



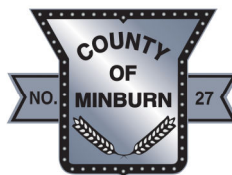
AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

April 16, 2026

Immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Changes to Agenda and Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes**
 - 3.1 December 10, 2025 Agricultural Service Board
- 4. Delegations – N/A**
- 5. Reports for Discussion**
 - 5.1 Draft Policy: Animal Health Act Response
 - 5.2 Shelterbelt/Tree Seedling Program
 - 5.3 Roadside Brushing Program
- 6. Reports**
 - 6.1 Agricultural Fieldman
 - 6.2 2% Liquid Strychnine
- 7. Correspondence and Information Items**
 - 7.1 Lac La Biche County Letter re On-Farm Slaughter Operations Licensing Program
 - 7.2 Clearwater County Letter re Federal Funding Cuts to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 - 7.3 MD of Smoky River Letter re Addition of Kochia as Noxious to Provincial Weed Regulation
 - 7.4 Northern Sunrise County Letter re Request to Reverse Closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre
 - 7.5 Brazeau County Letter re Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operation License in Alberta
 - 7.6 Swede Midge 2025 Map
 - 7.7 Weed Control Regulations Summary
 - 7.8 MP John Barlow re Letter of Appreciation on Strychnine Advocacy
- 8. Adjournment**



**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2025**

Members Present: Member Joey Nafziger
Member Ray Nedzielski
Member Roger Konieczny
Member Allen McCutcheon
Member Tara Kuzio
Member Carl Ogradnick
Member Jerri Ziegler

Administration Present: Norm De Wet, Director of Operations
Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and
Municipal Services
Audra Kropielnicki, Executive Coordinator

1 CALL TO ORDER

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Member Nafziger called the meeting to order at 1:59 p.m.

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2025-ASB037

Moved by: Member Konieczny
THAT the December 10, 2025 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 June 11, 2025 Agricultural Service Board

2025-ASB038

Moved by: Member Kuzio
THAT the June 11, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

4 DELEGATION

5 REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Beaver Control on Private Land Policy - ASB 2001-01-A

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB039

Moved by: Member Ogradnick
THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2001-02.

Carried

5.2 Beaver Harvest Incentive Policy - ASB 2002-01-A

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB040

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2002-02.

Carried

5.3 Equipment Rental Policy - ASB 2004-01

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB041

Moved by: Member Ziegler

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2004-02.

Carried

5.4 4-H Grant Program - ASB Policy 2005-02

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB042

Moved by: Member Kuzio

Councillor Ogrodnick abstained

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2005-03.

Carried

5.5 Soil Conservation Policy - ASB 2006-01-A

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB043

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2006-02.

Carried

5.6 Right-of-Way Brushing Policy - ASB 2007-01-A

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB044

Moved by: Member McCutcheon

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2007-02.

Carried

5.7 Private Land Weed Control Policy - ASB 2008-01

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB045

Moved by: Member Kuzio

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2008-02.

Carried

5.8 Control of Clubroot Policy - ASB 2009-01-A

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB046

Moved by: Member Nedzielski

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2009-02.

Carried

5.9 Equipment Borrowing Policy - ASB 2010-01

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB047

Moved by: Member Ogradnick

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to approve updated draft policy ASB 2010-02.

Carried

5.10 Coyote Harvest Incentive Program

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB048

Moved by: Member Nedzielski

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommends to County Council that administration apply for funding for a Coyote Harvest Incentive from the APOS Wildlife Management Fund.

Carried

2025-ASB049

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agriculture Service Board recommends to County Council that the implementation of the Coyote Harvest Incentive Program be approved.

Carried

5.11 Roadside Mowing Program

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB050

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agricultural Services Board endorse a full fifteen-foot cut within the municipal right-of-way and further directs that any crops growing within this area be mowed where the contractor can safely access with equipment, in order to maintain a consistent roadside standard throughout the County.

Carried

5.12 Co-op Agribusiness Grant Program

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB051

Moved by: Member Ziegler

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council to send a letter of support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the creation of the Co-op Agribusiness Grant Program.

Carried

5.13 Heartland Training & Support Hub Request for Support

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB052

Moved by: Member Nedzielski

THAT the Agriculture Service Board recommend to County Council to donate \$3,033 to the Heartland Training & Support Hub Safety Smarts program.

Carried

5.14 Alternative Land Uses Services (ALUS) Update

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB053

Moved by: Member McCutcheon

THAT the Agriculture Service Board accept this report as information.

Carried

6 REPORTS

6.1 Agricultural Fieldman

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bocher, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB054

Moved by: Member Kuzio

THAT the Agricultural Fieldman report be accepted as presented.

Carried

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 AAAS Press Release – Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards

2025-ASB055

Moved by: Member Kuzio

THAT information on the Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards program be forwarded to the agricultural societies within the County.

Carried

7.2 Alberta Crop Report Final 2025

7.3 Agriculture Moisture Situation Update

7.4 ARECA re AgKnow Program Update

7.5 Saddle Hills County re On-Farm Slaughter

7.6 Northern Sunrise County re On-Farm Slaughter

7.7 Northern Sunrise County re Farmers Pesticide Certification Program

7.8 MD of Ranchland re Lethbridge Research Facility

2025-ASB056

Moved by: Member McCutcheon

THAT the correspondence and information items be accepted as presented.

Carried

8. Agricultural Service Board Committee Priority Discussion

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Member Nafziger declared the meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Administrative Officer



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Draft Policy: Animal Health Act Response

Date: April 16, 2026

Background

The purpose of this report is to present the proposed *Animal Health Act Response Policy* for review and recommendation to County Council. This policy is required to support the County of Minburn's participation in the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program and to formalize the County's role in responding to livestock disease events.

Information for the Committee

The proposed policy establishes the County's commitment to supporting the monitoring, reporting, containment, and eradication of livestock diseases identified under provincial legislation. It aligns with requirements under the ASB Grant Program, which mandates municipalities to maintain service level policies related to key agricultural legislation, including the Animal Health Act.

Key components of the policy include:

- Recognition of the risks and impacts that livestock diseases pose to the agricultural industry.
- A defined role for the County in responding to reported livestock disease concerns from the public, staff, or external agencies.
- A requirement to report suspected or confirmed livestock diseases to the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV).
- A commitment to support the CPV in containment and eradication efforts, as directed.

The policy is administrative in nature and does not assign the County enforcement authority, but rather clarifies a support and reporting role consistent with provincial oversight. Adoption of this policy ensures compliance with ASB program expectations and demonstrates due diligence in protecting the agricultural sector.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council that the draft *Animal Health Act Response Policy* be approved as presented.

Attachment: Draft Policy: Animal Health Act Response



Policy

Animal Health Act Response

Policy Number:

Supersedes Policy Number:

Approved by Council: TBD

Next Review Date: TBD

Resolution No: TBD

Last Review Date: TBD

POLICY STATEMENT

County of Minburn recognizes the harms that Livestock Diseases pose for the agricultural industry. As such, in collaboration with the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, County of Minburn will support the monitoring, containment, and eradication of Livestock Diseases listed in the *Animal Health Act*.

PURPOSE

As part of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program, participating municipalities are required to have policies and procedures in place to establish their service levels related to the *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Control Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, and the *Animal Health Act*.

DEFINITIONS

County means the County of Minburn No. 27.

Livestock Disease means diseases listed as reportable under the *Animal Health Act*.

GUIDELINES

1. County of Minburn will respond to reports of Livestock Disease outbreaks from the public, County staff, and other organizations and agencies.
 - a) If a Livestock Disease is identified, the County will forward a report of the disease to the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV).
 - b) With direction from the CPV, the County will support the CPV in the implementation of Livestock Disease containment and eradication.



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Shelterbelt/Tree Seedling Program

Date: April 16, 2026

Background

Shelterbelts help protect soil, improve air and water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and add beauty to your landscape. In agricultural settings, shelterbelts reduce wind erosion and increase moisture capture, which can positively impact crop yields.

Information for the Committee

Requests for information has been received by administration regarding investigating the feasibility of establishing a Shelter belt tree seedling program for the County of Minburn.

Historically the federal government through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) had a shelterbelt program that residents could access to get "free" shelterbelt trees. The province of Alberta also had a shelterbelt program that ran concurrently with the PFRA program. Both programs no longer exist.

After researching multiple Counties and Municipal Districts, the various types of programs were found:

- Cost share programs 50/50 with the residents (for the price of tree seedlings), the municipality still facilitates advertising, ordering, and distribution of seedlings. MD of Wainwright is doing this with a budget of \$20,000.00.
- Only facilitate advertising, ordering, and distribution of seedlings. County of Grande Prairie, MD of Bonnyville, MD of Greenview, and Westlock County.
- Only provide information to residents on where to access trees from. County of Lamont, County of Minburn.
- Provide horticultural Consultant (AATS Group Inc. Toso Bozic) to help with planning shelterbelts and tree plantings, Beaver County.

Tree nursery sources: Smoky Lake Nursery, Bonnyville Nursery, Tree Time (Stony Plain)

Shelterbelt programs are typically launched early in the calendar year, with advertising beginning in January, order deadlines in late winter, and seedling distribution occurring in late April to May to align with spring planting conditions. If implemented, the County would need to establish and approve the program in advance of the calendar year to support a timely launch.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend that County Council establish a County of Minburn shelterbelt program for 2027, to facilitate the advertising, ordering, and distribution of seedlings to residents.



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Roadside Brushing Program

Date: April 16, 2026

Background

This past brushing season there was some concern brought forward from members of the public, regarding brushing/mulching some trees and branches out of the road ROW. The concern was that trees take a long time to grow in the area and the resident did not want any taken down.

Information for the Committee

Currently there is a Policy ASB 2007-02 Right of Way Brushing Program.

The policy states that the County of Minburn No. 27 may conduct an annual Right of Way brush/mulching program to control brush growth on roadways for improved road maintenance and public safety.

The purpose of the policy states that the municipalities responsibilities include keeping vegetation in sight lines mowed or brushed (mulched) for purpose of better visibility, faster shoulder drying in the spring, ability for large equipment to move unimpeded along the roadways (including county motor graders), and general safety.

A discussion is required regarding whether residents adjacent to the ROW are permitted to interfere with or restrict County brushing activities within the designated road right-of-way. County brushing work is typically focused on the shoulder slope, ditch bottom, and backslope near the fence line.

As per policy when yard sites are impacted the Manager or designate will consider any special concerns or requests raised. The manager or designate will also strive to find a compromise if there is an issue in other areas of the ROW.

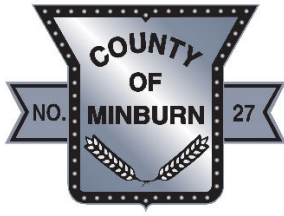
- Brushing ensures:
 - Clear sightlines at intersections and driveways
 - Reduced wildlife hazards
 - Safer winter operations (snow drifting control)
 - Allowing unimpeded movement of large equipment (including County motor graders)

This policy establishes clear guidelines for brushing activities to ensure consistency, improve road safety, and address community feedback in a fair and transparent manner.

Administration is of the opinion that if there is no yard site impacted by the brushing/mulching activities, then brushing/mulching should be completed as per policy to provide a consistent standard throughout the County.

Recommendation

That the Agricultural Service Board accept this report as information.



Policy

Right of Way Brushing Program

Policy Number: ASB 2007-02

Supersedes Policy Number: ASB 2007-01-A

Approved by Council: December 15, 2029 **Next Review Date:** December 2029

Resolution No: 2025-328

Last Review Date: December 10, 2025

POLICY STATEMENT

The County of Minburn No.27 may conduct an annual Right-of-Way mulching brushing program to control brush growth and re-growth on County roadways for improved road maintenance and public safety.

PURPOSE

Part of a municipalities responsibilities for road maintenance include keeping vegetation in sightlines mowed or brushed (mulched), for purposes of better visibility, faster shoulder drying in the spring, ability for large equipment to move unimpeded along the roadways, and general safety.

DEFINITIONS

County means the County of Minburn No. 27.

Manager means the Manager, Agriculture & Municipal Services.

GUIDELINES

1. Administration shall establish Right-of-Way brushing priorities on an annual basis.
2. Roads shall be considered for Right-of-Way brushing on the following basis:
 - a) Emergencies (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Safety)
 - b) Resource roads
 - c) Regular service roads
 - d) School bus turnarounds
 - e) Approaches
 - f) Ratepayer requests

3. The Manager, or designate, will provide notice of brushing activity to yard site owners and will consider any special concerns or requests raised.
4. Any requests, which are received for brush mowing of roads or approaches, after the annual priorities are established, shall be considered for the following year.
5. The County may consider leaving brush on roadways under the following circumstances:
 - a) If it is adjacent to a farmstead and forms part of the shelterbelt.
 - b) If an area is prone to soil erosion.

However, the slope of the road shoulder on each side of the road will be mulched if necessary for road maintenance and safety purposes.

6. All brush mulched in the County Right-of-Way will be scheduled for herbicide spraying the following season to control re-growth.



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Name: Quentin Bochar

Department: Agriculture Services

Reviewed by: Norm De Wet

For Presentation at: March 16, 2026, ASB Meeting

From Date: December 11, 2025

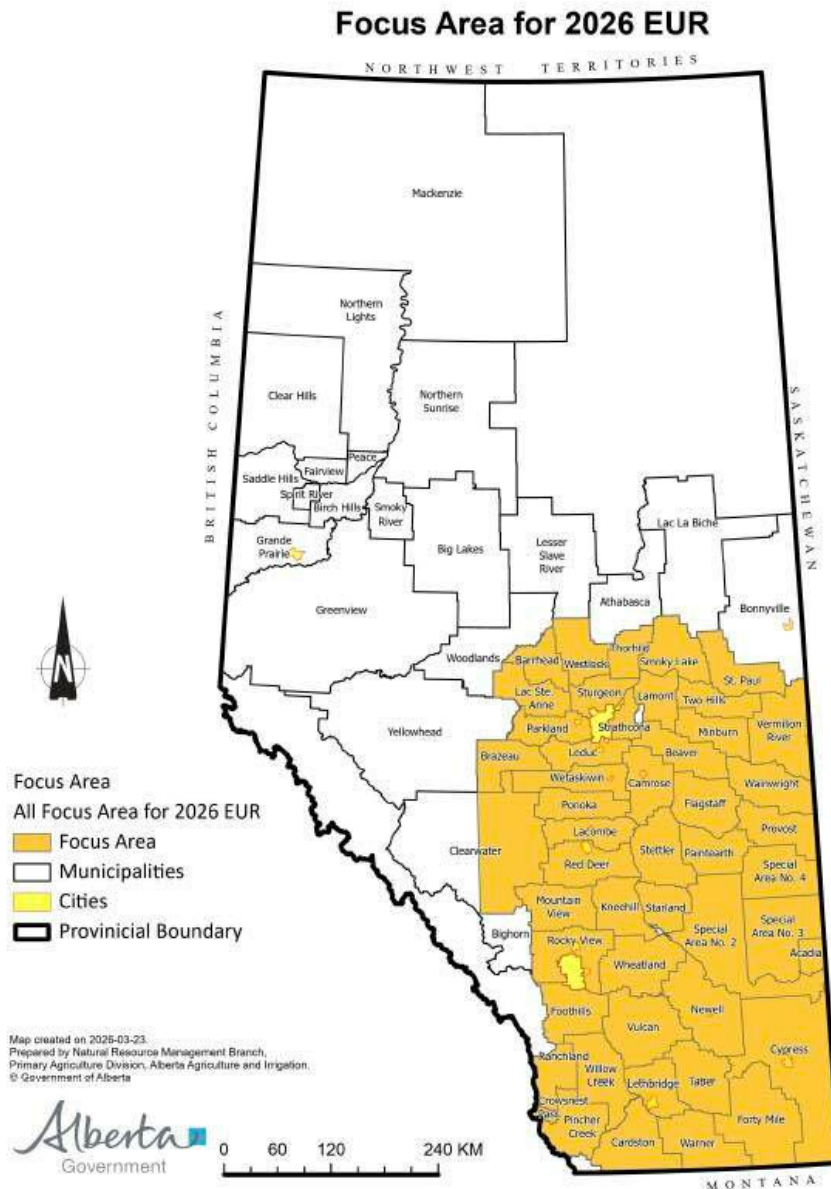
To Date: March 15, 2026

- Brushing program has completed approximately 25,450 m.
- Crop Disease 2025 Monitoring Results webinar March 3.
- AB Invasive Species Council Workshop and Conference March 10-12.
- AGI Emergency Response Planning Webinar March 18.
- County of Minburn, County of Two Hills, Beaver County, and County Vermilion River are co-hosting an Ag Drone School in Vegreville March 24-25.
- NE AAAF Regional Meeting in Wainwright March 31.
- Coyote Harvest Program has seen 345 coyotes for \$6900.00
- ALUS program application form has been sent into ALUS Canada.
- All summer seasonal staff have been hired and are scheduled to start May 1.

Strychnine Emergency Use Information

On March 3, 2026, the Government of Alberta announced that the Federal Government Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has accepted Alberta and Saskatchewan's re-submission for emergency use registration for two percent liquid strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control.

Minister Sigurdson has said "We are working to procure supply and fully implement the agreement as soon as possible, and we will continue to work closely with farmers and ranchers across the province in the coming day to share more information."





March 2, 2026

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Office of the Minister
Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Sent via email to: 310farm@gov.ab.ca

RE: Proposed Changes to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation Licensing Program

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Lac La Biche County wishes to provide input regarding the proposed amendments to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence program, and the potential impacts these changes may have on local producers.

The OFSO program plays an important role in supporting agricultural operations throughout our region. Producers have invested substantial time, resources, and capital into establishing on-farm slaughter facilities that meet regulatory requirements. Any changes that affect the long-term viability of these operations are therefore of significant concern. In particular, the previously proposed annual slaughter limit of 5,000 pounds raised questions about whether the program would remain practical or economically feasible for many licence holders. Such limitations risk undermining the program's original objective of strengthening local food systems and improving access to locally produced meat.

While we acknowledge the Government of Alberta's efforts to gather feedback through a producer survey, some licence holders have expressed concern that the survey may not have fully captured the operational realities and challenges faced by those participating in the OFSO program.

Lac La Biche County is strongly committed to supporting local agriculture and maintaining a regulatory environment that allows rural producers to plan and operate with confidence. In light of these concerns, we respectfully encourage the Government of Alberta to engage directly with OFSO licence holders and relevant stakeholder groups prior to implementing any further program changes.

.../2

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on this matter.

Sincerely,



Vic Toutant
Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Chairman

cc: The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
The Honourable Laila Goodridge, M.P., Fort McMurray – Cold Lake
The Honourable Brian Jean, Minister of Energy and Minerals and MLA for Fort
McMurray – Lac La Biche
Lac La Biche County Council
Agricultural Service Board, Lac La Biche County
Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Manny Deol, Chief Administrative Officer, Lac La Biche County



The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5

Re: Federal Funding Cuts to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

On behalf of Clearwater County Council and the Clearwater County Agricultural Service Board, we are writing to express our serious concern regarding the recent federal funding cuts to agricultural research facilities, and in particular the closure of the Lacombe Research Centre.

Canada's agriculture sector is currently operating in an increasingly uncertain global environment, challenged by strained relationships with key trading partners, volatile commodity prices, climate variability, and rising international competition. In this context, the potential loss of the Lacombe Research Centre risks weakening the sector's ability to remain competitive, innovative, and resilient at a time when these attributes are more critical than ever.

Farmers must continually adapt to changing market conditions, evolving customer expectations, and emerging production and environmental risks. Scientific research is paramount to enabling producers not only to survive, but to thrive, and to reduce vulnerability and instability across the agricultural industry. Publicly funded research plays a vital role in providing practical, regionally relevant solutions that individual producers and the private sector cannot generate alone.

Canada's reputation as a reliable, high-quality agricultural exporter has been built over decades through sustained investment in publicly funded scientific research. This research has driven productivity and profitability while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability. At Lacombe, this includes critical work in crop and livestock genetics, soil health, disease and pest resistance, and environmental stewardship. Competing agricultural nations continue to invest heavily in research and innovation to secure productivity gains and export markets. It is essential that Canada does not fall behind and shift from a position of leadership to one of catch-up.

Maintaining agricultural research capacity at Lacombe is a strategic investment in regional economic stability, rural communities, and Canada's long-term food security and export success. The Lacombe Research Centre has been in operation for over a century, and the benefits of its research are cumulative, often taking decades to fully realize. The work conducted at this site cannot be easily replicated elsewhere, and the loss of long-term trials currently underway would be devastating. Once research capacity, expertise, and long-term data sets are lost, the impacts extend far beyond short-term budget considerations and are felt across generations of producers.

As an Agricultural Service Board, we see firsthand how federal research supports on-farm decision-making, extension services, and innovation at the local level. We respectfully urge the Government of Canada to reconsider the proposed funding cuts and potential closure of the Lacombe Research Centre, and to engage meaningfully with municipalities, Agricultural Service Boards, producers, and research partners when assessing regional impacts.

We believe strongly that continued investment in agricultural research is essential to ensuring a resilient, competitive, and sustainable agricultural sector for Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussion on how federal, provincial, and municipal partners can work together to protect this critical research capacity.

Sincerely,

X 

Aaron Terpsma
Chairperson, Clearwater County ASB

X 

Jordan Northcott
Reeve, Clearwater County

C.C.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, E.C.A., M.L.A.
The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, E.C.A., M.L.A.
The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services, E.C.A., M.L.A.
Tanya Day, Ministerial Liason for Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Paul Mackinnon, CFIA President
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman



Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2221

Fax: (780) 837-2453

December 17, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Members of Executive Council
Executive Branch
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson;

RE: Addition of Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*) as Noxious to Provincial Weed Regulation

Kochia is a highly invasive and difficult to control weed species due to the fact that it is and is becoming resistant to a number of herbicide groups. Of particular concern is Group 9 of which Glyphosate is in. This weed species exhibits resistance on group 2, 4, and 14 as well. Although Kochia prefers drier soils and is prevalent in southern Alberta it is becoming an issue in the Peace Region and the MD of Smoky River, typically along the transportation corridors.

Alberta Agriculture has been reviewing the species listed in the Weed Control Regulation and the amended listing will shortly be before your office for approval. The MD of Smoky River requests that the Minister consult with the weed species review team and finds the case to add Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*) to the Weed Control Regulation as a designated Noxious species. The rationale for this addition is so that all municipalities can address Kochia under the Weed Control Act to control the spread of this difficult to manage weed species. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Paula Guindon
Reeve/Agricultural Service Board Chair

c.c. Via Electronic copy.

Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
Todd Loewen, MLA - Grande Prairie-Smoky
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Invasive Species Council



March 12, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Right Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7, Floor 8
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

RE: Request to Reverse Closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board echoes the concerns expressed in the letter dated February 25, 2026, from the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) urging reconsideration of the decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.

We have profound concerns regarding the closure of a federal research institute with 119 years of agriculture innovation and scientific advancement. Closing this facility risks the loss of decades of institutional knowledge, established research programs, and the collaborative networks built with universities, producers, and industry partners. Agriculture research is critical to advancing innovation, promoting environmental stewardship, and driving economic development to ensure the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the Canadian agriculture industry. The closure of such a facility represents a significant loss to national research capacity in areas vital to food security and climate resilience. Once dismantled, these capabilities are extremely difficult and costly to rebuild. Maintaining a strong Canadian research infrastructure is an investment in the future of Canada's agriculture sector and its global competitiveness. The innovations and knowledge generated in an evolving world will shape the productivity, sustainability, and resilience of our industry for decades to come.

We strongly encourage the Government of Canada to consider alternative options to safeguard the research partnership in Lacombe and other federal research institutes, which are essential to the long-term stability and success of Canada's agriculture sector.

We respectfully urge the Government of Canada to:

1. Pause and reconsider the closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.
2. Preserve critical capacity in forage breeding, feed efficiency selection, carcass grading, and food safety research.
3. Protect long-term data sets and ensure completion of producer-funded projects.
4. Engage directly with provincial, municipal, and industry partners to explore collaborative solutions that maintain national research capacity.





Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Lavoie'.

Simon Lavoie, Chairperson
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

CC: Claude Rodrigue, Reeve
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation





Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

February 18, 2026

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Re: Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence In Alberta

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Services Board (ASB) I am writing to express our support for unlimited on-farm slaughter sales for compliant operations in Alberta. Like other municipalities, we appreciate the pause on proposed limits to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Program while a thorough review of the proposed changes can be done.

On-farm slaughter operations play an important role in strengthening Alberta's local food systems and enhancing producer viability—especially in rural and remote regions. While we would like this program to continue without the proposed weight limit, we believe there should be an emphasis on the importance of robust inspections, regulatory compliance, and food safety within the OFSO framework. An OFSO licence without a slaughter weight limit, when paired with stringent inspection protocols, ensures that food safety and public health remain paramount. Alberta's existing regulatory framework already establishes clear requirements for food safety and an OFSO licence with no cap does not diminish these standards; rather, it allows qualified operators who consistently demonstrate compliance to operate at a scale that reflects demand while remaining fully accountable to inspectors and regulatory authorities.

Regular inspection and verification by trained officials are essential to maintaining consumer confidence and regulatory integrity. An OFSO licence with no cap may incentivize operators to maintain high standards of compliance, especially if continued authorization is directly tied to demonstrated compliance with provincial legislation and inspection findings. This approach would support continuous improvement and increased compliance within the OFSO program.

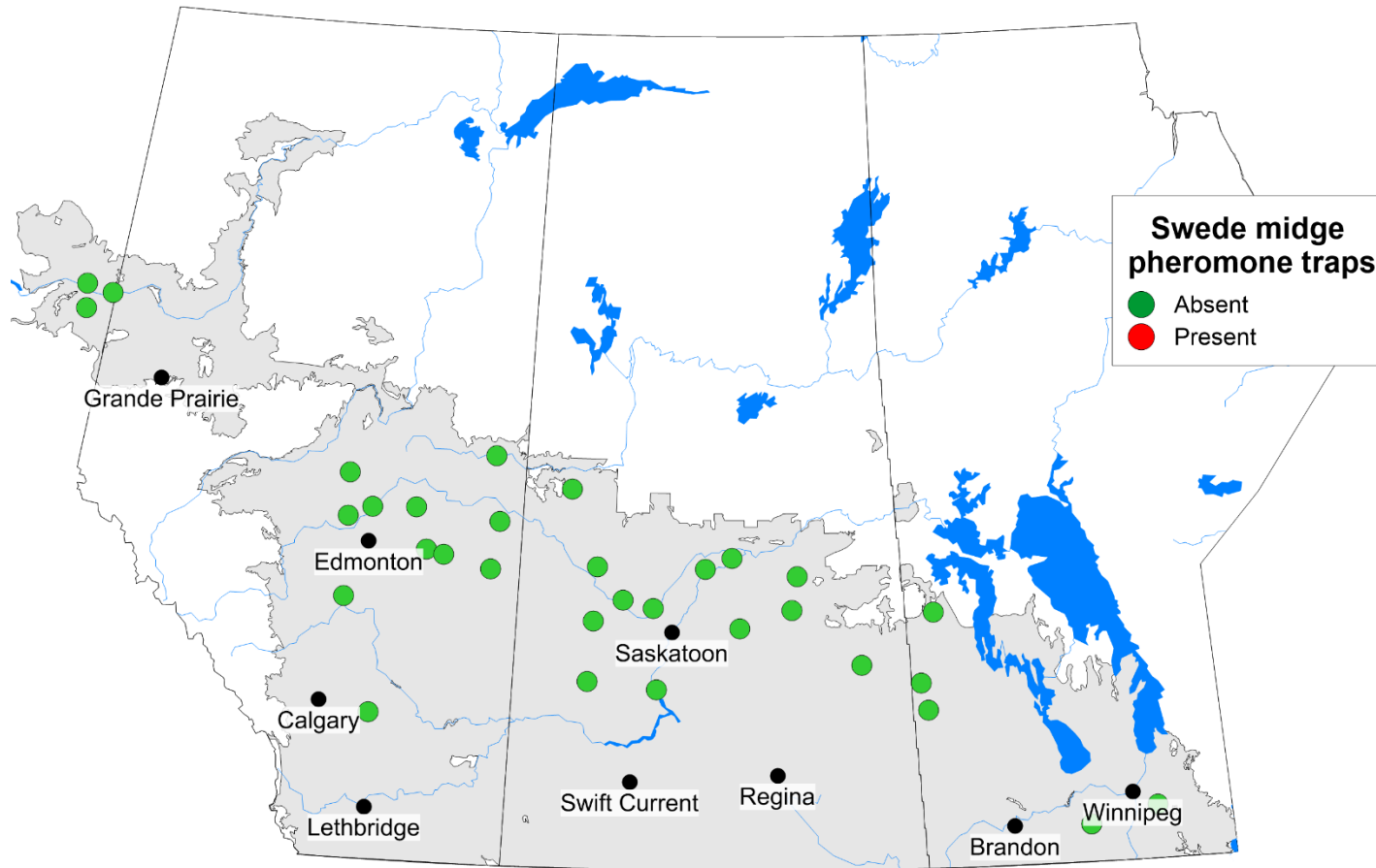
In conclusion, I believe that granting OFSO licences with no cap, to operators who meet and maintain Alberta's inspection standards is a responsible, forward-looking policy choice. It upholds food safety, strengthens local food systems, and ensures that regulatory oversight remains both practical and effective.

Sincerely,

Shayne Blosky
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board
Councillor Division 5

Cc: Agricultural Service Boards

Swede midge pheromone monitoring locations 2025



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



SASK
OILSEEDS

Weed Control Regulations – Summary of Proposed Changes	
Remove from Regulation (2 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creeping Bell Flower 2. Perennial Sowthistle
Reclassification from Prohibited Noxious to Noxious (12 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meadow Hawkweed 2. Mouse-ear Hawkweed 3. Orange Hawkweed 4. Bighead Knapweed 5. Black Knapweed 6. Brown Knapweed 7. Diffuse Knapweed 8. Hybrid knapweed 9. Meadow knapweed 10. Spotted knapweed 11. Squarrose knapweed 12. Tyrol knapweed
Addition of new weeds as Prohibited Noxious (17 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Palmer Amaranth 2. Common Hawkweed 3. European Hawkweed 4. Polar Hawkweed 5. Smooth Hawkweed 6. Spotted Hawkweed 7. Jimsonweed 8. Wall Hawkweed 9. Invasive Phragmites 10. Queen Anne's Lace 11. African Rue 12. Alkali Swainsonpea 13. Black Swallowwort 14. Pale/European Swallowwort 15. Field Thesium 16. Ventenata 17. Tall Waterhemp
Addition of new weeds as Noxious (5 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingdevil Hawkweed 2. Queendevil hawkweed 3. Tall Hawkweed 4. Whiplash Hawkweed 5. Yellowdevil Hawkweed
<p>Note: 34 species status quo at Prohibited Noxious, 27 species status quo at Noxious. For a total of 95 regulated weeds.</p>	



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

John Barlow
Member of Parliament
Foothills

April 2nd, 2026

Dear Members of the Agriculture Service Boards,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your commitment and tireless advocacy in support of Western Canadian farmers and ranchers. Your dedicated efforts were instrumental in securing the Liberal government's approval for the emergency use of strychnine as an essential tool for prairie agricultural operations.

The Agriculture Service Boards across Alberta and Saskatchewan demonstrated exceptional leadership by providing important evidence and comprehensive data that clearly established strychnine as an essential tool for our farming communities.

Your advocacy provided the evidence needed to support Western Canadian agriculture.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration as we work together to support the vital interests of our farming and ranching communities.

Sincerely,

MP John Barlow
Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

<i>Ottawa</i>	<i>Constituency Office</i>
Room 310, Justice Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6	109 - 4th Avenue South West High River, Alberta
Tel.: 613-995-8471 Fax.: 613-996-9770	T1V 1M5
John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca	
http://johnbarlowmp.ca/	