

AGENDA
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK
September 22, 2025
1:30 pm

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

B. DELEGATIONS

C. MINUTES

a) Draft Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes – July 2, 2025

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

- Still in draft
- 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
- Trade Fair type workshop?

b) Bear Safety Workshop

- Scheduled for October 3, 2025

c) Wildlife Predation Identification Training

- ASB Member will bring information

d) Policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation

- Being moved into new Traffic Bylaw by Council
- Currently had first reading

g) MD Deadstock Bin Update

- Bins removed?
- New locations?
- Signage installed?

F. AES DEPARTMENTAL REPORT AND CALL LOG

a) Agricultural Fieldman Report – August and September, 2025

G. WEED NOTICES

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. For Action

2. For Information

a) Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association

- September 2025 Newsletter

b) Ag for Life

- 2025 Mid-Year Impact Report

c) The Do More Agricultural Foundation

- September 2025 Newsletter

I NEW BUSINESS

a) 2025 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference Agenda

J. NEXT MEETING – November 19, 2025 * *Note – Council will be gone to RMA in Edmonton*

K. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Minutes of the
Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9
July 2, 2025

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

Also Present: Agricultural Fieldman Shane Poulsen, Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland, and two members of the public.

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

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/018

Moved that agenda for July 2, 2025 be approved as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

ALUS – CoolPro Solutions

Kelly Cooley from CoolPro Solutions attended the meeting to update the board on projects that ALUS has been working on.

C. MINUTES

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/019

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

Carried

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Provincial Resolutions

- They are now available; Ag Fieldman will email them to the board for review.

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 stated that the speaker for the workshops could be hosted in August for a cost of \$3,500. Ag Fieldman will review the budget to determine if funds are available for this year. Mark will talk to the speaker to discuss location and possible cohosting with Fort MacLeod.

- Board would prefer to host one in September to allow for advertising and will provide a list of topics they would like to see offered.
- Would like to see the option of a trade fair-type Fall program to showcase all the programs that can assist the Agricultural community. The Agricultural Fieldman will collaborate with Kelly Cooley to begin planning the event.
 - o Possible programs to attend:
 - o Community Grant Writer
 - o Foothills Forage and Grazing
 - o Environmental Farm Plan
 - o Waterton Biosphere
 - o ALUS

Councillor Jim Welsch

25/020

Moved that the Agricultural Fieldman move forward with organizing Ranch Talks for September 2025.

Carried

c) Bear Safety Workshop

- Councillor Tony Bruder has spoken to Waterton Biosphere, and they are interested in hosting one in the MD of Pincher Creek.
- Looking at the middle of August – no date set.
- Once information is available, it will be forwarded to the MD for advertising.

d) Wildlife Predation Identification Training

- No more information available at this time.

e) Policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation

Frank Welsch

25/021

Moved that the ASB suggest to Council to remove “crop production” from Policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation;

AND THAT they suggest, at this time, the changes to the policy begin with new applications.

Carried

Frank Welsch left the meeting at this time, the time being 3:02 pm.

f) Agricultural Disaster

- MD Council declared an Agricultural Disaster at the meeting of June 10, 2025.

g) MD Deadstock Bin discussion

Councillor Tony Bruder

25/022

Moved that, due to safety concerns and repeated abuse, all deadstock bins be removed until calving season;

AND THAT a more suitable location be determined, for the bin along Highway 507, in Division 3;

AND FINALLY THAT a signs advising “no dumping” be placed at the current bin locations.

Carried

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F. 2025 AES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Martin Puch

25/023

Moved to accept for information the departmental reports from the Agricultural Fieldman for July 2025.

Carried

G. WEED NOTICE

ASB Fieldman stated he has letters ready to send, but needs addresses. He continues to discuss problem weed areas with residents.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. For Action

2. For Information

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

The Agricultural Fieldman will contact Stricknine users and suggest that they contact John Barlow, Member of Parliament for Foothills, before July 31, 2025, as he is seeking input from agricultural producers.

- b) Cardston Council post regarding Strychnine Update

Bruce Mowat spoke to the board regarding a 5km zone around the Crowsnest Pass that they are looking to do some firesmarting.

Resident attended to discuss that the MD Council should look at the Bylaws to address foreign property owners and urban sprawl. She suggested that the MD should have off-leash areas for animals in Alberta Parks.

J. CLOSED SESSION

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Jim Welsch

25/024

Moved to adjourn the meeting, the time being 4:06 pm.

Carried

ASB Chairperson

ASB Secretary

WATERTON
BIOSPHERE REGION

BEAR SAFETY

workshop for

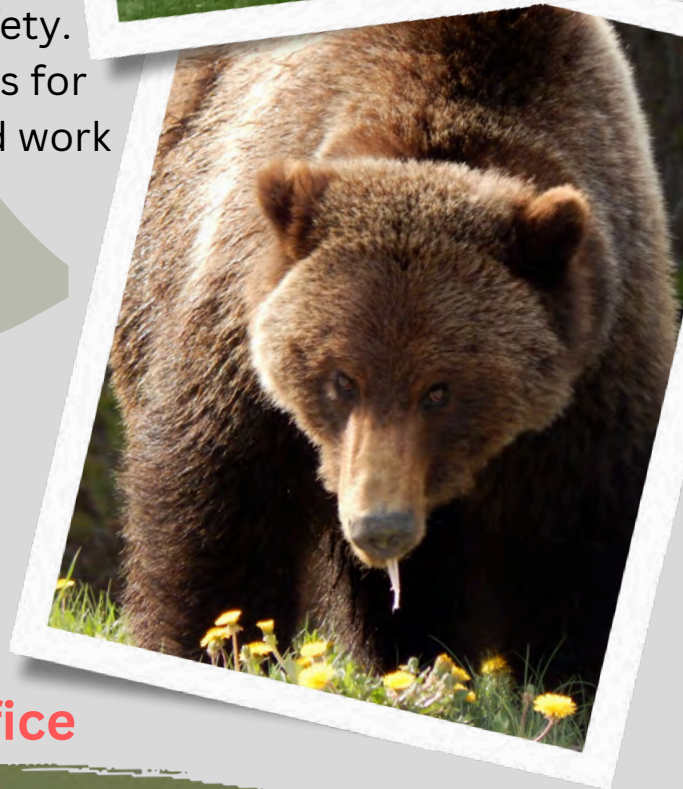
RURAL FAMILIES

Join us for an evening to learn about bear safety. This **free** workshop addresses safety concerns for rural residents and their families who live and work in bear country.

- On-Farm Attractant Management
- Minimizing & Avoiding Encounters
- What to Do in a Bear Encounter
- Identifying Dangerous Bear Behavior
- Appropriate Situational Responses
- Effective Bear Spray Operation

Date : October 3, 2025
Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: MD Of Pincher Creek Office

To register, please email
info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca
or call the MD office at
(403) 627-3130



Environment and
Climate Change Canada



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Alberta
Government



AES, August, 2025

August 2025 Report for Weeds in our Area

Prohibited Noxious

1. Spotted Knapweed (**SKW**), mostly gone to seed early again this year, will be doing fall spraying on any large patches that were done a bit late. Very thick seedling/first year growth in any established patches already.
2. Diffuse Knapweed (**DKW**), no new patches, but known patches were pretty thick with more plants than I would have thought.
3. Nodding Thistle (**NTH**), two new and small patches, both have been picked and sprayed. Will check back in the fall as well.
4. Orange Hawkweed (**OHW**), a few patches found, mostly in Forestry with a few stragglers blooming late.
5. Russian Knapweed (**RKW**), none found
6. Sulphur Cinqufoil (**SCQ**), none found
7. Common Crupina, none found
8. Meadow Hawkweed, none discovered in our area to date
9. Autumn Olive, none discovered in our area to date
10. Plumeless Thistle (**PTH**), a few rosettes found and sprayed

Widespread Noxious

1. Canada Thistle (**CT**), quite a bit of this growing due to drought, will be doing as much fall control as possible
2. Houndstongue (**HT**), biocontrol was spotty but still present, a few reports of potential release areas for 2026. I think our biocontrol has just ebbed due to lack of plants but will see how patches increase in 2026 and if biocontrol makes a comeback. This happened a few years back as well.
3. Common Burdock (**CB**), not too many areas that we have to deal with it on MD land, but popped up quite a bit inside of fences along crop.
4. Oxeye Daisy (**OD**), sprayed a significant amount in Forestry and the usual areas and put out another release of biocontrol in Gladstone Valley.
5. Tall Buttercup (**TB**), was some but it doesn't like drought conditions
6. Perennial Sowthistle (**PS**), out spraying for this as patches respond well to late summer spraying. Quite a bit in areas where grass was stressed and the July rains brought it out.

Noxious

1. Wild Caraway (**WC**), looked really good this year, probably due to it not being fond of drought...and of course our control efforts over the years.
2. Blueweed (**BW**), extra focus and push for everyone to get out and spray in the last few years for this weed have brought it down a significant amount. Logged area on Carbondale is pretty bad though and will need significant attention next year

3. Leafy Spurge (**LS**), weird year for the biocontrol here, with all the heat coming early and then all the rain in July and August. Patches showed feeding stress early (June) but with the July rains, we never found enough for any new releases, which was a first!
4. Hoary Cress (**HC**), did significant spring spraying on known patches, hope to get to it in the fall if there is time (and chemical) after CT and PT spraying
5. Common (Yellow) Toadflax (**YT**), only sprayed a few large patches this year, with some old patches flowering this year along Christie Mines
6. Scentless Chamomile (**SC**), found a few patches and scattered roadside plants but generally pretty absent
7. Field Scabious (**FS**), quite a bit sprayed in both Willow Valley and west of Waterton Colony but both were mostly scattered plants from seed
8. Dame's Rocket (**DR**), only a couple of new patches. None found on the Pincher Creek downstream of town, which was good
9. Dalmatian Toadflax (**DT**), biocontrol continues to work well with all but a few patches showing biocontrol damage. Will do a better survey in 2026 to ensure that biocontrol dip was just this year
10. Common Mullein (**CM**), this plant is spreading significantly throughout our gravelpits as well as the watercourses and roads. Very widespread in Forestry and Burmis – Lundbreck corridor as well as a logged area on the Carbondale Road
11. Field Bindweed (**FB**), just a few roadside shoulder patches.
12. Common Tansy (**CT**), still quite a bit on the Crowsnest river, none on the other rivers
13. Baby's Breath (**BB**), sprayed the few plants we have, will pick any that regrow. The old patch N of Summerview has started to come back a bit, with very small plants hiding in the grass getting thicker
14. Black Henbane (**BH**), more of a normal year, very little seen, with the odd plant showing up here and there
15. Creeping Bellflower (**CB**), getting to be quite common on shoulders of roads (mostly Highways), with it being widespread in town. Showing up on Pincher Creek downstream of town. Clearview is seeming to get rid of it
16. Yellow Clematis (**YC**), no recurrence of known patch, no new ones discovered
17. Japanese Brome (**JB**), will treat like Downy Brome
18. Downy Brome (**DB**), Esplanade effectiveness has been good, with control sometimes taking a full year but it is happening!
19. White Cockle (**WC**), no reported infestations

Weeds of serious concern

1. Queen Anne's Lace (**QL**), sprayed it heavily in June, picked some in July, will be back to it in September. Is responding well to Clearview.
2. Yellow Hawkweeds (**YH**), is in every ditch in small amounts and is still quite significant outside of sprayed areas in Forestry
3. Poison Hemlock (and native Hemlocks), no patches of invasive (Poison) Hemlock
4. Wild Parsnip, none yet in our MD, but only ID'ing if similar plants are spotted or reported

- August 4, STAT
- August 5 – 28, still mowing steadily, probably for the month due to 12 – 20 inches of rain in July
- August 5, Nodding Thistle, CPR inspections, mowing
- August 6, records and billing, river inspections & control (Castle), PW Safety meeting
- August 7, river inspections & control (Oldman)
- August 11, river inspections & control (Crowsnest, fishing pullouts focus)
- August 12, informal, around gate areas, noticeable problem areas just looking for Clubroot, last day for two summer staff, premix, billing
- August 13, Hoary Cress (**HC**), Blueweed (**BW**), Spotted Knapweed (**SKW**) assessment on provincial land around the Oldman Reservoir, river inspections & control (Oldman)
- August 14, Safety/staff appreciation lunch
- August 18, brush spraying with Navius, **SKW** picking then spraying
- August 19, forestry work, all crews, morning, rivers, all crews, afternoon
- August 20, Gravel Pits (all crews)
- August 21, Grasshopper Count, weed inspections Divisions #4, 5, last day for three crew members
- August 25, Diffuse Knapweed (**DKW**) picking and spraying, Premix
- August 26, Canola field inspections (formal)
- August 27, mowing and fertilizing Patton Park
- August 28, Budget, reporting, equipment work, last day for crew member (down to two crew members and Jesson)

Sincerely,

Shane Poulsen,
Agricultural Services Manager

AES, September, 2025

- September 1 – 30, Fall Weed Program continued. Drought conditions combined with extensive rains most of July and the beginning of August will make for an interesting fall! Crops in the area will be largely harvested by mid-month and bushel numbers will be better than they looked to be at the beginning of summer. Second cuts of hay were widespread with that cut being better than the first. Especially considering that the rain in July caused quality issues with mould being a problem. Pasture and hay are looking much better than in May and soil moisture has improved exponentially. We are still looking at drought stress for livestock water, though, as the ground soaked up all that rain with very little local runoff (there was runoff in the larger watercourses).
 - Hoary Cress, fall spraying especially on Parks, OMRD patches
 - Wild Caraway, mostly done, might show up with the moisture
 - Dame's Rocket, none
 - Spotted Knapweed, revisiting all of the large patches
 - Hawkweed, some in Forestry areas but mostly done
 - Scentless Chamomile, done
 - Field Scabious, Waterton River area and scattered plants in Willow Valley
 - Oxeye Daisy, no fall spraying planned
 - Tall Buttercup, no fall spraying planned
 - Perennial Sowthistle, a lot on Provincial Highways, will spray along with CT this fall
 - Canada Thistle, will be spraying with every opportunity (weather permitting)
 - Dalmatian Toadflax, no fall spraying, left to biocontrol
 - Common Mullein, re-visit and spray fall growth especially in Forestry and along rivers
 - Field Bindweed, none
 - Common Tansy, none
 - Queen Annes Lace, picking and spraying (still flowering in some cases)
 - Blueweed, all patches revisited and sprayed
 - Nodding Thistle, Plumeless Thistle, checking areas for late flowering and for any germination after spraying or picking
- September 1 – 30, Roadside Spraying, Canada Thistle, Perennial Sow Thistle
- September 1 – 30, Alberta Parks fall spraying
- September 1 – 30, Vacant Public Land (rivers) fall spraying (contract came late, will do what we can)
- September 1 – 30, Gravel Pits with Blueweed revisited
- September 1 – 30, **SKW**, **BW**, **CM** sites revisited
- September 1, STAT
- September 2, senior management meeting (SMT)
- September 3, Crop Report, budget templates, starting fall spraying in Forestry
- September 4, Premix, reporting, budget, site safety inspection
- September 8, roadside, forestry spraying
- September 9, gravel pit sweeps, mostly for **BW** but also Common Mullein (**CM**), **CT**, **PS**
- September 10, AES Safety Meeting, Field Scabious (**FS**) spraying
- September 11, premix, reporting, last ten hour day (too dark in morning)
- September 15 – 19, eight hour days/five day weeks start
- September 16, dams (permission to pump letters, inspections, records and mapping)
- September 17, grass seeding & fertilizing, mowing (still!)

- September 18, SMT, South Region AAAF Meeting, Lethbridge, grass seeding
- September 19, reporting, rental equipment, billing, Safety Binder
- September 22, MD spot spraying areas focus, grass seeding
- September 23, Canada Thistle infestation spraying on unused ROW's
- September 24, Alberta Parks and VPL final billing
- September 25, Premix, Safety Binder, work on resolution
- September 26, Safety documentation
- September 29, grass mowing, fall work around admin building
- September 30, Downy Brome areas with Esplanade and Focus herbicides
- **October 8, South Region ASB Conference, Eagle's Nest Ranch, Cypress Hills**

Sincerely,

Shane Poulsen,
Agricultural Services Manager



Fw: September 2025 - Newsletter

From Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>
Date Wed 2025-09-10 8:07 AM
To Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Please add this to the next ASB package.

Roland Milligan

Chief Administrative Officer
M.D. of Pincher Creek No. 9
Box 279
1037 Herron Avenue
Pincher Creek, AB T0K1W0
Phone: 403-627-3130
Email: AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

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From: AB Farm Fresh Producers Association <admin@albertafarmfresh.ccsend.com>
Sent: September 10, 2025 8:05 AM
To: Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>
Subject: September 2025 - Newsletter

[View as Webpage](#)

Alberta
Farm Fresh
Producers Association



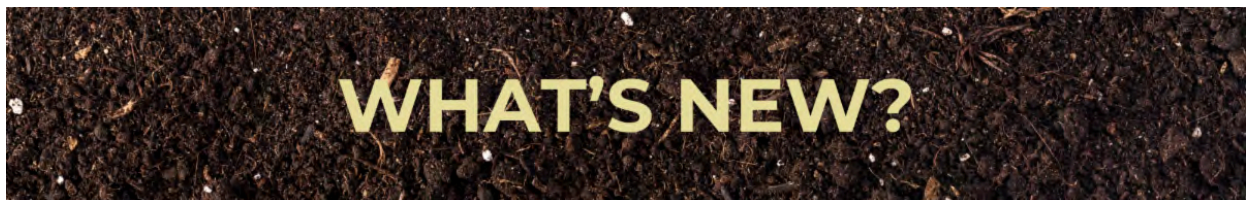
On the photo is Amy Barr from the Barr Estate Winery and Farm during the Alberta Open Farm Days
Photo credit: **Theodora MacLeod** from Postmedia. Thank you for capturing this beautiful moment!



#ablocalfood

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Important Dates



Read Press Release



Scholarship for AFFPA members to attend the Global Agritourism Conference in Scotland!

We have an exciting opportunity to share with you, our Members!

In previous newsletters, we shared that AFFPA was awarded \$300,000 through Alberta's Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) program. This grant will support our Alberta-Grown Food Agritourism Growth Initiative, a three-year, province-wide project which will help strengthen Alberta's farm direct and agritourism sectors by providing training, digital tools, and new market opportunities for over 250 small and medium-sized businesses.

When it comes to the training component of the grant, we want you to do more than sit in a classroom. We want to give you the opportunity to **LEARN** from agritourism operators from around the world, **SEE** their operations, **HEAR** what they do and how they do it and **SHARE** what you/we do in Alberta.

Support has been provided in the grant to offer scholarships to AFFPA members to attend the [Global Agritourism Conference](#) being held June 23 – 25, 2026 in Aberdeen, Scotland. The conference includes a day of core tours on June 23, 2026 as well as conference sessions on June 24 and 25, 2026. This conference will showcase the diversity and growth of the global agritourism sector with data, research, policy and personal stories providing a unique international learning opportunity for an anticipated 1,000 delegates.

We are working out the finer details before we roll the scholarship program out. So stay tuned and, in the meantime, check out the conference website and think about how this world-class learning opportunity can take your agritourism operation to the next level.

Homesteading is having a Moment

Homesteading used to conjure images of prairie pioneers clearing land and building homes in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Then came the 1960s and 70s, when the back to the land movement pushed a return to simpler living. Today the word is back in circulation, and it covers a whole spectrum of modern life.

For some, homesteading means striving for more self sufficiency. For others, it looks like a holistic approach to food and land. Sometimes it means living off grid. Sometimes it just means learning skills our grandparents considered basic. However you define it, interest is rising.

What are people asking for right now?

- How to start a garden and grow food in small or large spaces
- Herbs and herbalism
- Canning, pickling and making preserves
- Smoking meat and safe food storage
- Butchery basics and cutting techniques

If that list sparks something, you're not alone. Maybe you have skills to share. Maybe you want to learn alongside neighbors. Both are welcome. This is about community knowledge and reconnecting to the everyday arts that make a household feel capable. AFFPA can help connect dots. If you'd like to host a mini workshop, lead a demo at your farm, or join a beginner friendly session, get in touch. We'll gather interest, match teachers with learners and keep it practical.

Want to read more on your own first? These primers are a good start:

- Eco Friendly Homestead glossary: [Read More](#)
- Sage Urban Homesteading overview: [Read More](#)
- Permaculture and homesteading terms: [Read More](#)
- Back to the land history: [Read an article on Wikipedia](#)

Curious, cautious, or ready to roll, you're invited. Tell us what you want to learn or what you can teach, and we'll take it from there.

Sharon Faye
AFFPA's Advisor

MARKETPLACE MATCHMAKING

Pumpkins & Fall Wholesale

Pumpkin season is here, and we're connecting growers with bulk buyers who need volume fast.

Here's the spark: in the past week we received a request from a potential buyer for 125 to 150 totes of mixed pumpkins. They want to purchase this season and also explore a longer term relationship for future orders. If you're interested in a collaboration, contact Kathryn at info@albertafarmfresh.com with the subject line: Pumpkin Matchmaking or call 403-964-3276. Let's turn surplus into sales and demand into dependable farm revenue.



COMMUNITY BOARD

Fall-O-Ween & Haunted Pumpkin Festival at Prairie Gardens



Fall-O-Ween Harvest Fest: September 20th-21st & 27th-28th

Kick off the pumpkin season! Hayrides, corn mazes, scarecrow making, potato digging and train rides and visits to the petting farm are all part of the fun.

Haunted Pumpkin Fest: Every Weekend in October

This charming month-long Halloween celebration remains an annual tradition for the past 30 years! Visit the ghost town of Boo'n Accord, and, if you're brave - sneak through the Haunted Farm House!

Includes:

- Scarecrow Making (Make and Take a Scarecrow home with you)
- Kids Corn Maze
- Bale Mazes, Bale Jumps, and Bale Art
- Train Rides
- Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin House
- Petting Farm & Playgrounds
- Haunted House & Ghost Town of Boo'n Accord
- Pumpkin Corn-i-val (Pumpkin Ring Toss, Pumpkin Bowling, Pumpkin Checkers)

[Buy Your Tickets Here](#)

Young Agrarians is hosting a Business Bootcamp for New Farmers October 1 - December 10, 2025



Looking to write a business plan for the farm of your dreams? Join Young Agrarians on Wednesday evenings from October 1 - December 10, 2025 for their Business Bootcamp for New Farmers!

This online, community-based program is open to all new and aspiring farmers looking to write (or rewrite) a business plan for a farm enterprise. It is a great place to explore the viability of your farm dream, figure out your first growing season, or explore adding another enterprise to your current farm.

Young Agrarians has carefully selected an exceptional team of first-generation farmers and business experts to help you get your farm off the ground. During this course, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Write a farm business plan, including creating a financial and marketing strategy
- Gain insights from experts on your farm business
- Get to know others in farm start-up
- Explore ideas and inspiration from your peers
- Get set up to access capital

Questions about the course? Get in touch with the Young Agrarians E-Learning team at elearning@youngagrarians.org

[Register Here](#)



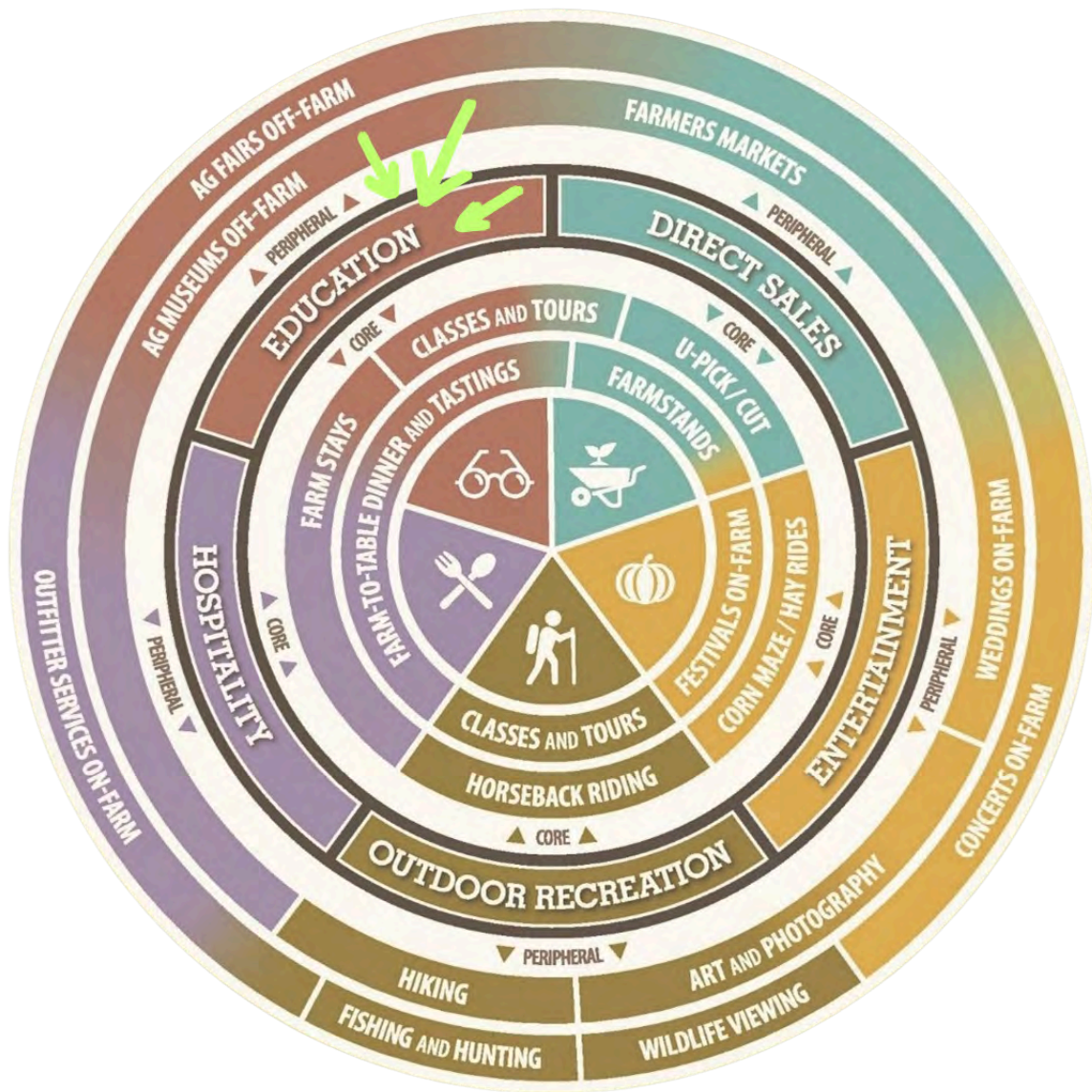
Get **featured** in this section of our monthly newsletter. Fill out [this form](#) or contact us directly: info@albertafarmfresh.com

Alberta Open Farm Days in Pictures

Fluffy alpacas at [Aurora Alpacas](#) | The beautifully whimsical [Prairie Gardens](#) and a lovely finish at [Barr Estate Winery](#). Thank you for an unforgettable experience!



AGRITOURISM



Graphic credit: Chase, L. C., Stewart, M., Schilling, B., Smith, B., & Walk, M. (2018). Agritourism: Toward a Conceptual Framework for Industry Analysis. JAFSCD, 8(1), 13-19.

Education: the quiet powerhouse of Agritourism

Look at the wheel and you'll see it right away: education is not a side dish. It sits at the core of agritourism, feeding every other slice of the pie. Teach someone how food is grown and you earn more than a ticket sale. You earn trust, loyalty, and word of mouth that keeps families coming back.

Education shows up in simple, hands-on moments:

- Guided farm tours that turn soil, seed, and sun into a story
- School visits where kids meet the animals and taste what is in season
- Short classes on canning, pickling, herbs, compost, or pollinators

- Field walks for gardeners who want to level up
- Chef demos and tastings that connect flavors to fields

Why it works

- It deepens the visitor experience. People remember what they learn and who taught them.
- It fuels the rest of the wheel. A great demo leads to farmstand sales, festival attendance, even overnight stays.
- It fills shoulder seasons. Workshops in spring and fall keep revenue steady.
- It builds community credibility. You become the go-to resource for good information.

Easy ways to start

- Offer a 60 to 90 minute mini class on one skill you already use every week.
- Cap it small for quality. Include a simple take-home item or recipe card.
- Price it fairly and bundle with a tasting, U-Pick, or a farmstand coupon.
- Partner with a local school, library, or community group to reach learners fast.
- Collect emails at check-in so you can invite people to the next experience.

What visitors are asking for right now: Gardening basics, herb growing and simple remedies, safe food preservation, smoking and cutting meat, beginner beekeeping, soil health 101, and kid friendly farm science. If you can teach even one of these, there is demand. The headline is simple: education turns curiosity into connection, and connection into sustainable farm income. If you want help shaping a class, promoting it, or matching with eager learners, reach out and we'll make it easy to plug your idea into the wheel.



Based in Picture Butte, Alberta, [Prairie Hill Farms Ltd.](#) is a dynamic agribusiness launched in 2020, specializing in the production and processing of nutritious haskap berries. Operating a CFIA-licensed facility, PHF handles everything from sorting and freeze-drying to packaging frozen berries, powders, juices, spreads, sauces, syrups, dressings and

Born in Alberta's oil and gas sector, [Spot Power](#) set out to bring big-industry energy savings to everyday Albertans. Today, this family-owned retailer serves 450+ communities with low-cost electricity and natural gas — cutting out the middleman to pass savings directly to you. Wondering if they service your area? Reach out and find out.

[Pacific Injection Molding Ltd.](#) is based in British Columbia and specializes in innovative, field-ready plastic solutions tailored for the agriculture sector. Their products are designed with direct input from growers, ensuring practical, durable tools that meet real-world farming needs. We're excited to have them on board and look forward

more. Sold via retail, wholesale,
and co-packing services.

to the value they bring to
Alberta's farm producers!



NAFMA has long been a vibrant network of producers, processors, and agribusinesses stretching across Northeast Alberta. They are however in the middle of an exciting rebranding journey. While the new look is still "loading," their commitment to Alberta's farmers remains as strong as ever. Stay tuned, we'll be sharing their refreshed brand and new resources with you very soon.

Advertise with AFFPA!
We've got a prime spot open.
Reach Alberta's farm-fresh community. Email info@albertafarmfresh.com to see if we're the right fit!

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Don't miss out on farm-fresh updates, funding news, events, and more. [Sign up here to stay in the loop!](#)

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www.albertafarmfresh.com

The Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association | PO Box 10120 RPO Bonnyville East | Bonnyville, AB T9N 0A6 CA

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Because of You: Rooted in learning. Growing bright futures.

Your support gave thousands of students the chance to experience hands-on agriculture and rural and farm safety education — lessons that will stay with them for life - from classroom to careers.

2025
Mid-Year
Impact
Report



Thanks to your support...

The past six months have been full of learning, discovery, and impact. **Thanks to your support**, we delivered hands-on agriculture education that builds knowledge, strengthens public trust, and connects communities. This report reflects the difference you've made — for students, for agriculture, and for the future.



Growing Futures

This spring, students got their hands in the dirt, discovered where their food comes from, and imagined careers they never knew existed.

In classrooms big and small, on schoolyards and community grounds, and inside traveling education trailers—something powerful was growing.

Not just crops, but curiosity. Confidence. Connection.

It happened because partners like you believe students deserve more than textbooks. You believe in real-world learning, in sparking discovery, and in giving young people the tools to dream big.

And together, we made that happen.



Seeds of Knowledge



Classroom
Agriculture
Program



In **272 classrooms**, grade 4 and 5 students discovered where their food comes from—and the people who make it possible. Through the **Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP)**, volunteers brought agriculture to life with real stories, hands-on lessons and meaningful conversations.

Thanks to your support, **10,000 students** experienced CAP — sparking curiosity, confidence, and connection.

"Thank you soo much for showing in us about a lot of farming it was amazing i really enjoyed the pictures of the animals and the videos it was super cool i can't wait to see you next time."

- Bostynn, Grade 4-



In 9 schools and 1 school division across Alberta, students learned about the nutritional benefits of oats and how oats are grown.

Through the **School Oats Program**, students in both rural and urban classrooms received \$350 bursaries to purchase oats and oat-based foods.



Over **4,200** students took part — gaining a better understanding of healthy eating and a connection to local agriculture.

Planting Curiosity

In **166 classrooms**, **3,900+ students** planted potatoes—and grew pride, patience and curiosity.

Through **Spuds in Tubs**, students didn't just learn how things grow—they experienced it.



"My class was excited and here is their picture with our plants. They were very proud that their plants had flowers so that meant that they were doing well!!!"

- Teacher -

Ag Education on the Road



The **Know Your Food** trailer visited **7 schools, 45 classes, and 1,211 students**—bringing agriculture education straight to communities across the province.



*"That was fun!
Your resources have literally
changed our school. We have
incorporated them into
everything we do. Thank you."*

- Teacher -

Safety Matters

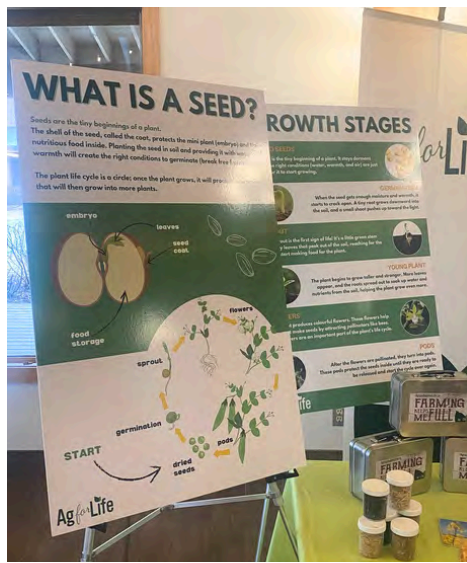
Through the **Rural Farm Safety Unit**, more than **2,400 students** at **15 schools** learned how to stay safe around equipment, animals and everyday farm hazards.



Community Events



Ag for Life attended Aggie Days and various community events, engaging with over **50,000** attendees. Through interactive displays and educational resources, we delivered rural and farm safety education while raising awareness about agriculture.





Future of Ag

Careers



At five career events, **4,700 students** gained insight into agriculture careers—and walked away with resources to guide their next steps.



Educators

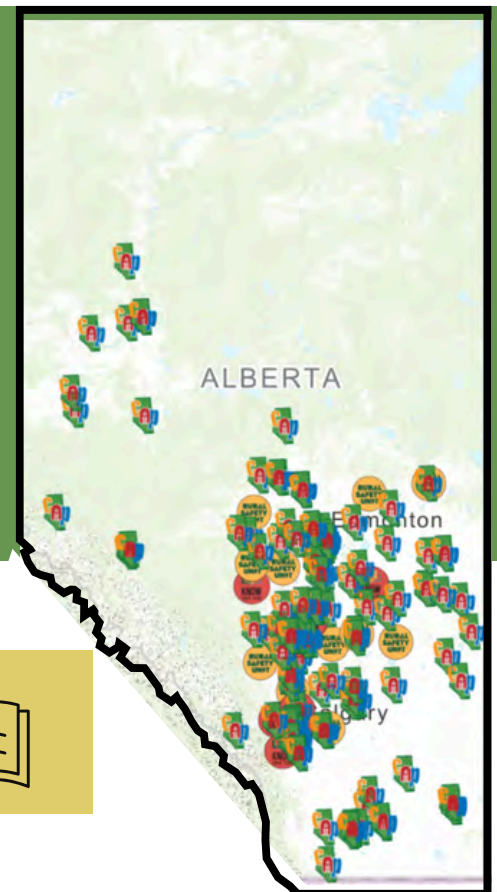
At teacher conventions across the province, we connected with **27,288 educators**—sharing resources, building relationships, and helping bring agriculture into more classrooms.



Where we've been...

Explore the reach of your impact over the past six months.

From urban cities to rural communities, your support brought hands-on agriculture and safety education to students across Alberta.



PLUS

28,000+

Curated learning kits, student workbooks, teacher support and learning guides sent out.





Fw: September E-News | The Do More Agriculture Foundation

From Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Date Thu 2025-09-04 1:11 PM

To Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Let's include these in the ASB package.

Roland Milligan

Chief Administrative Officer

M.D. of Pincher Creek No. 9

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From: The Do More Agriculture Foundation <hello@domore.ag>

Sent: September 4, 2025 11:03 AM

To: Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Subject: September E-News | The Do More Agriculture Foundation





Happy Harvest Season Everyone! Photo from Massie Panoramic Farm.

Announcements

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

This month, we focus on raising awareness and reminding everyone that support is available. World Suicide Prevention Day is coming up next Wednesday, September 10—a reminder to talk with others, ask questions, listen, and offer support. If you or someone you care about is struggling, reaching out can save lives. You're never alone. Find resources at domore.ag and learn more about the [Centre for Suicide Prevention's work](#) and [Run for Life campaign](#), taking place from Sept 6-13.

Attending Canada's Outdoor Farm Show?

Join The Do More Agriculture Foundation, Scotiabank and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) on September 9th for a community screening of [Deep Rooted](#), a short documentary exploring the real mental health challenges faced by Canadian farmers and ranchers. After the 33-minute film, stay for a short panel discussion and open conversation. Whether you work in agriculture or simply care about rural mental health, this event offers a welcoming space to talk, ask questions, and listen.

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 9th - 5pm-6:30pm EST

Location: Federation House (N752 on the COFS map), 744906 Oxford Rd. 17, Woodstock, ON

This event is open to those registered for Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. You can get your [tickets here](#). Free mocktails and snacks provided by OFA. See full details and [RSVP here](#) - walk ins also welcome.



Join us at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show on Tuesday, September 9th!

AgTalk Renewal: Continuing Vital Farmer Mental Health Support

We're excited to announce the renewal of [AgTalk](#), our safe, anonymous, online community for farmer mental health, powered by Togetherall. Thanks to the continued support of **BASF Agricultural Solutions Canada, RBC Foundation, and The McCain Foundation**, AgTalk has already supported thousands of meaningful peer-to-peer connections. Learn more [here](#).

Updates from Togetherall

Watch the recording of the August webinar, [Quiet storms: Dealing with the worry you don't talk about](#), hosted by Togetherall and leaders in agriculture mental health. The webinar explores the quiet stress many farmers carry—financial worries, the pressure to keep going, and how to spot when someone you care about might be struggling.

The Trained Peers Program is part of Togetherall's peer-to-peer support network, equipping people with the skills and confidence to support their neighbors, friends, and family. The 5-week program takes about 10 hours to

complete. Applications are now open for the next cohort, starting October 6:

[Apply here](#).

Free Grief After Suicide Support Group for the Agriculture Community

[The National Farmer Mental Health Alliance](#) is offering a **FREE 8-month support group** for individuals in agriculture who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide. Sessions are monthly, 1-hour, and offered virtually (across Canada) or in person (at [Three Oaks Cabin](#) in Ontario), led by a Master's-level therapist. Participants will find a safe space to share experiences, process grief, and learn healthy coping strategies through guided discussions. Group size is limited to 8 participants. Free to join with limited spaces available. [Sign up today](#) or call 1-877-639-8828.



Reminders

Join our New Community of Practice for Mental Health in Agriculture

Does your organization work at the connection point between mental health and agriculture? The Do More Agriculture Foundation hosts a monthly Community of Practice (CoP) for Mental Health in Agriculture—a collaborative online space to share learning, connect, and coordinate efforts to better support farmers, farm families, and rural residents.

Interested in getting involved? [Learn more](#) to join an upcoming session.

Got a Story to Share?

We're looking for voices from the field! If you're involved in a community initiative that supports mental health in rural or agricultural communities, we'd love to hear from you. Your story might inspire other communities to do more for mental health. **Share your story or nominate an initiative by reaching out to us at outreach@domore.ag.**



Behind Every Bolt — A National Fundraising Campaign for Farmer Mental Health

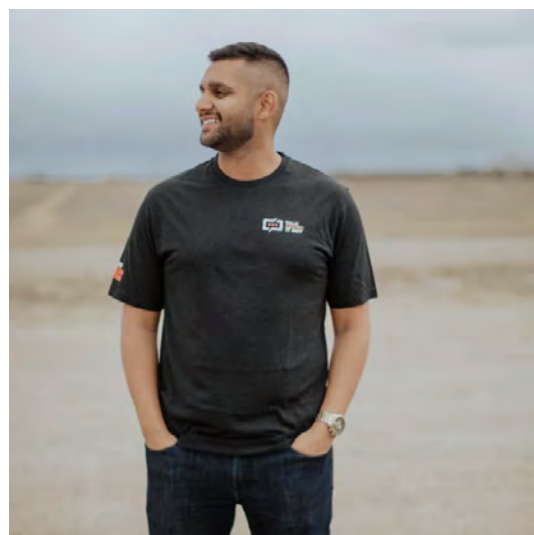
This new fundraising initiative invites small to large agricultural businesses (from individual farms, through manufacturing and dealerships, to any business involved in agriculture) to fundraise on behalf of The Do More Agriculture Foundation.

Participating companies can activate their own staff, employees, and customers to showcase that all of us are 'Behind Every Bolt' and that mental health matters, every day, always. Learn how to get involved:

domore.ag/behind-every-bolt

Shop Feature

The Do More Agriculture Foundation's *Classic Tee* is built for comfort and durability—perfect for a day in the field or a relaxed evening at home. With the *Talk It Out* logo on the chest and the *Do More Ag* logo on the sleeve, it's a simple way to show your support for mental health in agriculture. [Get yours today](#) and **wear your support for mental health in agriculture.**



Field of Mind: Supporting Men's Mental Well-Being

 **September 25, 2025**
12 - 1 PM CST
2 - 3 PM EST

 **Live on Zoom**
Free

Join us for Field of Mind, where men in agriculture come together to share real-life experiences, exchange valuable tips, & foster meaningful connections.



Guest speaker:
Bob Wilkie
Founder of I Got Mind Inc.

Register & more info:
domore.ag/events





Upcoming Webinars

September 25 - Our next **Field of Mind** session takes place from 12pm-1pm CST / 2pm -3pm EST. This free series focuses on mental health for men in agriculture and rural communities.

We're honoured to welcome **Bob Wilkie**, former professional hockey player and Founder of *I Got Mind Inc.*, who brings powerful personal experience and a strong commitment to breaking stigma in high-performance and rural cultures. [Register here.](#)

October 9 - Join us for a free "Lunch & Learn" version of our **Talk Ask Listen** workshop, The Do More Agriculture Foundation's flagship mental health literacy program. In just one hour, you'll increase your knowledge, build comfort in having conversations about mental health, and learn how to take action to support yourself and others in agriculture. Join us from 12-1pm CST / 2pm-3pm EST. [Register here.](#)



TALK ASK LISTEN: LUNCH & LEARN

A mental health workshop designed for agricultural, rural communities and businesses

Created by The Do More Agriculture Foundation

Join us for a free, one hour Talk Ask Listen workshop!
Our flagship mental health literacy session helps participants increase mental health knowledge, gain confidence in mental health conversations, and learn how to take meaningful action.

 **October 9, 2025**

 **12 - 1 PM CST | 2 - 3 PM EST**

 **Join by Zoom**

Register & more info:
domore.ag/events

Upcoming Community Mental Health Workshop Events:

[Bring mental health training to your community or workplace.](#) Curious how our Community Fund works? [Watch our info session](#) and [read the handbook](#) to learn about the process, eligibility and impact.

Keen to do [Mental Health First Aid Training \(MHFA\)](#)? We have three in-person sessions coming up:

September 5 - Based near Milton, ON? Join the free MHFA in-person session, hosted by the Country Heritage Agricultural Society. [See full details and register here.](#)

September 11 - Based near Abbotsford, BC? Join the free MHFA in-person session, hosted by the Matsqui Recreation Senior Centre. [See full details and register here.](#)

September 12 - Based near Winkler, MB? Join the free MHFA in-person session, hosted by the Eden Mental Health Centre. [See full details and register here.](#)

We will also have an upcoming free in-person [In The Know](#) session taking place **September 13th** at Little Dog Farm in Creston, BC. [See full details and register here.](#)

On **October 1st**, there is an in-person SafeTalk session hosted by

the Mount Forest Family Health Team in Mount Forest Ontario. [See full details and register here.](#)

[Stay connected](#) as more communities finalize plans for Mental Health workshops across the country!



Join the 2025 AgCulture Training Sessions!

The Do More Agriculture Foundation, in collaboration with facilitator **Bonnie Taylor, MSW, RSW**, is offering upcoming [AgCulture training sessions](#). These virtual workshops are designed for mental health professionals who are interested in deepening their understanding of agriculture in Canada and gaining practical insights rooted in lived experience and professional expertise.

What to expect:

- A deeper understanding of agricultural culture and stressors
- Tools to build trust and connection with clients in ag communities
- Practical strategies to strengthen your therapeutic practice with rural and ag-based populations
- Real stories and insights from farmers and rural mental health advocates

Offered monthly | Live online four-hour session | Free, sponsored by Farm Credit Canada

Register now for our **next sessions**: [September 12](#), [October 6](#), [November 4](#), [December 4](#)

This training will equip you with the context, language, and tools to enhance your ability to support rural clients—deepening the impact of your practice in ways that resonate with agricultural communities.



Executive Director, Dr. Merle Massie, recently met with a group of mental health advocates at the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health (CCRAH), including visiting Nuffield scholar Claire Catford. From left: Karen Marcinkiw (CCRAH), Kendra Ulmer (CCRAH), Dr. Merle Massie, Claire Catford, Dr. Shelley Kirychuk (CCRAH), and Dr. Michelle Pavloff of SaskPolytech.

IN THE NEWS

Our recent AgTalk renewal announcement saw coverage from numerous outlets, including [The Western Producer](#) and [Farmtario](#). Executive Director Dr. Merle Massie also joined [Rural Roots Canada](#) to discuss prioritizing mental health during harvest season—[listen here](#).

In addition, board member and The Do More Agriculture Foundation co-founder, Lesley Kelly, was featured on Manitoba's *Beef & Forage Roundup* podcast, speaking about mental health in agriculture—[listen here](#).

Help us grow the conversation

Know someone who cares about mental health in agriculture? Forward this newsletter to a friend, colleague, or community group. They can subscribe

anytime at domore.ag and stay connected and champion mental health in agriculture.

And don't forget to follow us on social media for stories, updates, and tools to support mental well-being across ag communities. Just click the icons below to join us.

YOUR IMPACT MATTERS.

With your support, The Do More Agriculture Foundation is driving meaningful change in agricultural communities by promoting awareness, acceptance, and tangible action for mental health. By building connections and creating spaces of support, we're making a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Together, we are shaping a stronger, healthier future for Canadian agriculture.
Thank you for standing with us to Do More for mental health.

[Donate Now](#)



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Disclaimer:

The Do More Agriculture Foundation is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

If you are in crisis, please call the national farmer crisis line at **1-866-FARMS01 (1-866-327-6701)** or the national call/text line **988**.



2025 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference Agenda

October 8, 2025

8:30 a.m.	Registration	
9:00 a.m.	Welcome to the County and Cypress Hills	ASB Chairman Shane Hok
9:05 a.m.	History of Eagle Butte and South	David J Carter
9:50 a.m.	Stories of the One-Four Research Station	Val Trainer
10:10 a.m.	Living Peat-free Soil	Amber Coderre
10:25 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45 a.m.	T.R.A.D. Worms	Roxanne Doerksen
11:05 a.m.	Prairie Gleaners	Jim Grossman
11:25 p.m.	TBD	
12:10 p.m.	LUNCH and chairman's meeting in mezzanine	
1:10 p.m.	ASB Program Update	Kerrienne Koehler-Munro
1:45 p.m.	Update from SR Rep	Rob Siewert – Foothills County
	Election for SR Rep and Alternate	Kerrienne Koehler-Munro
	ASB Resolution Session	Rob Siewert
	Invitation to 2026 SR ASB Conference – County of Forty Mile	
3:30 p.m.	Adjournment	

Thank you for attending the 2025 SR ASB Conference!