

**AGENDA**  
**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING**  
**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK**  
**July 8, 2026 1:30 pm**

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

B. MINUTES

- a) Draft Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2026

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Do More Agricultural Foundation – 2026 Community Fund for Mental Health
- Administration looked into applying for funding; Do More Ag needs us to submit names of 8 people that would be attending and then assure them that we have a minimum of 30 participants. Deadline to apply for this was May 20.
  - Due to timeline, administration suggested making a note for next year to try and get a list of people that would be interested.
- b) New Scale Discussion – tabled from last meeting
- c) Strychnine Discussion – information not provided for administration to advertise/social media

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Agricultural and Environmental Service Board Strategic and Operational Plan 2025-2029
- Tabled pending Provincial Regulation Policy Updates  
*\* need finished document for Council approval*
- b) Foothill Creek Watershed User Group
- The process has been started to form a user group with the initial meeting set for July 28th. Letters went out to landowners and water license holders within the watershed.
  - Letter Attached
- c) Policy Review
- Tabled from Last Meeting:
- C-AES-002 Landowners to Assume Responsibility for Weed Control on Municipal Right-of-Ways Adjacent to their Property
  - C-AES-003 Weed Free Gravel/Aggregate
  - C-AES-004 Weed Control
    - Updated policy attached
  - C-AES-004B Eradicable Weed Control
  - C-AES-005 Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pest Act Appeal Committee
  - C-AES-006 Agricultural Pests
    - Updated policy attached
  - C-AES-007 Soil Conservation Act Appeal Committee
  - C-AES-605 Livestock Industry
  - C-FIN-529 Fees and Charges (Agriculture and Environmental Services Section)
- New Needs to be Completed (attached):
- Soil Conservation
  - Animal Health Assistance

E. AES DEPARTMENTAL REPORT AND CALL LOG

- a) Agricultural Fieldman Reports – June 2026

F. WEED NOTICES

- AES has developed a formal template for notifying landowners of property inspections and required actions. We have begun the process of inspecting properties and documenting our findings so we can track each landowner's progress over time. The first letters went out at the end of June. To maintain positive relationships with our ratepayers, the first step in the weed notice process will be "notification of inspection" letters that involve voluntary compliance and outlines next steps if the required actions are not met.
- Letter template attached

G. CORRESPONDENCE

1. For Action

2. For Information

- a) Weed Wednesdays
  - AES has been posting a different regulated weed weekly to bring awareness to the community
- b) The Voice of Agritourism
  - April Newsletter
- c) Correspondence from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Response letter to ASB
- d) Do More Agriculture Foundation
  - May eNews

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Foothills Forage Association 2026 Budgeted Amount Discussion

2. Appointment of Weed Inspectors

- The follow members of the AES team need to be appointed as weed inspectors:
  - Ayla Peacock
  - Graham Milligan
  - Jesson Luco
  - Landon Sokoloski
  - Mike Lwugi
  - Eddie Lindsell
  - Sarah McClelland
- Copy of ID cards attached

I. NEXT MEETING – September 2, 2026

J. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Minutes of the  
Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9  
May 6, 2026

Present: Chair Anna Welsch, Vice Chair Mark Zoratti, Councillors Tony Bruder and Jim Welsch, and Todd Vance and Stuart Lewis.

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

Absent: Martin Puch

Chair Anna Welsch opened the meeting at 1:30 pm and introduced new board member Todd Vance, Assistant Agricultural Environmental Services Manager, Ayla Peacock. A special thank you to outgoing member-at-large Martin Puch for his years of service.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councillor Jim Welsch 26/019

Moved that the agenda for May 6, 2026 be approved as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

C. MINUTES

Councillor Tony Bruder 26/020

Moved that the minutes of March 4, 2026, be approved as presented.

Carried

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mark Zoratti 26/021

Moved that the following letters be received as information:

- a) Support for Enhanced AIS Prevention Efforts
  - Letter to Council from Minister
- b) Concerns over the closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre
  - Letter sent in support

Carried

- c) Deadstock Bin Division 3 and Signage

The board was updated that the Division 3 deadstock bin has been placed at the airport, with signage in place. User numbers are down with the new location.

Stuart Lewis

26/022

Moved that in regards to the 2026 off-season for deadstock bins:

- Advertising (social media) and signage on bins advising that bins be closed as of June 15, 2026, and including contact information for deadstock removal during Summer,
- Bins to be inspected by the AES department prior to closing for the season to check for needed repairs.
- Bins to remain at their current locations, but locked for the season.

Carried

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Todd Vance

26/023

Moved that, once completed by AES staff, the ASB recommend to Council to approve the draft Strategic Plan and Strategic Priorities,

AND THAT additional Strategic Priorities for 2026 be included:

- Get dam users group operational
- More educational opportunities
- Information for ranchers for funding opportunities

Carried

- b) Wildlife Predation Identification Training

Councillor Tony Bruder

26/024

Moved that the ASB present a resolution at the next ASB Regional Conference in Spring 2027 regarding Wildlife Predation Identification Training.

Carried

- c) Dams Discussion

- January 2026 - The board would like to see a meeting scheduled for all dam users downstream from the four dams, with an open discussion on how the water should be managed.
- Board would like to start with the Foothills Dam users.
- No meeting scheduled to date.
- Ag Fieldman stated he planned on setting up a meeting for the winter.

- d) New Regulations on CFIA

- Ag Fieldman to research the possibility of hosting an information meeting for producers in the MD of Pincher Creek with the Alberta Beef Producers representative to explain the proposed CFIA changes.
- CFIA is unable to attend.
- Changes are temporarily on hold.

e) Policy Review

Todd Vance 26/025

Moved to table the policy review until the next meeting, pending Provincial changes being shown on appropriate policies.

Carried

F. 2026 AES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mark Zoratti 26/026

Moved to accept for information the departmental reports from the Agricultural Fieldman for March through May 2026.

Carried

G. WEED NOTICE

Nothing to report.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. For Action

2. For Information

Stuart Lewis 26/027

Moved that the following be received as information:

- a) Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
  - Letter of Gratitude
- b) Do More Agriculture Foundation Newsletters
  - March
  - April
- c) AB Farm Fresh Producers Association
  - March Newsletter
- d) Alberta Energy Regulator
  - Weed & Rest Compliance on AER Regulated Well Sites
- e) Agricultural Moisture Situation Update
  - April 24, 2026

f) Do More Agricultural Foundation

Councillor Jim Welsch

26/028

Moved that administration apply to the Do More Agricultural Foundation for the 2026 Community Fund for Mental Health.

Carried

I. NEW BUSINESS

a) New Scale Discussion

Todd Vance

26/029

Moved that the purchase of a new scale with cost options be brought back to the next ASB meeting.

Carried

b) Strychnine Discussion

- AES staff will be responsible for inspecting potential locations for use when landowners request.
- Farmer pesticide applicator license training available
  - Ag Fieldman to provide information to administration for advertising and social media posting

J. CLOSED SESSION

K. NEXT MEETING – July 8, 2026 at 1:30 pm

L. ADJOURNMENT

Stuart Lewis

26/030

Moved to adjourn the meeting, the time being 3:37 pm.

Carried

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ASB Chairperson

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ASB Secretary



P.O. BOX 279  
PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA  
T0K 1W0  
phone: 403-627-3130 • fax: 403-627-5070  
email: [info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca)  
[www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca](http://www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca)

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
John Doe  
Box , Twin Butte, AB T0K 2J0

Re: Invitation to participate in the formation of Foothill Creek Watershed User Group

Dear John,

You are receiving this letter because your property is located adjacent to, has a water license linked to, or directly benefits from the Fish Lake Reservoir, Halton Reservoir and Foothill Creek watershed.

As water users, landowners, and stewards of this watershed, we share a common interest in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our water resources for agricultural production, livestock watering, and environmental health. Prolonged drought conditions, consecutive agricultural disaster years and increasing demands on water resources have highlighted the importance of collaborative planning and user involvement in watershed management.

To address these challenges and opportunities, the M.D. of Pincher Creek No. 9 is initiating the development of a Watershed User Group that will provide a forum for water users to work together on matters related to:

- Reservoir management and operations
- Water allocation and availability
- Drought preparedness and response
- Watershed stewardship and conservation
- Monitoring infrastructure planning and maintenance
- Communication among water users
- Long-term water security within the watershed

The purpose of this initiative is to establish a locally driven organization that allows watershed users to participate directly in decision making and governance regarding the management of shared water resources.

We would like to invite you to attend an initial stakeholder meeting to discuss the future of the watershed and explore the formation of a Foothill Creek Watershed User Group. **Beef on a bun dinner will also be provided.**



P.O. BOX 279  
PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA  
T0K 1W0  
phone: 403-627-3130 • fax: 403-627-5070  
email: [info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca)  
[www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca](http://www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca)

The objectives of this meeting include:

- Introducing the concept of a Watershed User Group.
- Discussing current challenges within the watershed.
- Identifying priorities for reservoir and watershed management.
- Gathering input from landowners and water users.
- Exploring potential governance structures and membership models.
- Establishing next steps for developing the user group.

This meeting is intended to be an open discussion where all participants can share their perspectives and concerns. This is an opportunity to begin a collaborative process that reflects the needs and priorities of local watershed users. Your participation is important. The success of this user group will depend on meaningful involvement from the individuals and businesses that rely on these water resources.

If you are unable to attend but would like to stay informed or provide input, please contact Ayla Peacock at 403-339-1034 or [aes-asstmgr@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:aes-asstmgr@mdpincercreek.ab.ca)

We look forward to working together to support the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Fish Lake and Halton Reservoirs and Foothill Creek.

**Meeting Details:**

*Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>*

*5:00 pm – 7:30 pm*

1037 Herron Ave, Pincher Creek- Council Chambers

RSVP to: Ayla Peacock [aes-asstmgr@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:aes-asstmgr@mdpincercreek.ab.ca) | 403-339-1034

Sincerely,

**Ayla Peacock, AIT**

AES Assistant Manager

M.D. Pincher Creek No. 9

**M.D. OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9****CORPORATE POLICY****C-AES-004**

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**TITLE: WEED CONTROL POLICY****Approved by Council:****Date: March 25, 1997****Revised by Council:****Date: June 25, 2019**

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**Summary**

The Municipal District of Pincher Creek is responsible for the effective management, on municipal lands, of designated prohibited noxious and noxious weed species under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*; *Weed Control Regulation*, and other weeds elevated to such status by Municipal District bylaws, and as such, carry out an annual integrated weed management program (including, but not limited to, appropriate herbicide treatments for these weeds) on municipal roadside right-of-ways (ROW), gravel pits, municipal reserves and environmental reserves.

With that in mind, the Agricultural and Environmental Services Department wants to be part of the decision of where the municipality distributes its gravel from, in order to control the spread of weeds from gravel pits.

Annual inspection of all municipal and participating private gravel pits (aggregate sources) may ensure all gravel, pit run, and aggregate products used within the municipal boundaries come from a municipally inspected gravel pit to assist in preventing the spread of invasive plants; (*Weed Control Act* Part 1: 4(1) and 5(1)).

**Background**

The Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 has approximately 900 kms of gravel roads to maintain. Most roads are re-gravelled every three years (MD Draft Policy Road Maintenance) which makes taking this step important in the areas of not only weed control, but in budgeting and yearly costs as well.

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**TITLE: WEED CONTROL POLICY**

**Approved by Council:**

**Date: March 25, 1997**

**Revised by Council:**

**Date: June 25, 2019**

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### **Requirements**

There are four basic requirements to carrying out an effective policy.

- Yearly Inspections – depending on the weed species, there could be as many as four or five different inspections/control per year.
- Program of Integrated Weed Management, with chemical control being the most used component as noxious weed species often flourish in gravel pits, which are highly disturbed areas.
- Communication between all departments of the municipality so that a known weed infestation is not spread from a gravel pit with a viable alternative.
- Communication to anyone in the municipality that may be using gravel from a pit within our borders.

### **Resources**

The Agricultural Fieldman will allocate the appropriate resources to implement this policy. Annually the Fieldman will,

- Designate a crew to inspect each gravel pit.
- Implement an Integrated Control Strategy for each pit, providing all the tools to each crew necessary to carrying out effective control.
- Maintain a list of all Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds (as represented in the Weed Act and as locally elevated species) present in the pit.
- Do a minimum of one annual inspection of all gravel pits in the municipality seeking 'Weed Free' status.
- Communicate all information to Public Works, Municipal Administration and whoever else makes an inquiry as to the status of their purchased gravel in the MD of Pincher Creek.

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**TITLE: WEED CONTROL POLICY**

**Approved by Council:**

**Date: March 25, 1997**

**Revised by Council:**

**Date: June 25, 2019**

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**Purpose:**

The Agricultural and Environmental Services Department is responsible for developing and delivering an effective weed control program in the Municipal District (MD) of Pincher Creek. This will be accomplished by following the guidelines and recommendations of the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, the *Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*, and the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

The Department is responsible for weed control on all municipally owned or controlled lands such as developed and undeveloped Right of Ways, owned or leased Gravel Pits, MD owned or leased land and MD Reserve Lands (Environmental, Conservation, Community Services, Municipal, School and Municipal and School), as designated by Municipal Council.

The Department staff will conduct a weed inspection and enforcement program on private land, Crown land, transportation corridors, and industrial sites. In all cases, the landowner is responsible for weed control, with any control measures taken by Department staff on these lands being done at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman and/or the Director of Operations, as well as according to Policy C-AES-601B, on a cost recovery basis, or charged at MD rates established by council.

**Objectives:**

The Weed Control Program's Objectives are to:

- Protect the agricultural productivity of land.
- Prevent the introduction and spread of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds as outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.
- Eradicate Prohibited Noxious weeds as outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.

The Agricultural Fieldman (supervisor), Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Weed Inspectors, and Roadside Spray Crews will work together to carry out the following:

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**Approved by Council:**

**Date: March 25, 1997**

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**Legislated Responsibilities:**

- Eradicate, or cause to be eradicated, any Prohibited Noxious weeds as outlined under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* or local Municipal Bylaw. Council may designate some or all of these species as Eradicable Weeds from year to year at their discretion.
- Control, or cause to be controlled, any Noxious weeds as outlined under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* or local Municipal Bylaw. Council may designate certain Noxious and/or other weed species as priority concerns or Eradicable Weeds from year to year at their discretion.
- Properly document and map all weed infestations and activities. Pesticide applicator files must be kept for ALL applications.

**Other Responsibilities:**

- For the control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds on small acreage areas, premixed herbicides are available on a cost recovery basis at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.
- Promote education and awareness of proper chemical, mechanical, biological, cultural and integrated weed management techniques.
- Demonstrate weed identification techniques.
- Work in cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions to promote and encourage weed control outside our municipal boundaries (for example; Crowsnest Pass).
- Work in cooperation with industry to develop an effective weed control strategy both within and beyond our municipal boundaries.
- Work in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture & Forestry and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada research scientists to provide local plots for weed and herbicide demonstrations, as well as technology transfer.
- Provide recommendations for grass seed mixes to reclaim bare ground or disturbed areas, insisting upon and promoting a good seed mix and a Certificate of Seed Analysis.

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- Conduct regular inspections of the local Seed Cleaning Plant. When requested by the Pincher Creek Seed Cleaning Plant Board, one member of the Agricultural Service Board may sit as an observer.

**Pesticide Container Collection:**

A temporary site for empty pesticide container is maintained at the Pincher Creek Airport. The site is regularly inspected and certified as safe by the Pesticide Management Branch of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development from Lethbridge. The storage trailer at the site is periodically emptied at the Crowsnest Pincher Creek Landfill disposal site for pesticide containers where they are shredded and sent for recycling.

**Legal Requirements:**

Involves acquiring permits for chemical application, handling, & storage of materials, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

The Agricultural Fieldman is a member of the Professional Vegetation Manager's Association (PVMA), an industry driven group of both private and public organizations involved in industrial vegetation control. Their publication Industry Standards and Good Practices is this department's guide for fulfilling legal requirements associated with vegetation control. A copy is available for viewing at the Agricultural Fieldman's office.

**Related Legislation:**

*Federal Pest Control Products Act*

*Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*

*Alberta Weed Control Act*

*Alberta Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act*

**M.D. OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9**

**CORPORATE POLICY**

**C-AES-004**

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**TITLE: WEED CONTROL POLICY**

**Approved by Council:**

**Date: March 25, 1997**

**Revised by Council:**

**Date: June 25, 2019**

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**Related Policy:**

C-AES-002 – Landowners Assuming Responsibility for Weed Control on Municipal Right-of-Ways (ROW) Adjacent to Their Property

C-AES-004B – Eradicable Weed Policy

C-AES-003 – Weed Free Gravel Policy

Policy – Weed Control  
Dept. – AES  
Date – July 8, 2026

**Purpose** – To promote and enforce the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2008, Chapter W – 5.1) and *Weed Control Regulation* (19/2010), specifically those parts that specify that Prohibited Noxious Weeds are to be eradicated and Noxious Weeds are to be controlled.

**Background** – The Agricultural and Environmental Services Department (herein after referred to as AES) is responsible for developing and delivering an effective weed control program in the Municipal District (MD) of Pincher Creek. This will be accomplished by following the guidelines and recommendations of the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, the *Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*, and the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

AES is responsible for weed control on all municipally owned or controlled lands such as developed and undeveloped Right of Ways, owned or leased Gravel Pits, MD owned or leased land and MD Reserve Lands (Environmental, Conservation, Community Services, Municipal, School and Municipal and School), as designated by Municipal Council.

AES staff will conduct a weed inspection and enforcement program on private land, Crown land, transportation corridors, and industrial sites. In all cases, the landowner is responsible for weed control, with any control measures taken by AES staff on these lands being done at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman and , as well as according to Policy C-AES-601B, on a cost recovery basis, or charged at MD rates established by council.

### **Objectives:**

The Weed Control Program's Objectives are to:

- Protect the agricultural productivity of land.
- Prevent the introduction and spread of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds as outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.
- Eradicate Prohibited Noxious weeds as outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.
- Control Noxious weeds as outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act*

**Legislated Responsibilities:** The Agricultural Fieldman (supervisor), Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Weed Inspectors, and Roadside Spray Crews will work together to carry out the following:

- Eradicate, or cause to be eradicated, any Prohibited Noxious weeds as outlined under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* or local Municipal Bylaw. Council may designate some or all of these species as Eradicable Weeds from year to year at their discretion.
- Control, or cause to be controlled, any Noxious weeds as outlined under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* or local Municipal Bylaw. Council may designate certain Noxious and/or other weed species as priority concerns or Eradicable Weeds from year to year at their discretion.
- Properly document and map all weed infestations and activities. Pesticide applicator files must be kept for ALL applications.

### **Other Responsibilities:**

- For the control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds on small acreage areas, premixed herbicides are available on a cost recovery basis at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.
- Promote education and awareness of proper chemical, mechanical, biological, cultural and integrated weed management techniques.
- Demonstrate weed identification techniques.
- Work in cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions to promote and encourage weed control outside our municipal boundaries (for example; Crowsnest Pass).
- Work in cooperation with industry to develop an effective weed control strategy both within and beyond our municipal boundaries.
- Work in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada research scientists to provide local plots for weed and herbicide demonstrations, as well as technology transfer.
- Provide recommendations for grass seed mixes to reclaim bare ground or disturbed areas, insisting upon and promoting a good seed mix and a Certificate of Seed Analysis.
- Conduct regular inspections of the local Seed Cleaning Plant.

### **Related Legislation:**

*Federal Pest Control Products Act*

*Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*

*Alberta Weed Control Act*

*Alberta Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act*

**Related Policy:**

C-AES-002 – Landowners Assuming Responsibility for Weed Control on Municipal Right-of-Ways (ROW) Adjacent to Their Property

C-AES-004B – Eradicable Weed Policy

C-AES-003 – Weed Free Gravel Policy

## **NEW POLICIES**

The new policies suggested below are to bring our policies in compliance with what the Province has suggested is needed. More will be added but the basics are there in the Purpose paragraph.

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Policy – Soil Conservation

Dept. – AES

Date – July 8, 2026

**Purpose** – To promote and enforce that soil loss due to erosion, both wind and water, be controlled according to the *Soil Conservation Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter S-15) and the *Conservation Regulation* (272/1998).

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Policy – Animal Health Assistance

Dept. – AES

Date – July 8, 2026

**Purpose** – To promote and ensure that animal management concerns are dealt with in accordance with the *Animal Health Act* of Alberta (S.A. 2007, Chapter A-40.2), the *Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation* (229/200), the *Livestock Disease Control Regulation* (69/2000) and the *Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation* (209/2008).

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**TITLE:        AGRICULTURAL PESTS POLICY**

Approved by Council

Date: May 23, 2017

Revised by Council

Date: *January 12, 2021*

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**Related Provincial Legislation:**     *Agricultural Service Board Act*  
*Agricultural Pests Act and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation*

**Related Federal Legislation:**        *Pest Control Products Act*

**Purpose:**

The Agricultural Service Board is committed to assisting residents in mitigating conflict with crop and wildlife *Pests or Nuisances*, as identified by the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*. Changes in management practices are the preferred method to discourage the damage and/or establishment of these animals, insects or pathogens. When necessary and appropriate, however, other strategies for control will be considered.

Conflict involving all other categories of wildlife will be assigned to Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

**Problem Wildlife Management:**

AES Department staff, in cooperation with local Fish and Wildlife, will investigate livestock losses or harassment caused by coyote, as well as crop stored grain or water, and property damage due to ~~problem wildlife~~ *Pests and Nuisances*.

AES Staff will:

- Provide information to residents on control and mitigation of coyotes
  - When deemed absolutely necessary, and under the guidelines of the *Pest Control Products Act*, provide the lethal toxicant Compound 1080.
  - Provide information to residents on control and mitigation of Richardson Ground Squirrels
  - When deemed absolutely necessary, and under the guidelines of the *Pest Control Products Act*, provide the lethal toxicant 2% liquid strychnine to producers dealing with an infestation of Richardson's ground squirrel (~~until March 4 of 2022~~)
  - Lethal toxins are a last resort and will be administered under the guidelines of the *Pest Control Products Act*. AES Department Staff will acquire and maintain a Form 7 Certification for these purposes.
  - Communicate with Alberta Fish and Wildlife for all matters concerning large carnivores other than coyotes.
-

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**TITLE: AGRICULTURAL PESTS POLICY**

Approved by Council

Date: May 23, 2017

Revised by Council

Date: January 12, 2021

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- Assist residents with information and resources to mitigate large carnivore issues
- Assist with the management and administration of the 'Deadstock Program' to lower the risk of large carnivore conflicts. Current program is in conjunction with the Waterton Biosphere Reserve's Carnivores and Communities Program (CACP).

For other problem wildlife, both under the Act and other, AES Staff will assist or provide;

- Rental of skunk-traps
- Problem bird control traps
- Spread awareness of, inspect for and help eradicate Norway rats
- Provide producers with information on minimizing the effects of Pests and Nuisances as outlined in the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*, as well as beavers, muskrats, badgers, other nuisance birds.

**Surveys:**

AES, in cooperation with the Province and/or Federal Government, will monitor for all *Pests and Nuisances* (listed in Appendix), in accordance with the *Agricultural Pests Act & Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation*. Regular *Pest and Nuisance* surveys done under the Act, both provincially and locally, are; Clubroot, Blackleg and Grasshoppers.

AES Staff assist with annual survey data to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AAI) ~~Forestry (AAF)~~ on pests that are of concern to producers in our municipality and to our ASB, and as much as possible, the province, for example; Cutworms, Bertha Armyworm and Wheat Midge.

**Awareness & Education:**

Accomplished through direct resident contact in the field, information meetings, the media, web site, newsletter, email distribution list, and by working with other community groups and stakeholders. The ASB, through the Agricultural and Environmental Services (AES) Department, also coordinates with ~~AAI AAF~~, Fish and Wildlife, Alberta Environment and ~~Protected Areas Parks~~ and other relevant stakeholders for all of the above.

Brian Hammond  
Reeve



Troy A. MacCulloch  
Chief Administrative Officer



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**TITLE: AGRICULTURAL PESTS POLICY**

Approved by Council  
Revised by Council

Date: May 23, 2017  
Date: *January 12, 2021*

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**APPENDIX**

**Schedule 1**

**Part 1**

**Animals, birds, insects, plants and diseases  
declared to be Pests throughout Alberta**

Africanized bee — *Apis mellifera adansonii*  
Bacterial ring rot — *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus*  
Blackleg of canola — *Leptosphaeria maculans*  
Chalkbrood — *Ascosphaera aggregata*  
Clubroot — *Plasmodiophora brassicae*  
Columbia River root knot nematode — *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*  
Dutch elm disease — *Ophiostoma ulmi* and *Ophiostoma nova-ulmi*  
Dwarf bunt — *Tilletia controversa*  
Emerald ash borer — *Agrilus planipennis*  
European elm bark beetle — *Scolytus multistriatus*  
Fireblight and the causal bacterium — *Erwinia amylovora*  
Flag smut of cereals — *Urocystis agropyri*  
Golden nematode — *Globodera rostochiensis*  
Grasshopper (*Locustidae*)  
Gypsy moth — *Lymantria dispar*  
Head smut of corn — *Spacelothecia reiliana*  
Karnal bunt — *Tilletia indica*  
Lesser grain borer — *Rhyzopertha dominica*  
Native elm bark beetle — *Hylurgopinus rufipes*  
Norway rat and any other rat species or strain derived from the genus *Rattus*  
Potato wart — *Synchytrium endobioticum*  
Rabies — *Rhabdoviruses*  
Stem and bulb nematode — *Ditylenchus dipsaci*  
Warble fly — *Hypoderma*  
White rot of onions — *Sclerotium cepivorum*  
Wild boar — *Sus scrofa*, excluding *Sus scrofa domesticus*, and including wild boar hybrids

---

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**TITLE:        AGRICULTURAL PESTS POLICY**

Approved by Council

Date: May 23, 2017

Revised by Council

Date: *January 12, 2021*

---

**Part 2**

**Animals, birds, insects, plants and diseases  
declared to be Nuisances throughout Alberta**

Bushy-tailed wood rat — *Neotoma cinerea*  
Columbian ground squirrel — *Spermophilus columbianus*  
Coyote — *Canis latrans*  
Deer mouse — *Peromyscus maniculatus*  
English sparrow — *Passer domesticus*  
European starling — *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Franklin's ground squirrel — *Spermophilus franklinii*  
House mouse — *Mus musculus*  
Magpie — *Pica pica*  
Meadow vole — *Microtus pennsylvanicus*  
Northern pocket gopher — *Thomomys talpoides*  
Richardson's ground squirrel — *Spermophilus richardsonii*  
Rock dove — *Columba livia*  
Skunk — *Mephitis mephitis*  
Thirteen-lined ground squirrel — *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*

AR126/2016 s5

### AES June 2026

- June 1 – 30, mowing (admin, airport, Lundbreck, Beaver Mines, Water Dist. System)
- June 1 – 30, weed control with crews on MD land
- June 1 – 30, weed control in gravel pits
- June 1 – 30, Mapping and inspections for Weed Act enforcement letters
- Every Thursday, Premix Sales
- June 2, Biocontrol releases for Common Tansy
- June 3, Biocontrol assessment for Dalmatian Toadflax
- June 9, AAAF Weed School
- June 11, Weed Inspections (Crew checkup), playground inspections
- June 16, Crop Report
- June 17, mobile worksite safety inspection, Cridland Dam inspection and spraying
- June 19, runway pavement testing
- June 22, Cooperative weed spray event in Waterton Park
- June 23, begin Forestry logging area inspections
- June 24, General Office (mapping and records, billing, safety, weed eradication plans), CFIA deadstock records
- June 29, 30, General office/shop work (Safety program, incident report, sales, equipment, budget, purchasing, billing, permitting, data evaluation and management, mapping, parts)
- June 1 – 30, Summer Weed Program Timeline
  - Hoary Cress, was finished mid-June, some patches will be fall sprayed (late July, early August is 'fall' spraying for HC)
  - Wild Caraway, have been spraying all of June with Clearview, will use Tordon 22K of July sprayed patches
  - Dame's Rocket, picking and spraying patches flowering since late May, a few new patches seen
  - Spotted Knapweed, spraying started same as BW, bolted about mid-June, flowering should be early July
  - Diffuse Knapweed, only one area has it and it should bolt by end of June
  - Blueweed, has been getting done in mapped areas, on roads and some letters gone out for large infestations
  - Yellow Hawkweeds, have been popping up everywhere, and is starting to flower as of mid-June on lower elevations
  - Orange Hawkweed, spraying of mapped patches
  - Scentless Chamomile, not flowered yet in June
  - Field Scabious, not flowered yet in June
  - Oxeye Daisy, hope to put out another release of biocontrol, some spot spraying done
  - Tall Buttercup, some spot spraying done
  - Perennial Sowthistle, not showing in June
  - Black Henbane, showing up in scattered areas, none so far on roads
  - Dalmatian Toadflax, scattered sites around MD, biocontrol is present in all areas (that haven't been sprayed, usually for other weeds)
  - Common Mullein, scattered sites around MD, lots in Forestry, bolting by June 20
  - Field Bindweed, inspection and spraying of known (mapped) patches, should flower by end of June
  - Common Tansy, Crowsnest River biocontrol
  - Baby's Breath, starting to bolt, end of June
  - Common Toadflax, should start to show by end of June
  - Nodding Thistle, check the usual areas, get letters out
  - Canada Thistle, slow to show this year, grass is competing well

Sincerely,

Shane Poulsen,  
Agricultural Services Manager



P.O. BOX 279  
 PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA  
 T0K 1W0  
 phone: 403-627-3130 • fax: 403-627-5070  
 email: info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca  
 www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca

## Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 NOTIFICATION OF PROPERTY INSPECTION

Case Number:  
 Date of Inspection:

To: (Landowner/Occupant/Person in Charge of Land)  
 Mailing Address: [MAILING ADDRESS]  
 Legal Land Description:  
 Roll #:

### 1. Authority

Pursuant to the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, a designated Weed Inspector authorized by the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9, under section 12 of the *Act*, has inspected the above-noted lands and has determined that prohibited noxious weeds and/or noxious weeds are present and require control or destruction as prescribed under the *Act* and *Weed Control Regulation*.

### 2. Inspection Findings

During an inspection conducted on [INSPECTION DATE], the following regulated weeds were identified on the property:

Primary Weeds of Concern	Classification	Approximate Location/Extent
[e.g., Common Tansy]	[Noxious / Prohibited Noxious]	[Roadside, pasture, riparian area, short description of where the infestation is]
[e.g., Leafy Spurge]	[Noxious / Prohibited Noxious]	[Roadside, pasture, riparian area, short description of where the infestation is]
Other Weeds Present	Classification	Approximate Location/Extent
[Additional species]	[Classification]	[Location/extent]
[Additional species]	[Classification]	[Location/extent]

The weed infestation identified covers approximately [infestation area in ha] and has a density distribution of [insert DD]. The infestation is considered sufficient to require action under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*. The primary weeds of concern are [enter primary weeds] and must be controlled and/or destroyed. While other noxious weeds were identified, enforcing their control per the *Weed Control Act* is not a priority at this time. For a more detailed map and photos of the infestation see Appendix A.



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PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA  
T0K 1W0  
phone: 403-627-3130 • fax: 403-627-5070  
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www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca

### 3. Voluntary Action

We ask that you control and/or destroy the above-noted weeds on the lands described in accordance with the *Weed Control Act and Regulation*. Failure to manage these weeds allows them to spread, impacting neighboring agricultural and natural lands, and causing immediate economic threat to land value and productivity.

Acceptable control methods may include mowing, cultivation, hand-pulling, herbicide application, biological control, and involving an integrated weed management approach appropriate to the species and site conditions. Pursuant to the *Weed Control Act*, the Landowner/Occupant shall be strictly responsible for the management of the designated weeds on the subject property as follows:

Noxious weeds:

- The Landowner/Occupant shall **control** all noxious weeds. Control means to cut, inhibit the growth of, or destroy the plants in a manner that prevents the weed from spreading or reproducing.

Prohibited noxious weeds: destroy

- The Landowner/Occupant shall **destroy** all prohibited noxious weeds. Destroy means to kill all growing parts of the plant and render reproductive mechanisms non-viable to completely eradicate the species from the land.

### 4. Voluntary Compliance Timeline

Required Action	Deadline
Control measures implemented	[DATE]
Follow-up inspection	[DATE]

A follow-up inspection will be conducted after the above date to verify that control measures have been completed. If it is determined that the weeds have been managed appropriately, the M.D. will take no further action and will continue to monitor the property until the infestation has been adequately controlled. Controlling invasive weeds is a multi-year process, and consistent control measures will be required at the subject property for the foreseeable future.

### 5. Failure to Comply

If the required control measures are not completed by the specified deadline, the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 may issue an official *Section 13 Inspector's Notice*. If the Landowner/Occupant does not comply with the *Inspector's Notice*, the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No.9 may, without further notice:

- Enter the land to carry out the required weed control work, and/or
- Arrange for the work to be completed by a contractor.



P.O. BOX 279  
PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA  
T0K 1W0  
phone: 403-627-3130 • fax: 403-627-5070  
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[www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca](http://www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca)

All costs incurred may be charged to the landowner and recovered in accordance with the *Alberta Weed Control Act* and the *Municipal Government Act*.

#### **6. Right to Discuss the Letter**

If you have questions regarding this letter, the identified weed species, acceptable control methods, or the required action timeline, please contact the Weed Inspector listed below as soon as possible. Early communication can assist in resolving concerns, extending timelines and developing an appropriate control plan.

#### **Weed Inspector Information**

Weed Inspector: [INSPECTOR NAME]

Title:

Phone: [PHONE NUMBER]

Email: [EMAIL ADDRESS]

Mailing Address: Box 279, Pincher Creek, Alberta T0K 1W0



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**Appendix A: Infestation Map & Photos**

SHARE:

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[View as Webpage](#)



## The Quiet Month

A friend of mine farms berries an hour west of Edmonton, and I called her last week to ask what she was up to. She laughed. She said she was on the kitchen floor with her seed catalogues spread out in a half-circle around her, trying to decide how much of the back field to give to strawberries this year and how much to haskaps. The dog, she said, was lying on the saskatoon page.

It was four in the afternoon. Outside her window the snow was going in patches, the way it does in April, leaving the grass underneath looking yellow and stunned. There was still ice in the rut at the end of her driveway. She had been on the floor since lunch.

That, she told me, was a farm in April.

I have been thinking about that ever since, because most of us, most of us who live in the city, anyway, assume the farm year begins in June. The gates open. The signs get hung. A small chalkboard appears at the end of a long gravel road announcing strawberries, today, picked this morning, and that, we think, is when the season starts. It isn't. The season starts now, in April, on a kitchen floor, with a dog half asleep on a seed catalogue.



## Upside-down thinking...

This is upside-down thinking, and I find it useful, because once you see it you can't quite unsee it. The pail of berries you'll buy in July at a farm gate west of the city, sun-warm, eaten half-on-the-way-to-the-scale, has been months in the making by the time you fill it.

Somebody, right now, is on their hands and knees in a greenhouse pricking those seedlings out into bigger trays. Somebody else is rebuilding the gate the snow took out. Somebody is on the phone trying to find a summer student who'll show up. Somebody is pruning, in gloves, in a wind that hasn't yet decided whether it's spring.

You don't see all the work that happens in April. That's how it's meant to work, the visible season is the part with the berries and the kids and the late-afternoon light over the rows, and the invisible season is the part that makes the visible one possible. But it is worth knowing, I think, that the quiet part is happening.

It is worth knowing the people doing it!

## A Circle, For Later

So this is what I'd like to do with the rest of this letter. I'd like to introduce you to eight of those people. They all farm within an hour of Edmonton, in a stretch of country called Parkland County, tucked between Stony Plain, and the rolling country out past Wabamun. They are all members of Agritourism Alberta. Many of them are members of Agritourism Alberta (formerly the Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association), and every one of them has something worth the drive.

So here it is. Your 2026 Parkland County Farm Circle. Eight stops. One county. A whole lot of summer ahead.

## Berry Patches and Orchards

### Big Rock Berry Farm

Tim and Amber grow the kind of berries you want to eat half of before you get to the scale... though, in fairness to them, you really shouldn't. One or two berries, perhaps. Half the pail is pushing it, lol! Raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, cherries, haskaps, rhubarb, in roughly that order through the season. Their fields open in mid-July and run. Call ahead, bring a bucket, plan to linger! [www.bigrockberryfarm.com](http://www.bigrockberryfarm.com)



### Strawberry Field

The name does most of the work. Sun-warm strawberries, picked the same morning you eat them, still holding the heat of the field. Bring the kids. Bring a cooler. Try to make it home with enough left for jam... nobody ever does :)

[www.sbfields.com](http://www.sbfields.com)

### Saskatoon Valley Orchards

Keith and Karen have been growing saskatoons there since 1996, eleven thousand bushes, four varieties, planted out in long quiet rows. If you have never tasted the difference between a Smoky and a Honeywood, this is where you find out. July and August. No appointment needed. Pails provided.

[Facebook.com/Saskatoon-Valley-Orchards](https://www.facebook.com/Saskatoon-Valley-Orchards)



## Pumpkins, Play, and Full Days Out



### Somerset Farms

Kate's pumpkin patch is arguably the best west of Edmonton, and she's quietly built it into so much more. U-pick strawberries, raspberries, and elderberries in summer. Pumpkins (edible and decorative) all through fall. Private country picnic sites you can book for family get-togethers, and photography backdrops that turn engagement shoots into keepers. *edmonton-pick-a-pumpkin.com*

[www.edmonton-pick-a-pumpkin.com](http://www.edmonton-pick-a-pumpkin.com)

### Sassy G's Adventure Farm

Sam's farm started with haskap berries and grew into something wilder. Alberta's newest and largest adventure farm, with a ninja obstacle course, thirty-plus outdoor games, a farm zoo full of friendly animals, and purple flags flying over the whole beautiful farm. Great for birthdays, group visits, or the kind of Saturday that sends the kids home happy and tired. Open May through October.

[www.sassygs.ca](http://www.sassygs.ca)

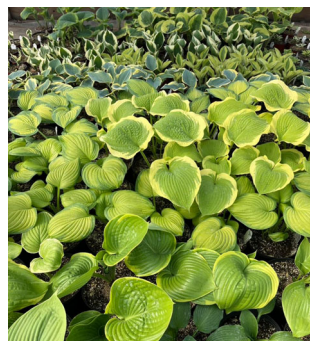


### Grandpa Carson's Farm

Carson Hobbs keeps things refreshingly old-fashioned. A proper farm experience without the bells and whistles, where the point is just to slow down, say hi to the animals, and remember what country air actually smells like. A great companion stop to any of the berry picks above.

[www.grandpacarsonsfarm.ca](http://www.grandpacarsonsfarm.ca)

## Garden Gates and Homestead Goods





## Creekside Home and Garden

Brock's place on Range Road 260 is one of those rare spots that genuinely does it all. U-pick berries in summer. Greenhouses and bedding plants in spring. Fresh-cut Christmas trees the last week of November. Garden gnomes, for that matter. It's the kind of nursery you walk into for one thing and leave an hour later with arms full.

[www.creeksidehomeandgarden.ca](http://www.creeksidehomeandgarden.ca)



## Healing Homestead Store

Healing Homestead Store. Tucked into the rolling fields of the county, Healing Homestead is where you go when you actually want to feel like you have left the city. An on-farm bakeshop, fully gluten-free and good in its own right, not just good-for-gluten-free. A farm store stocked with homesteading essentials. Chicks and seeds in season, peeping in their cardboard box by the till. Bread you'll think about all the way home. **This year, we were proud to name the owner our Sustainability and Trailblazer of the Year**, a recognition, we thought, that fits the place exactly.

[www.healinghomesteadstore.ca](http://www.healinghomesteadstore.ca)

## Plan Your Circle

Here's how we'd do it if this were our Saturday.

Morning: Start with berry picking while the fields are cool. Big Rock Berry Farm, Saskatoon Valley Orchards, or Strawberry Fields, depending on what's in season. (Check their Facebook pages the night before. Alberta weather has opinions.)

Midday: Pack a picnic and head to Somerset Farms or swing by Grandpa Carson's to let the kids burn off some energy.

Afternoon: Sassy G's if you've still got steam in the tank. Creekside or Healing Homestead if you want to take the day down a notch and browse for a while.

Bring cash as backup. Bring a cooler. Bring a real camera if you can, phones never quite capture the late-afternoon light out past Spruce Grove.

## Why It Matters

Every time you fill a pail at a Parkland County u-pick, you're doing something bigger than dessert. You're keeping a family farm viable. You're supporting rural jobs. You're voting with your wallet for a food system that stays local, stays small, and stays real.

Agritourism Alberta exists to champion producers exactly like these. Our members open their gates so Albertans, and visitors from farther afield, can connect with the people who grow their food, their flowers, and their honey. If you love a farm on this list, tell them. Better yet, bring a friend.

Summer's coming. The gates are almost open.

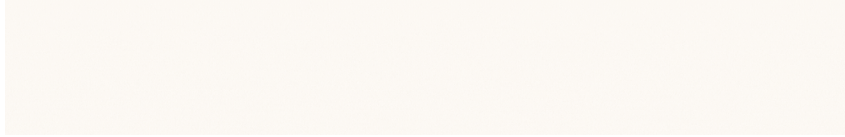
We'll see you out there.

*Planning a visit? Tag your photos with **#AgritourismAlberta** and **#ParklandCountyFarmCircle** so we can share them. Want to see farms in other parts of the province? Our full member directory is at [agritourismalberta.ca](http://agritourismalberta.ca).*

Join AFFPA

What would make you visit farms more often?

Share your Opinion



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[www.agritourismalberta.org](http://www.agritourismalberta.org)

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T9N 0A6 CA

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**Correspondence from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Quote #295483**

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**From** Correspondence / Correspondance (AAFC/AAC) <aafc.Correspondence-Correspondance.aac@agr.gc.ca>

**Date** Tue 2026-06-16 07:40

**To** Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

Unclassified / Non classifié

Quote: 295483

Anna Welsch  
Chair, Agricultural Service Board  
Municipal District of Pincher Creek  
c/o Jessica McClelland  
[AdminExecAsst@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:AdminExecAsst@mdpincercreek.ab.ca)

Dear Anna Welsch:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, regarding Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) reductions under the Government of Canada's Comprehensive Expenditure Review. Please be assured that your comments have been brought to the Minister's attention. I appreciate the opportunity to reply.

We appreciate the perspectives shared by the Agricultural Service Board for the Municipal District of Pincher Creek, including the importance of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre to regional employment, agricultural innovation and the broader research ecosystem. We also recognize the value of long-term scientific trials and the role these facilities have played in supporting producers and rural communities.

Like other departments across the Government of Canada, AAFC was required to identify savings over a three-year period. This review of spending reflects a broader effort to focus on core responsibilities while balancing fiscal discipline, service delivery and economic growth.

While the closure of three research and development centres—including the one in Lacombe—and four satellite research farms is a difficult decision, it does not necessarily mean the discontinuation of all associated science activities. In many cases, programs will be consolidated at other locations or delivered through alternative approaches, including partnerships with universities, provincial and territorial bodies, Indigenous partners and producer organizations. Field research will continue in key regions to ensure that science remains relevant to local conditions.

While site closures do have impacts, we are mitigating them by retaining key talent, consolidating where it adds value and expanding partnerships and program investments to

keep region-specific research moving forward. In situations where AAFC no longer operates directly, the Department will continue to pursue opportunities with partners to support research in specific agroclimatic conditions and production systems.

AAFC remains committed to maintaining a strong national research capacity and to working with partners across the country to support agricultural innovation and productivity. Every province, including Alberta, will continue to have at least one research and development centre and research farmland addressing regional and national priorities.

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Goldstein  
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister  
Science and Technology Branch  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Canada



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**Fw: May eNews | The Do More Agriculture Foundation**

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**From** Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>  
**Date** Tue 2026-05-05 15:57  
**To** Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

More ASB stuff.

**Roland Milligan**

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

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**From:** The Do More Agriculture Foundation <hello@domore.ag>  
**Sent:** May 5, 2026 15:41  
**To:** Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>  
**Subject:** May eNews | The Do More Agriculture Foundation



The  
Do More  
Agriculture  
Foundation



**MAY**  
**eNEWS**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fresh updates from  
The Do More Agriculture Foundation



## Extension: Apply by May 20 — Community Fund for Mental Health

Exciting news! The application deadline for The Do More Agriculture Foundation's 2026 Community Fund for Mental Health, sponsored by Farm Credit Canada, has been extended to **May 20**.

This fund supports communities across Canada to host a free, local session of *Talk Ask Listen*, a mental health workshop designed specifically for agricultural and rural communities.

We're extending the deadline to welcome more applications, and have updated the terms so it's even easier for communities to apply!

Our workshops help communities build connection, increase confidence in talking about mental health, and take meaningful action—together.

Learn more and apply here



## New Podcast Episode Out Now

### *Hay Are We Okay? — Episode Eight | Real Farmer Care: Permission to Pause*

In our latest podcast episode, host and Executive Director of The Do More Agriculture Foundation (Do More Ag), Merle Massie, speaks with [Clara Coleman](#), founder of [Real Farmer Care](#) about her experience with burnout and how it led to the creation of a grassroots initiative that crowdsourced donations to provide farmers with small, no-strings-attached gifts for self-care.

She shares how these simple supports—from therapy to time off—are helping reframe rest as an essential part of life in agriculture.

Many thanks to our sponsor: [AGCO Foundation](#)

We love hearing your ideas, comments and stories for future podcast episodes. Get in touch with Merle by sending your email or audio note to [feedback@domore.ag](mailto:feedback@domore.ag).

Stream Episode 8 on your favourite podcast platform

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## **Journey 5km Raises Awareness and Support for Mental Health in Agriculture**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Journey 5km with WinField United Canada! Together, farmers, agronomists, ag retailers, sponsors, and community members came together to support mental health in agriculture and raise awareness during a busy and often stressful time of year.

This year's event saw:

- 850 participants engaged through the Facebook event
- Over \$15,000 raised in support of Do More Ag mental health initiatives
- Participation from sponsors ADAMA, Gowan, FCC, and Nufarm
- Involvement from eight independent ag retailer partners across Canada

The campaign also helped amplify important mental health conversations across agriculture, reaching more than 120,000 people through social media and generating strong engagement across digital platforms.

We're incredibly grateful to WinField United Canada and all partners, sponsors, and participants who helped make this initiative such a success. Every conversation, step, and show of support helps grow awareness and connection in Canadian agriculture.

---

## **Mental Health Module Added to CAAR Ag Retail Certificate Program**


We're proud to collaborate with the National Farmer Mental Health Alliance (NFMHA) and the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers (CAAR) on the new CAAR Ag Retail Management Certificate Program.

As part of the program, Do More Ag Executive Director, Merle Massie will facilitate a session on **Leadership for Mental Health in the Workplace**, focused on practical strategies for recognizing mental health challenges, strengthening workplace culture, and supporting team wellbeing in ag retail environments.

Designed exclusively for CAAR members, this new professional development program helps experienced ag retail professionals build leadership, communication, and operational skills they can apply immediately within their organizations. Registration for the inaugural cohort is now open, with limited seats available.

**Registration deadline: May 22 - [learn more and register here](#).**

---



The Do More Agriculture Foundation

“ You don't need to 'earn' rest. **YOU NEED REST TO KEEP GOING.** ”

Kaitlyn Kitzan shares a simple, practical way to think about burnout prevention on the farm, and why knowing what recharges you makes all the difference.

Visit 'Wellness Tips' on [domore.ag](https://domore.ag)

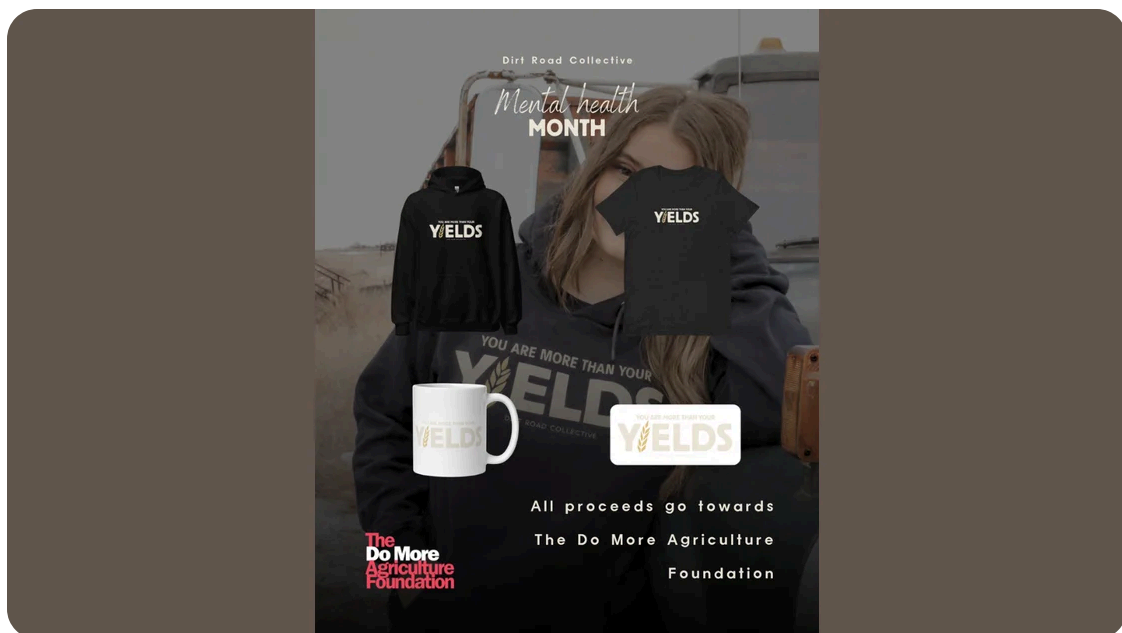
## **Mental Health Week: Come Together, Canada**

Led by the Canadian Mental Health Association, [Mental Health Week](#) takes place from May 4–10, and this year's theme — *Come Together, Canada: Stronger connections, better mental health* — is an important reminder that connection, community, and support matter in agriculture.

Throughout the week, we'll be sharing daily blog posts featuring practical wellness tips and reflections for people working in agriculture, including two new pieces from our team:

- [Recharging Your Battery: A Practical Way to Prevent Burnout in Agriculture](#) — Kaitlyn Kitzan, Do More Ag Partnership Manager, shares a simple but powerful way to think about burnout prevention and what truly helps us recharge.
- [The Power of Showing Up: Peer Support in Action](#) — Do More Ag co-founder and farmer Lesley Kelly reflects on why showing up for one another matters, even imperfectly.

We're also grateful to see community-led initiatives supporting mental health conversations in agriculture, such as [the new "You Are More Than Your Yields" campaign from Dirt Road Collective \(click below\)](#), with all proceeds supporting Do More Ag's work. If you haven't yet seen these new t-shirts, mugs and stickers, purchase your own today!



---

## Introducing our new Programs and Projects Manager: Molly McMillan!

We're excited to welcome our new Programs and Projects Manager, **Molly McMillan**, to The Do More Agriculture Foundation team!

Molly is a dairy farmer based in East Central Ontario with deep roots in agriculture and a strong commitment to rural communities. She brings a passion for creating meaningful conversations that support farmers' mental health and wellbeing. We're so glad to have her on board as we continue this work together.

---

## Reminders:

### **Complete the 2026 Census for Agriculture in Canada**

Farmers! Help ensure your voice is heard. The Census of Agriculture helps build a clearer picture of agricultural communities across Canada and provides valuable data that supports the sector. To help reduce the burden on producers, the 2026 questionnaire has been shortened and made more user-friendly for busy farm operators. [Complete the online questionnaire.](#)

### **Next Week: Kids Farm Safe - May 11-17**

Starting **May 11**, join FarmSafe initiatives that help keep kids safe, informed, and engaged around farm environments. This is a great opportunity to spark conversations about safety on and around the farm with the next generation.

[Learn more and get involved.](#)

### **Buddy Up Month Starts in June**

Coinciding with Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month, June is also Buddy Up Month, a Canadian men's suicide prevention campaign focused on encouraging authentic conversations and peer support. The campaign reminds us of the importance of checking in with friends, coworkers, and community members who may be struggling. [Learn more and access resources.](#)

### **Partnership Opportunities with Do More Ag**

Interested in supporting mental health in Canadian agriculture? Partnership opportunities with The Do More Agriculture Foundation are available for organizations looking to help grow awareness, education, and community support across the sector. To learn more, connect with our Partnership Manager, Kaitlyn Kitzen at [kaitlyn@domore.ag](mailto:kaitlyn@domore.ag) and explore current partnership opportunities.

---

**UPCOMING  
WEBINARS AND  
EVENTS**



## AgCulture 2026 Continues - Join our Monthly Workshops

We're excited to invite health professionals to the next **AgCulture workshop in our monthly 2026 series**, taking place **May 29**. This mental health literacy session explores the unique challenges faced by Canadian farmers and rural communities.

Participants will learn about stressors in agriculture, strengthen therapeutic relationships, and gain practical, culturally competent skills to support farmers' wellbeing.

**Facilitator:** Bonnie Taylor, Psychotherapist & Registered Social Worker with lived experience in rural and agricultural communities.

**May 29, 10am–2pm CST / 12-4pm EST**

**Online (Zoom)**

***AgCulture workshops take place monthly throughout 2026***

**[See all dates here](#)**

**Sponsored by Farm Credit Canada (FCC)**

Know health professionals who work with rural or farming communities? Share this workshop invitation with your colleagues, professional networks, and continuing education circles—help us reach those who can make a difference in agricultural wellbeing.

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# MAY EVENTS WITH **The Do More Agriculture Foundation**

## HOW TO DO MORE: EMPOWERING COMMUNITY LEADERS

May 19 (Virtual)

Hear some tips, ideas, and good practices to help you host a community-wide workshop for increased mental health knowledge in your community.

FREE

REGISTER TO JOIN:

[domore.ag/events](https://domore.ag/events) 🔍

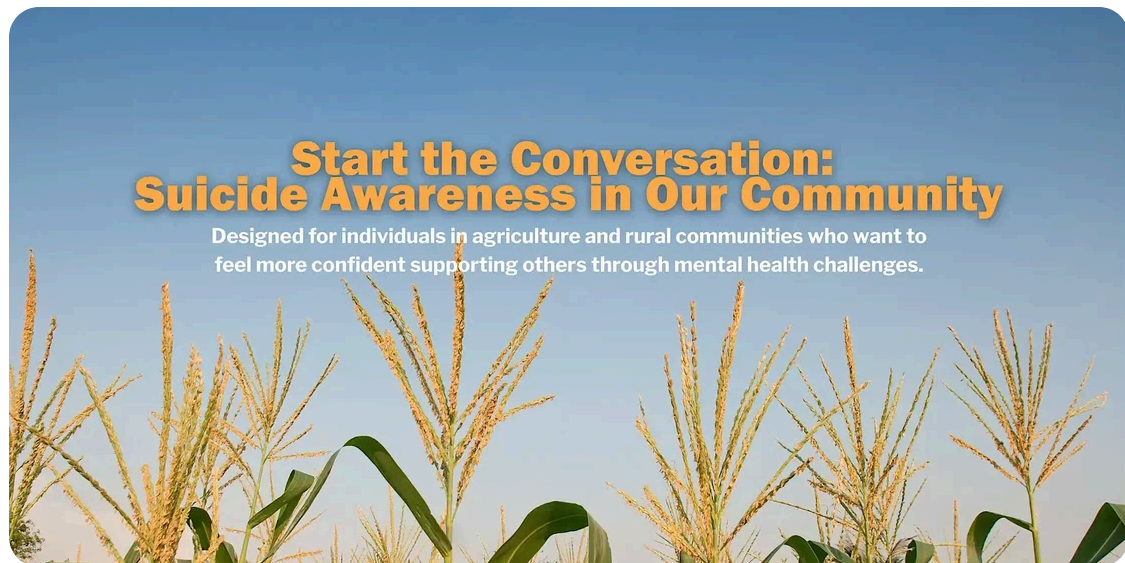
### May 19 - How to Do More: Empowering Community Leaders

Join us for a virtual session designed to support community leaders and champions looking to bring mental health conversations to life locally. This one-hour session, led by Do More Ag staff, will walk through how to plan and host a community workshop, share practical tips and best practices, and provide space to ask questions and connect with others. Whether you're applying to the [Community Fund](#) or simply looking to make an impact in your community, this session is a great place to start.

[See full details and register here](#)

## Start the Conversation: Suicide Awareness in Our Community

Designed for individuals in agriculture and rural communities who want to feel more confident supporting others through mental health challenges.



June 11 - Start the Conversation: Suicide Awareness in Our Community

Join a 2-hour virtual workshop from Abridge Consulting, piloted in partnership with The Do More Agriculture Foundation, focused on suicide awareness and prevention in agriculture and rural communities.

Using practical, agriculture-based scenarios, participants will learn how to recognize signs of distress, start supportive conversations, and connect people to appropriate resources.

Designed for farmers, ranchers, ag professionals, and rural community members, this session takes a practical peer-to-peer approach to strengthening confidence in supporting others and building more connected communities.

[See full details and register here](#)

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## In the News

Mental health in agriculture and rural communities continues to receive growing attention across Canada. Recent coverage and conversations have highlighted the importance of reducing stigma, increasing support, and recognizing the unique pressures facing rural communities and producers.

Recent stories and resources include:

- Executive Director, Merle Massie, was featured on CBC News discussing how changing fuel and fertilizer prices are impacting farmers here at home—and why it matters for mental health in agriculture. [Watch the full segment.](#)
- [This article from Alberta Beef Producers](#) highlights how [AgTalk](#) is helping address growing mental health needs in agriculture by providing a safe, anonymous, peer-supported space for farmers and ranchers. It notes increasing use of the platform as more producers seek accessible, 24/7 support and connection.
- A recent [River Country FM radio interview](#) features Merle Massie discussing the mental health pressures farmers often face during the spring season, including long hours, uncertainty, and stress, and the importance of recognizing and supporting wellbeing in agriculture.
- [A separate article from SaskToday](#) highlights how ongoing pressures in agriculture mean spring is only one of many stress points for farmers, with

financial uncertainty, isolation, and workload challenges contributing to ongoing mental health strain across the sector.

- [This article for Collective Impact](#) features Do More Ag co-founder Kim Keller and explores how conversations around mental health in agriculture have evolved, highlighting the importance of breaking stigma, sharing lived experiences, and recognizing that support is just as vital as productivity in farming communities.

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## YOUR IMPACT MATTERS

Thank you for standing with us  
to Do More for mental health.

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 energizing Canadian agriculture to cultivate a culture of wellbeing.**

[Donate Now](#)

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### 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](https://domore.ag) and stay connected to champion mental health in agriculture.

**Are you following us?** We're active on social media with stories, updates, and tools to support mental wellbeing across agriculture and rural communities. Just click the icons below to stay connected.



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Disclaimer:

The Do More Agriculture Foundation is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. To explore more resources and get help, our [Crisis Resources page](#) is here to guide you.

The Do More Agriculture Foundation, PO Box 31044 Broadway & Taylor, Saskatoon,  
Saskatchewan S7H2B0, Canada

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Photo

## **Alberta Weed Inspector Identification Card**

This certifies that (name) of (address) is an inspector under the *Weed Control Act* for the jurisdiction of (County, M.D., town, village).

This appointment is effective from (date) to (date)

*(CAO signature)* \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT: SEE REVERSE**

Front

(WCA, Section 10)

(Reprinted from the Weed Control Act)

## **Obstruction of an Inspector**

**s11** A person shall not willfully obstruct or delay an inspector in the exercise of the inspector's duties or powers to enforce and monitor compliance with this Act.

## **Offence and penalty**

**s28** A person who contravenes this Act is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$5000.

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