problems considerably over the past two decades, through adoption of conservation farming practices, and sustainable range and water management techniques. **While our first focus is to prevent erosion from occurring through education and awareness campaigns aimed at our citizens, we will use enforcement provisions afforded us under Alberta's Soil Conservation Act to deal with emergency erosion issues in our district as appropriate.**

Our ASB believes that invasive, non-native weeds are a large and growing threat to agricultural production and ecological integrity within our district. Their presence on the landscape is often a result of management techniques that favour their introduction and proliferation. Our ASB will employ an integrated approach to invasive weed issues within our district, focusing on prevention, early detection and rapid response to new or emerging weed infestations, and long term management and containment of existing weed infestations. We maintain the inspection and licensing of our local cooperative seed cleaning plant (on which we have representation on their managing board), as well as inspecting and licensing mobile plants operating in our district. The purchase of weed-free forage and grass seed by individuals and industry is actively encouraged. Multi-media awareness and education campaigns targeted to both citizens and visitors on prevention and management of invasive weeds are crucial components of our overall efforts. Inspections and facilitation of control measures for weeds designated under Alberta's Weed Control Act and municipal bylaw are carried out on private land, municipal highways & grid roads, provincial highways, 5 hamlets, perimeters of the Oldman & Waterton Reservoirs, provincial parks & recreation areas, Canadian Pacific Railway, Shell-Waterton Gas Plant (including associated pipelines), provincial/municipal/private gravel pits, municipal and environmental reserves, Forestry and Public Lands, and our major river systems & their many tributaries. **While our first focus is to prevent or minimize effects of invasive weeds from occurring through education and awareness campaigns aimed at our citizens and the visiting public, we will use enforcement provisions afforded us under Alberta's Weed Control Act to deal with weed issues in our area as appropriate.**

Rural pests and crop diseases are issues for our area citizens. **Our ASB will strive to educate & inform our citizens on sustainable management strategies for agricultural/rural pests & diseases, employing the enforcement provisions afforded us under Alberta's Agricultural Pests Act as appropriate.**

Portable, specialized livestock handling equipment has been historically made available by the ASB to our producers. The livestock industry is moving toward better disease prevention and management, as well as achieving a more traceable product from "gate to plate". **The ASB will continue to facilitate provision of equipment to our livestock sector that assists in the shared goal of economic and environmental sustainability. We will also work with provincial and federal livestock disease management officials as required under Alberta's Animal Health Act.**

MD of PINCHER CREEK ASB STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN – 2011-2013

The loss of Alberta Agriculture's district offices & staffing over the 1990's added (by default) extra demands on the ASB from our citizens for many services formerly provided by provincial officials. These include:

- Referral and/or access to agricultural/environmental specialists
- Representation for our area on agricultural/environmental issues to all levels of government & industry
- Agronomic and horticultural advice including varietal selection, fertility, diseases/insects, etc
- Environmental, crop pest, and crop production monitoring data for provincial and federal governments
- Assistance in accessing and completing provincial and federal government program forms and information
- General agricultural and environmental education and information availability to students & general public
- Interviews and articles for local/regional/national media on various agricultural and environmental issues

Recent enhancements to the ASB funding program through Alberta Agriculture & Food are viewed by our ASB as a long overdue renewal of the unique partnership between ASB's and the provincial government. This renewed and symbiotic relationship is helping us somewhat to address the services outlined above. **Our ASB will continue to help develop the partnership between our two levels of government, in conjunction with other organizations, jurisdictions, and industry, in an effort to bring the best quality agricultural and environmental services to our municipal citizens.**

ASB STRUCTURE

- 1 Elected Councilors (voting)
- 4 Agricultural Citizens (voting) - appointed by M.D. Council
- 1 Alberta Agriculture & Food Representative (advisory, appointed by the ASB)
- 1 Director of Operations (advisory, appointed by the M.D. Council)
- 1 Agricultural Fieldman (advisory, appointed by the M.D. Council)
- 1 Assistant Agricultural Fieldman (advisory, appointed by the ASB)

The Board elects a Chairman from their membership annually during organizational meetings in October, or as needed. Agricultural citizen members are appointed annually, with a 5-year term.

Current Members Of The Agricultural Service Board

(present as of December 21, 2012)

Helen Cyr	Council member
Dallis McGlynn	Producer Member
Tony Bruder	Producer Member
John Lawson	Producer Member
Susan Vogelaar	Producer Member – current ASB Chairman
Jim Hansen	Alberta Agriculture & Food (Advisory – Non Voting)
Leo Reedyk	Director of Operations [DO] (Advisory – Non Voting)

The Agricultural Fieldman and Assistant Ag Fieldman manage ASB operations from their base, which is located at the Pincher Creek Municipal Airport. Additional staff is hired to carry out the ASB programs. Typical positions have included: Roadside Sprayer Operator, ASB Yardperson, Municipal Weed Inspectors, Restricted/Noxious Spot Weed Control Crew, and Southwest Alberta Conservation Partnership Coordinator.

FUNDING: The ASB receives funding for programs from the following sources:

A	2009 Annual Alberta Agriculture & Food ASB Operating Grant	\$ 159,549
B	2009 Other Revenues (equipment rentals, sales of goods & services, reserve transfers, used equipment sales, other provincial grants for other jurisdictions)	\$ 125,485
C	2009 Contribution - M.D. Property Taxes (3,158 residents) (varies - dependent upon revenues from B - From 2009 Actual ASB Operations Amounts To \$93.50 per MD resident)	\$ 309,395
D	Total 2009 Actual ASB Program Expenses	\$ 594,429

Other Relevant Documents (Contact Agricultural Fieldman for Copies):

ASB Budget 2010 ASB Safety Manual ASB MD9 History 1946 – 2009

This Application Form may be signed by an elected official or by another person if authorized by municipal council to sign and a designated officer acting alone if so authorized by council. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development requires either two signatures or one authorized signature and a seal.

Print name and title of second authorized signature

Shane assumes the role of Agricultural Fieldman in 2012, after a long & successful run as the ASB's roadside boom sprayer operator (since 1985), and a short but successful run as Assistant Ag Fieldman. He brings a wealth of local area knowledge & practical technical expertise to his new role with the ASB. A longtime resident of the Cowley-Lundbreck region, Shane and his family are now residing in Pincher Creek.

Vacant at the moment, hire by end of January 2013.

We are also part of the *Southwestern Alberta Conservation Partnership* which is run by Jeff Porter, administered by the MD of Ranchlands, and also includes the MD of Willow Creek.

Jeff's phone number is 403-601-6711

Municipal District of Pincher Creek Agricultural Services Contact Information

Shane Poulsen, Agricultural Fieldman

Office phone: 403-627-4151 Cell phone: 403-339-8741 Fax: 403-627-3075

Email: spoulsen@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

Mailing address: Box 279

Pincher Creek, Alberta
T0K 1W0

Municipal Administration Office Contact Information

Leo Reedyk, Director of Operations

Office: 403-627-3130 Fax: 403-627-5070

Email: leoreedyk@mdpincercreek.ab.ca

Mailing Address: Same as above



CORPORATE POLICY

C-AES-001

TITLE: LICENSE OF OCCUPATION

Approved by Council
Revised by Council
Revised by Council
Revised by Council

Date: April 28, 2009
Date: October 13, 2015
Date: September 22, 2020
Date: September 14, 2021

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair and consistent policy for the use and occupation of undeveloped road allowances in the MD of Pincher Creek pursuant to Licences of Occupation with adjacent landowners.

POLICY STATEMENT

The MD of Pincher Creek Council recognizes that there are some benefits derived from agricultural pursuits on undeveloped road allowances.

DEFINITIONS

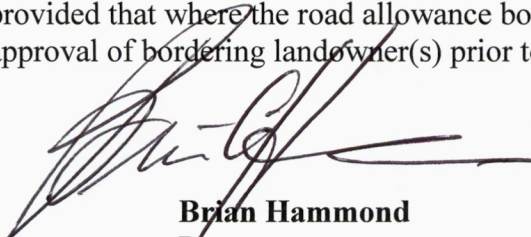
1. For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a. "MD" shall mean and refer to the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9.

FEES


Fees are established per half mile or portion thereof, as per Policy C-FIN-529 – Fees and Charges.

CONDITIONS

Municipal road allowances, not presently required for road construction, may be leased under a "license of occupation", Appendix B, by the landowner or interested party for agricultural use provided that where the road allowance borders two or more landowners, the applicant has approval of bordering landowner(s) prior to application, Appendix A.



Brian Hammond
Reeve



Troy A. MacCulloch
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
APPLICATION FOR LICENSE OF OCCUPATION

Date: _____

I/We _____ of _____

Print

Address

Hereby apply for a permit to occupy:

a) The following described road allowance

b) The property described as follows:

for _____ purposes.

I control the following lands:

<i>Portion</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Township</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Meridian</i>
----------------	----------------	-----------------	--------------	-----------------

I/WE have reached an agreement with the occupants of lands adjoining said road allowance/property as to the erection and maintenance of line fences adjoining said road allowance. I/WE agree to be bound by the terms and conditions to the attached License of Occupation form. I/WE have included the prescribed fee established per half mile or portion thereof, as per Policy C-FIN-529 – Fees and Charges for this calendar year.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____

CONSENT OF ADJOINING OWNER OR OCCUPANT

I/We _____ hereby consent to the granting of a permit to
_____ to occupy the above described road allowance/property.

Signature

Print

This personal information is being collected under the authority of the MD of Pincher Creek No. 9 as it directly relates to and is necessary for operating a program or activity of the MD. This collection is authorized by section 4 of the Protection and Privacy Act. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact the Privacy Officer at 403-627-3130, MD Box 279, Pincher Creek, Alberta T0K 1W0 / 1037 Herron Ave / P 403-627-3130 / F 403-627-5070 / info@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9

LICENSE OF OCCUPATION

Date: _____

Between the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 (the Lessor) and _____ (the Lessee).

In consideration of the receipt of a license fee as established per half mile or portion thereof, as per Policy C-FIN-529 – Fees and Charges and subject to the terms and conditions stated below, the Lessor hereby grants a license of occupation to the Lessee on the following described road allowance(s):

_____ for agricultural purposes (e.g. livestock grazing or crop production) .

Terms and Conditions:

1. The Lessee hereby indemnifies and holds harmless the Lessor from any and all claims or causes of action, including personal injury, death, or property damage brought by the Lessee or his/her agent that may arise or result from or in connection with the Lessee's use of the leased land under this license. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Lessee indemnifies and holds harmless the Lessor from any and all claims that may arise as a result of use of the leased land by the Lessee for grazing of livestock.
2. The Lessee shall obtain general public liability insurance of not less than two million (\$2,000,000) dollars for claims brought as a result of personal injury, death, or property damage, occasioned as a result of the use of the road allowance by third parties, provided that such use was authorized by the Lessee and occasioned by or in connection with actions or responsibilities, including the grazing of livestock, of the Lessee.
3. The Lessee shall be responsible for managing and control of noxious and other weeds on the leased lands caused by or in connection with the Lessee's use of the leased lands.
4. The Lessee shall be responsible for prevention and repair of any erosion to soil or waterways caused by or in connection with the Lessee's use of the leased lands.
5. The Lessee may erect and maintain fences or other structures reasonably required in connection with their use of the leased lands under this license, provided that such fences or structures shall not unreasonably impede or prevent legal access by the public and are approved in advance.
6. The Lessee shall not prohibit or unreasonably restrict public access and passage over the road allowance, but may from time to time impose conditions or restrictions on access and use where such conditions are temporary in nature and reasonably necessary or appropriate to the Lessee's operations and responsibilities under this agreement. The Lessee may install a sign to indicate to the public conditions of access.
7. Your new License of Occupation will remain in effect, provided that applicable fees are paid, as well as providing notice to the MD of Pincher Creek when circumstances change with respect to the License of Occupation (i.e. change of ownership *of either the lessee or the consenting adjacent landowner*, no longer require the use of the road allowance, etc.).

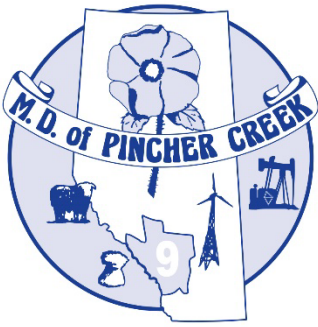
8. This license may be revoked or terminated for cause by the Lessor upon three day's written notice to the Lessee, and the Lessee shall immediately cease using and remove any livestock from the road allowance, and this agreement shall be terminated. The Lessee shall have no claim in connection with rightful termination by the Lessor under this section.

Lessee

Lessee

Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9

Shane Poulsen, Agricultural Fieldman



1037 Herron Ave.
PO Box 279
Pincher Creek, AB
T0K 1W0
p. 403.627.3130
f. 403.627.5070
info@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca
www.mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

June 23, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6
AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Canada
heath.macdonald@agr.gc.ca

Re: Municipal Agricultural Disaster in the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9

Dear Ministers;

As we are sure you are aware of the mounting drought related situation facing the agriculture community in Alberta, we would like to inform you that Council for the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 (MD) motioned on June 10, 2025, to declare a Municipal Agricultural Disaster due to drought.

This declaration comes after a presentation from Administration to Council, detailing the many aspects of what is and isn't a disaster in the municipality. Current conditions within the MD are specifically dire for one of our biggest agricultural industries, livestock. The recommendation as presented is supported by the Agriculture Service Board and all producers in the municipality involved in the raising of livestock.

There are almost no areas in our highly variable municipality that are not showing a lack of soil moisture reserves, with moisture 6" down at poor for 75% or more of our MD. After a few years of similar weather, more than 50% of our livestock producers are already short of water at this point early in the season. Most of the rest will be in a similar situation as the summer goes on, as we are moving into what is usually our 'dry' season.

While some timely rains and good farming practices have made our Wheat and Barley crop just slightly below average relative to normal, high temperatures and overall lack of moisture from the beginning of May have made these crops much less than what they could be. While it's still early in the season, a significant percentage of our (early seeded) barley crop has headed out, with the possibility of just an average amount of silage shrinking every day for these crops, even with rain. They might still produce an average amount of bushels but with noticeably uneven growth stages within fields this is increasingly unlikely. A looming lack of local feed makes this important.

What has been consistently poor and getting worse in ratings has been hay, pasture and range conditions. With a very low snowpack, early thaw, low spring rainfall overall, the result has been poor quality and quantity of vegetation on these areas. The MD operates dams from the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PRFA) era. The water levels in these dams are far below normal due to a very limited snowpack and run-off. Feed availability will be low, and some will either sell animals or pull animals off summer pasture and start feeding on what are limited supplies of hay earlier than usual. Low moisture has also impacted availability of livestock watering options for many, with hauled water being the only option in some cases.

We realize that while this declaration does not trigger increased access to funding, it is meant to provide an indication of the severity of the situation facing the MD cattle producers.

We appreciate your attention to this situation and the impact it has on our local agricultural community and the greater agricultural economy of Alberta.

Yours truly,



Rick Lemire
Reeve, MD of Pincher Creek No.9

cc:

Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Hon. Chelsae Petrovic, MLA Livingstone-McLeod
Hon. John Barlow, MP Foothills
Kara Westerland, RMA President
Agricultural Financial Services Corporation
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen

Condition Statement Tool						
Date		15-May-25				
Municipality		MD of Pincher Creek				
Total Area Impacted		90% of Municipality				
Map Included		No				
Next Report Due		01-Jun-25				
		Ranking	Drought	Excessive Moisture	Floods	Pests
Annuals Impacted (% rated poor)						
Cereals						
	Barley		10%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
	Wheat		10%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Oil Seeds						
	Canola		25%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Others		none				
Perennials Impacted (% rated poor)						
Tame Hay			25%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Tame Pasture			35%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Native Pasture			35%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Other: (please indicate)						
Alfalfa			N/A	N/A	N/A	Alfalfa Weevil
Water for Livestock			80%	N/A	N/A	
Soil Moisture (surface)			5%	N/A	N/A	
Soil Moisture 6"			75%	N/A	N/A	

NOTES: Small but timely rains have kept hopes for crops up but haven't been enough to impact runoff, soil moisture levels at 6", water for livestock or small basin water storage levels. Water for Livestock was already a serious problem in May, with some people hauling water already. More than 75% of dugouts, lakes, sloughs and local (small) reservoirs were at 20 to 50 year lows after snowmelt (end of April). Canola acres are way down, with 2024 seeing the summer/fall heat and lack of moisture cause a significant percentage of the crop to fail. Alfalfa Weevils have been impacting hay yields across the MD for about the last ten years but with this years drought and last five years low rainfall and hay production, the impacts are felt more keenly. It's a little early to spot them yet.

Condition Statement Tool						
Date		01-Jun-25				
Municipality		MD of Pincher Creek				
Total Area Impacted		90% of Municipality				
Map Included		No				
Next Report Due		15-Jun-25				
		Ranking	Drought	Excessive Moisture	Floods	Pests
Annuals Impacted (% rated poor)						
Cereals						
	Barley		25%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
	Wheat		15%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Oil Seeds						
	Canola		15%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Others		none				
Perennials Impacted (% rated poor)						
Tame Hay			45%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Tame Pasture			60%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Native Pasture			65%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Other: (please indicate)						
Alfalfa			N/A	N/A	N/A	Alfalfa Weevils
Water for Livestock			85%	N/A	N/A	
Soil Moisture (surface)			45%	N/A	N/A	
Soil Moisture 6"			85%	N/A	N/A	

NOTES: Water for Livestock has been getting worse and producers are regularly hauling and pumpng water for cattle. More than 75% of dugouts, lakes, sloughs and reservoirs were at 20 to 50 year lows after snowmelt (end of April) and there have been no big precipitation events that would fill them and bring the water table up. Soil moisture at 6 inches is almost non-existent. Barley is starting to head out in about 5% of (early plantings) of crop. Fall crops are at about 25% headed out and less than a foot high in many cases. Hay is fast approaching large scale failure while tame and native pastures are mostly dried out. Alfalfa Weevils haven't been reported as a problem yet but we'll know soon if they are going to be as alfalfa is a week away from blooming in some areas already.

Condition Statement Tool						
Date		15-Jun-25				
Municipality		MD of Pincher Creek				
Total Area Impacted		90% of Municipality				
Map Included		No				
Next Report Due		30-Jun-25				
		Ranking	Drought	Excessive Moisture	Floods	Pests
Annuals Impacted (% rated poor)						
Cereals						
	Barley		45%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
	Wheat		20%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Oil Seeds						
	Canola		20%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Others		none				
Perennials Impacted (% rated poor)						
Tame Hay			45%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Tame Pasture			70%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Native Pasture			75%	N/A	N/A	Grasshoppers
Other: (please indicate)						
Alfalfa			45%	N/A	N/A	Alfalfa Weevils
Water for Livestock			85%	N/A	N/A	
Soil Moisture (surface)			25%	N/A	N/A	
Soil Moisture 6"			85%	N/A	N/A	

NOTES: A rain event on June 12th brought surface soil moisture up in some areas but never got down very far, leaving the six inch soil moisture unchanged. Barley has continued to head out very low to the ground (less than a foot) in many of the earliest seeded crops. Wheat is starting to be stressed out as well but was mostly revived by the rain. Water for Livestock was not helped and mostly has gotten worse. Water hauling is common and pumping is happening wherever they have a source to pump from. More than 75% of dugouts, lakes, sloughs and reservoirs were at 20 to 50 year lows after snowmelt (end of April).

AES, July, 2025

- July 1 – STAT
- July 1 – 31, Summer Weed Program – Prohibited Noxious – please refer to acronyms on page #3.
Spot spraying – SKW has been a focus from the start of the year and will continue to be, with it having done well in known areas, mostly on Provincial Lands. It's already flowering, depending on elevation and moisture, but most has been sprayed so picking and fall spraying will be focussed on unknown areas. **OHW** is blooming as of June 28, in scattered patches in Divisions #1 & #3 & Beaver Mines, mostly, and will be a focus in Castle Provincial Park areas. **NTH & PTH** are starting to bolt on schedule, with both in small amounts but **NTH** being spread over a large area. **DKW** will be scattered in its usual area (sprayed patches of it July of last year), but will mostly be hard to spot until August when we comb the area and pick it. **RKW, SCF & BKW** single patches will be checked at the end of the month, just in case of regrowth. All of these plants are in small amounts, with the exception of one area of **SKW** on the flood plain on the Oldman river. All are easily killed by spraying up to the point of flowering, when they are picked and sprayed.
- July 1 – 31, Summer Weed Program – Roadside spraying – **Sweet Clover** is looking better this year on the Provincial Highways, with scattered plants showing as it flowers. It's a hazard that reduces sightlines for driving but it also hides the ever increasing amount of regulated weeds spread by traffic (plants on the shoulders are brought in by traffic). While doing this, **CT** is getting 'knocked over', as it has mostly bolted and is somewhat visible. This will keep it from going to seed until later but won't kill it, but that is the ultimate goal with this weed. Knock it over to prevent seed set, then kill it in the fall. Noxious Weeds – Roadside spraying – there is an ever increasing amount of scattered plants, most visibly **BW**, but most commonly **YH**, that show up in our ditches. Other than **YH, OD, TB & WC**, which can be done with the Roadside Unit, these weeds require a spot spraying crew to get rid of them, and they are constantly pulling and spraying these as traffic and weather allows. Last year **WC** was early but it's not this year and isn't quite done, and **PS** has been hit by the drought and isn't showing up as much this year yet. We like to spray it along with **OD, TB** will have to wait and do it with **CT** this year. **CM** continues to spread very fast this year and is almost out of control in the Park Lands. **CM, OD, YB & YH** are all out of control in the Forestry area and will take much of the \$40,000 contract dollars to bring back into control on certain areas this year. These species are widespread up there and can be done effectively by boom spraying. **DR** is late again this year and was still being picked and sprayed by July.
- July 1 – 31, Summer Weed Program – Noxious – Spot spraying – As mentioned, some weeds only respond to Spot Spraying. Some, like **SC**, tend to grow in developed areas and are best handled individually. Other reasons are that they need specific herbicides and rates and we are working to eradicate them, so personal attention is required. **BW** would be the best example of this, with it occurring in large amounts and difficult to kill, especially without killing the grass. If boom sprayed, this would result in more damage than good, so we only do that rarely. **LS, DT & HT** are mostly being dealt with by biocontrol, and we will spray small patches that can't support a release of bugs. **CM** is a problem on watercourses and showing up increasingly on roadways but can be boom sprayed there if done early enough. **HC** spring spraying is done, but mapped areas big enough to return to will be revisited in the fall with the intent of eradicating it.
- July 1 – 31, rental equipment, Premix sales (Thursdays), mowing crew still going with 2-4 inch rains getting grass growth moving again – rental equipment has been slow, Premix has been busy.

- July 1 – 31, Alberta Vacant Public Lands contract
- July 1 – 31, Alberta Transportation roadside work, watercourses inspections and control
- July 1 – 31, divisional inspections and roadside control, spot spraying crews on Prohibited Noxious private control and Noxious roadside spot spraying
- July 1 – 31, Alberta Parks spraying for 2025 contract, mostly roads and OMRD
- Every Thursday, Premix
- Every week, mowing phone calls and letters, especially for **SKW** & **BW**
- July 2, CPR Inspections, roadside spraying, new drought condition report
- July 3, highway spraying, Summerview work, Scentless Chamomile (**SC**) in Pincher Station
- July 7, AES Safety Meeting, roadside picking/spraying Hwy #3, crews on **BW** in acreages and hamlets
- July 8, Leafy Spurge (**LS**) Biocontrol, safety, Boulder Run **BW** & **SKW**, mowing, Premix
- July 9, Crop report, Ag Pests inspections, Clubroot/Blackleg inspections
- July 10, reporting, , Roadside spraying, Nodding/Plumeless Thistle (**PTH**) inspection
- July 14, JHS meeting, Pincher Creek inspections, visits and control, grasshopper inspections
- July 15, Lundbreck weed control (**SKW**, **BW**, **HC**), Premix, gravel pit inspections, Divisional road inspections
- July 16, Castle River **BW**, **CM** patches
- July 17, equipment, going over EDDMaps mapping records, records and billing (Ab. Trans., Alberta VPL & Alberta Parks),
- July 21 – 24, July 28 – 31, finish up **SKW** and other Prohibited Noxious
- Every day not mentioned the above mentioned Summer Weed Program. We'll probably be moving into 'fall' spraying at some point in July with everything heading out early this year.

Sincerely,

Shane Poulsen,
Agricultural Services Manager

Invasive Plant Acronyms – species listed in red are a problem in our MD,
in purple were here and were eradicated, in green are present but not yet a
problem, and the ones in black could become established in our MD at any
time.

PROHIBITED NOXIOUS (must be eradicated)

<u>Autumn Olive</u>	– AOV	<u>Plumeless Thistle</u>	– PTH
<u>Bighead Knapweed</u>	– BHK	<u>Purple Loosestrife</u>	– PLS
<u>Common Crupina</u>	– CCR	<u>Russian Knapweed</u>	– RKW
<u>Diffuse Knapweed</u>	– DKW	<u>Saltcedar</u>	– SCD
<u>Dyer's Woad</u>	– DWD	<u>Spotted Knapweed</u>	– SKW
<u>Hoary Alyssum</u>	– HAL	<u>St John's Wort</u>	– SJW
<u>Marsh Thistle</u>	– MTH	<u>Sulfur Cinquefoil</u>	– SCF
<u>Meadow Hawkweed</u>	– MHW	<u>Tansy Ragwort</u>	– TRW
<u>Nodding Thistle</u>	– NTH	<u>Yellow Starthistle</u>	– YST
<u>Orange Hawkweed</u>	– OHW		

NOXIOUS (must be controlled)

<u>Baby's Breath</u>	– BB	<u>Houndstongue</u>	– HT
<u>Black Henbane</u>	– BH	<u>Japanese Brome</u>	– JB
<u>Blueweed</u>	– BW	<u>Leafy Spurge</u>	– LS
<u>Burdock</u>	– B	<u>Oxeye Daisy</u>	– OD
<u>Canada Thistle</u>	– CT	<u>Pepper Grass</u>	– PG
<u>Common Mullein</u>	– CM	<u>Perennial Sowthistle</u>	– PS
<u>Common Tansy</u>	– CTy	<u>Queen Anne's Lace</u>	– QA
<u>Creeping Bellflower</u>	– CB	<u>Scentless Chamomile</u>	– SC
<u>Dalmatian Toadflax</u>	– DT	<u>Tall Buttercup</u>	– TB
<u>Dame's Rocket</u>	– DR	<u>Wild Caraway</u>	– WC
<u>Downy Brome</u>	– DB	<u>White Cockle</u>	– WCK
<u>Field Bindweed</u>	– FB	<u>Yellow Clematis</u>	– YC
<u>Field Scabious</u>	– FS	<u>Yellow Hawkweeds</u>	– YH
<u>Hoary Cress</u>	– HC	<u>Yellow Toadflax</u>	– YT

Grants that support Agriculture.

Prepared for MD of Pincher Creek

June 2025

Liza Dawber – Community Grant Specialist

In some cases, there would be a requirement for the applicant to be a registered not-for-profit or similar or can partner with one.

There are many non-specific Agriculture grants that could work – for example an Agricultural Society could apply for the Community Facility Enhancement Program – as a community facility it would be appropriate, but not specifically an Agriculture grant, so I have not included them, the searchable database that SASCI pays for monthly is keyword searchable and has thousands of ideas.

It is often more efficient for an organization to approach me with their specific request, and I can tailor their search to a particular opportunity for best fit, this may not necessarily be an Ag opportunity. It often takes 2 or 3 grants to finish a project.

Should any organization require assistance in applying for any of these opportunities they can reach me either by email grants@pccdi.ca or phone 403 628 7421.

Foundations and Corporations.

UFA

[The UFA Agricultural Community Foundation](#)

The UFA Agricultural Community Foundation (UFA Foundation) is an organization incorporated under Alberta's Societies Act and built by UFA.

Through our three pillars of giving: educate, engage and enrich, the UFA Foundation invests with the purpose of supporting local initiatives and partnerships for the betterment of agriculture in the communities we serve. In 2024, the UFA Agricultural Community Foundation was proud to share \$100,000 of funding with four community projects.

Rocky Mountain Equipment

[Community Investment and Support | Let's Build a Better World Together](#)

Based on the goal of being a dependable partner, RME supports organizations and community groups whose values reflect our own. Each year, RME has committed more than \$250,000 to give back to those who contribute to the strengthening of the agricultural and construction industry where we live and work.

To support community and sector growth, RME has selected three pillars of support to make meaningful contributions which include—agriculture and construction advocacy, youth development and safety.

The Carthy Foundation

[Carthy Foundation](#)

Carthy Foundation is a private foundation based in Calgary, Alberta. Established in 1965, the Foundation supports national and regional charitable initiatives in four funding areas.

Youth

- Transitions to Employment for Youth and Young Adults
- Young Adult Entrepreneurship

Environment

- Urban Environmental Sustainability
- Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture
-

FCC Agrispirit Fund

[FCC AgriSpirit Fund | FCC](#)

Do you have a capital project that will enrich lives in your rural community? The FCC AgriSpirit Fund supports projects in communities of less than 150,000 people. Eligible applicants can apply for \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Applications are closed and will re-open from June 25 to July 30, 2025.

Examples of what we may consider.

- Projects to support food recovery or reduction of food waste.
- Initiatives that support agriculture and food
- Projects that reduce your environmental footprint
- Projects that improve accessibility and inclusion
- Construction of or upgrades to community buildings

Richardson Pioneer

[Supporting Our Communities - Richardson International](#)

Through the Richardson Foundation, Richardson International and its various divisions support many different community projects, such as:

- Splash parks and playgrounds.
- Sports fields and arenas
- Community halls
- Volunteer fire departments.

The Richardson Foundation's vision is to help create sustainable futures for registered Canadian charitable organizations that support:

- Visual and performing arts.
- Education
- Youth initiatives
- Environmental issues

Mosaic

[Community Investment](#)

The sustainability of our business and our communities are indelibly linked. Our people are in many communities around the world. It's where they live, work and raise a family. And because of this, we strive to be a thoughtful and engaged neighbor who invests carefully and generously through long-term partnerships with organizations that are making a difference.

We are proud to support organizations and initiatives that create growth and leave a lasting impact in our communities in three main focus areas: Food, Water and Local Community. Each year, we invest an average of \$12 million.

Simply Organic

[Giving Back | Simply Organic](#)

THE SIMPLY ORGANIC GIVING FUND GRANT PROGRAM

In 2018, we committed to focusing the Simply Organic Giving Fund Grant Program on addressing an issue that's especially persistent and critical, but that is often overlooked or misunderstood: food insecurity. We're working to help non-profit organizations across the United States and Canada to nourish the millions of food insecure in our communities by supporting organizations that provide access to nutrient-dense, organic food options.

Burnbrae Farms Foundation

[Burnbrae Farms Foundation](#)

Working with our community partners, we aim to achieve our vision by:

Supporting at-risk Canadian families to gain access to affordable, nutritious food
Investing in sustainable agricultural research and practices
Demonstrating environmental leadership
Supporting community programs (that align with our purpose of “Nourishing Canadians. Sustainably”)

Government Based Opportunities.

Federal Programs

AgriDiversity

[AgriDiversity Program: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)

support projects aimed at helping Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented and marginalized groups in Canadian agriculture.

support projects aimed at helping Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented and marginalized groups in Canadian agriculture.

work with Indigenous communities to increase their involvement in the sector thereby supporting the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation and inclusive economic growth.

AgriInnovate

[AgriInnovate Program: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)

The program provides repayable contributions to incent targeted commercialization, demonstration and/or adoption of commercial-ready innovative technologies and processes that increase agricultural and agri-food sector competitiveness and sustainability benefits.

Funding

The maximum Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) contribution toward a project will normally not exceed \$5,000,000.

AgriCompetitiveness

[AgriCompetitiveness Program: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)

If you receive funding, you'll work to meet the program objectives.

encourage projects that aim to increase sector development of environmental information and benchmarking.

help industry-led efforts to provide information needed to build capacity and enhance the sector's development.

support sector-led activities such as producer-oriented seminars and conferences that identify industry best practices and build the capacity of the sector to allow agri-businesses to transition, adapt, and improve their profitability by nurturing entrepreneurial capacity and cultivating industry leadership.

provide targeted support to national domestic agricultural fairs and exhibitions to support projects that:

promote awareness of mental health, farmer wellbeing, best management practices, and farm safety.

enhance awareness of the Canadian food system and agricultural practices.

raise awareness of careers in the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector.

help industry develop capacity throughout the sector and facilitate the sharing and expansion of skills, knowledge, and best practices among industry members.

engage with Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented and marginalized groups by taking into consideration the unique perspectives, priorities and challenges facing these populations and activities that emphasize inclusivity and diversity within the sector.

The program will prioritize projects that develop sector capacity, build public trust and are national in scope with a broad focus spanning the agriculture industry.

Funding

If you receive funding, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) may contribute a total up to \$1,000,000 per year or a maximum of \$5 million toward your project(s) over 5 years.

Agri-Marketing Program

[AgriMarketing Program: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)

The program aims to increase and diversify exports to global markets and seize market opportunities via industry-led promotional activities to differentiate Canadian products and producers, by leveraging Canada's reputation for high-quality and safe food. The program supports a wide range of agricultural sectors, such as:

- field crops
- fish and seafood.
- food and beverage
- horticulture
- livestock
-

AgriScience Program

[AgriScience Program – Projects: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)

The AgriScience Program, under the [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership \(Sustainable CAP\)](#), aims to accelerate innovation by providing funding and support for pre-commercial science activities and research that benefits the agriculture and agri-food sector and Canadians.

Program objectives

The program has 2 components:

1. [Clusters](#) Component — supports projects intended to mobilize industry, government and academia through partnerships, and address priority national themes and horizontal issues.
2. Projects Component — supports a single project or a smaller set of projects that would be less comprehensive than a Cluster.

Local Food Infrastructure Fund

[Local Food Infrastructure Fund – Small Scale Projects: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)

The Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF) supports projects that strengthen community food security and increase the availability and accessibility of local, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food through food production-focused activities for equity-deserving groups, particularly Indigenous and Black communities.

Small Scale Projects

provides grant funding between \$25,000 and \$100,000.

Large Scale Projects

provides non-repayable contribution funding between \$150,000 and \$500,000.

Youth Employment and Skills Program

[Youth Employment and Skills Program: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)

The Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) will contribute approximately \$13.5 million to projects that employ youth and youth facing barriers. Each project will be eligible to receive up to \$14,000 in matching funds to employ one (1) employee.

The program offers support for 50% of wages to a maximum of \$14,000. If approved, the following employers are eligible to receive 80% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$14,000:

- Indigenous individuals or organizations
- Employers who hire a youth facing barriers

The program can also provide up to \$5,000 in additional support to offset the employment barrier faced by the employee hired.

Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program

[Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program - Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca)

The program will:

help the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector ('agricultural sector') take advantage of a situation or circumstance to develop a new idea, product, niche, or market opportunity.

respond to new and emerging issues (address sector issues that were unknown or not a concern before)

find and test solutions to new and ongoing issues to adapt and remain competitive.

Funding

The maximum Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) contribution for a project will normally not exceed \$1 million. You can apply for and receive funding for more than one project, but generally speaking, funding will not be more than \$5 million over 5 years for each applicant.

If approved, support is available in the form of repayable and non-repayable contributions.

Provincial

Alberta Innovates

Agriculture and Environment Program

This funding program is designed to foster innovation and promote sustainable practices.

[Agriculture & Environment Program - Alberta Innovates](#)

Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization Program

[Alberta Agricultural Societies Program | Alberta.ca](#)

The Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization Program provides annual capital funding to help agricultural societies make major repairs to existing infrastructure. In 2024-25, the program awarded \$2.5 million in grants to ag societies around the province.

2025-26 grant application intake

Details and application instructions for the 2025-26 Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization Program grant application intake will be made available in late spring 2025.

Eligible Agricultural Societies will be notified when the intake is active.

Primary Agricultural Societies Grant Program

[Alberta Agricultural Societies Program | Alberta.ca](#)

The Agricultural Societies Grant Program provides a base grant as well as partial reimbursement of eligible expenses from a society's previous year of operations (as the total expense claimed by all societies exceeds the total grant funding available).

CAP Program

Emerging Opportunities Program

[Emerging Opportunities Program | Alberta.ca](#)

Eligible projects

Projects conducted by agriculture and bio-industrial processors must have a minimum total project investment of \$2 million.

Industry organizations do not have a minimum total project investment value.

Eligible projects must include one or a combination of the following activities:

- equipment and engineering related to new processing facilities and significant expansion projects that increase processing capacity in Alberta.
- initiatives that explore market opportunities and directly address barriers to export and new market access.
- activities that promote collaboration amongst companies to grow the sector
- any other activity deemed eligible by the Minister that supports an emerging opportunity in the sector.

On-Farm Efficiency Program

[On-Farm Efficiency Program | Alberta.ca](#)

The intent of the On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP) is to support producers in achieving environmental benefits by improving the efficient use of agricultural inputs. These practices contribute to environmental sustainability by:

- reducing emissions
- minimizing chemical runoff
- promoting the efficient use of natural resources

New technologies that are progressive, commercially available, and that have already been successful in Alberta are most likely to be successful in applications.

The overall program funding maximum per applicant is \$150,000 over the duration of the program term (2024-2028).

The minimum funding per application is \$500.

The program has 4 Streams. The maximum funding per Stream over the duration of the program is:

\$50,000 for Smart Farm Technology
\$50,000 for Energy Efficiency
\$2,000 for Farm Security
\$100,000 for Efficient Grain Handling

On-Farm Value Added Grant Program

[On-Farm Value-Added Program | Alberta.ca](#)

The On-Farm Value-Added Grant Program supports primary producers in adding value to their agricultural products to grow sales, expand production capacity, explore market opportunities and create jobs in Alberta.

Funding

The program has 2 streams:

On-Farm Value-Added Stream A: (maximum grant \$50,000) applications are assessed based on eligibility criteria and merit scoring.

On-Farm Value-Added Stream B: (grant over \$50,000 to maximum grant \$250,000) applications are assessed based on eligibility criteria and merit scoring.

Resiliency and Public Trust

[Resiliency and Public Trust Program | Alberta.ca](#)

The Resiliency and Public Trust Program enables stakeholders to gain resiliency and build public trust in Alberta's agriculture and agri-food sectors. This includes opportunities for better awareness and education about industry best practices and the development, adoption and enhancement of assurance systems that will help to build trust and resiliency in the industry.

The maximum Grant that may be awarded to an Eligible Applicant is \$500,000 per year of the Grant Agreement. The schedule for payment of the Grant shall be set out in the Grant Agreement.

The maximum Grant that may be awarded to an Eligible Applicant for Eligible Non-Capital Expenses is \$250,000 per year of the Grant Agreement.

Cost shares

Eligible non-capital expenses shall be cost-shared at 60% grant and 40% eligible applicant.

Eligible capital expenses shall be cost-shared 25% grant and 75% eligible applicant.

Dear, Reeves, Mayors & Agriculture Service Boards

Re: Request for Municipal Data on Gopher Damage and Agricultural Impacts

I am writing to request your assistance in gathering critical municipal data regarding the impact of gopher (Richardson's ground squirrel) infestations on agricultural lands in your jurisdiction. The purpose of this data collection is to provide a clear and credible summary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, with the goal of encouraging timely action to support Prairie producers facing increasingly severe pest damage.

Across the Prairie provinces, rural municipalities have reported escalating gopher activity, with noticeable increases in crop and pastureland damage. Recent media coverage and anecdotal reports highlight how some areas have experienced substantial losses in yield and livestock safety concerns.

This situation is further complicated by the federal ban on strychnine, which took full effect in March 2025. With the loss of this deterrent, many producers are reporting limited effectiveness from alternative methods, and municipalities are expressing concern about the long-term viability of maintaining productive agricultural land under these conditions.

To that end, we kindly request that your Agriculture Service Board provide the following information:

Extent of Damage: Estimates or documented evidence of gopher-related crop and pasture damage during the 2024 growing season.

Yield and Economic Impact: Data on any measurable reduction in agricultural productivity or financial losses attributable to gopher activity.

Current Mitigation Strategies: A summary of any control measures currently in use within your municipality and their observed effectiveness.

Outlook for 2025 and Beyond: Your ASB's assessment of anticipated impacts on agricultural land use and productivity if no effective control options are reintroduced.

Our office will compile this data into a report to be shared with the Minister and relevant stakeholders. This is an important opportunity to ensure the voices of rural municipalities and producers are properly represented at the federal level.

We kindly ask that all responses be submitted by July 31, 2025. Submissions may be sent via email to john.barlow@parl.gc.ca. Should you have questions or require clarification, please contact my office directly.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to the success of Canadian agriculture. I appreciate your municipality's engagement and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Barlow

Member of Parliament for Foothills
Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
613-995-8471 | john.barlow@parl.gc.ca

cc: Minister RJ Sigurdson, Minister Daryl Harrison, Minister Ron Kostyshyn



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

John Barlow

Member of Parliament for Foothills
Shadow Minister for Agriculture & Agri-Food
Office: 613-995-8471
E-mail: John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca

Strychnine Update

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The South Region AAAF has been consistently working to lobby for the return of strychnine.

Cardston County was recently able to get a meeting with Minister Joseph Schow and give him a field tour showing the damage that Richardson's ground squirrels are causing to the agricultural landscape.

In order to drive the point home, **we need testimonials from producers** explaining the increased damage you are seeing since strychnine has been removed as a control option.