



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting
April 16, 2025
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 March 12, 2025 Agricultural Service Board
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Reports for Discussion**
 - 5.1 ASB Strategic Plan
Administration Presenter:
Quentin Bochar, Agriculture and Municipal Services Manager
 - 5.2 NE Region ASB Conference
Administration Presenter:
Quentin Bochar, Agriculture and Municipal Services Manager
 - 5.3 ALUS Program Budget
Administration Presenter:
Quentin Bochar, Agriculture and Municipal Services Manager
- 6. Reports**
 - 6.1 Agricultural Fieldman
- 7. Correspondence and Information Items**
 - 7.1 Kneehill County Letter on Farmers Pesticide Course
 - 7.2 MD of Greenview Letter on Farmers Pesticide Course and Coyote Toxicants
 - 7.3 Kneehill County Letter on Richardson Ground Squirrel Control
 - 7.4 Environmental Farm Plan Completions Chart
 - 7.5 Government of Alberta Moisture Maps
- 8. New Business**
- 9. Adjournment**



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2025

Members Present: Member Joey Nafziger
Member Eric Anderson
Member Roger Konieczny
Member Cliff Wowdzia
Member Tara Kuzio
Member Carl Ogradnick
Member Kevin Bentley

Administration Present: Pat Podoborzny, Chief Administrative Officer
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 Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2025-ASB009

Moved by: Member Wowdzia

THAT the March 12, 2025, Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be adopted as AMENDED by correspondence item 7.3 and adding New Business.

Carried

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 January 23, 2025 Agricultural Service Board

2025-ASB010

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the January 23, 2025, Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

4 DELEGATION

4.1 Christine Campbell, ALUS and
Eldon Kozak, County of Two Hills

Presentation by ALUS on their program.

Chairperson Anderson recessed the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Chairperson Anderson reconvened the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

2025-ASB011

Moved by: Member Wowdzia

Administration to research commitment requirements for ALUS and bring back to next ASB meeting.

Carried

5 REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 ASB Strategic Plan

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB012

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agriculture Service Board recommend that Council approve the 2025-29 ASB Strategic Plan at the March 20, 2025 County Council meeting, which outlines the Agricultural Service Board's vision, mission, values and strategic priorities, as presented.

Carried

6 REPORTS

6.1 Agricultural Fieldman

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bocher, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB013

Moved by: Member Nafziger

THAT the Agricultural Fieldman report be accepted as presented.

Carried

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 ASB 2026 Summer Tour

7.2 Letters of Complaint to ASB Provincial Committee

7.3 Starland County Letter regarding Broadband

2025-ASB014

Moved by: Member Kuzio

THAT the correspondence and information items be accepted as presented.

Carried

8 NEW BUSINESS

2025-ASB015

Moved by: Member Ogradnick

THAT the Agricultural Service Board directs Administration to send a letter to the federal Minister of Agriculture conveying Council's concerns in response to China's announcement on March 20, 2025, regarding retaliatory tariffs on Canadian agricultural products, and to take steps to mitigate the impact of these tariffs.

Carried

2025-ASB016

Moved by: Member Bentley

THAT the next Agricultural Service Board meeting be held April 16, 2025 immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Carried

9 ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Member Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Administrative Officer



AGRICULTURE SERVICES BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Draft Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives for Agricultural Services Board

Date: April 16, 2025

Background

At the January 23 ASB meeting the vision, mission, values and priorities were approved, the draft strategic plan was finalized, graphically designed and prepared for public consultation and circulation at the February 18 & 19 public open houses in Lavoy and Minburn. There was no extra feedback from key community stakeholders on the draft plan given at the open houses.

At the March 23 Council meeting, the County of Minburn ASB Strategic Plan was approved by Council.

Information for the Committee

Now that we have an approved Strategic Plan for 2025–2029, which aligns with the Government of Alberta’s ASB Grant cycle, our next step is to develop an ASB Strategic Business Plan. This plan will outline specific goals and strategies to help us achieve our strategic priorities and provide a framework to measure our success.

The approved Strategic Plan includes our vision, mission, values, and key priorities. What is being presented to ASB members for consideration are the proposed goals and strategies that will complete the overall plan and guide our programs moving forward. Should the Draft ASB Strategic Business Plan be approved, administration will ensure it’s graphically designed before presenting the information to ASB for final approval.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Services Board approve the goals and strategies as presented, and further, that these be incorporated into a draft ASB Strategic Business Plan to be brought forward for approval at the June ASB meeting.

Attachment

Draft ASB Strategic Business Plan

Draft ASB Strategic Business Plan

Approved Strategic Agricultural Priorities:

1. Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
2. Pest and Weed Management
3. Education and Outreach

Goal Area #1: Delivery/Support of the *Agricultural Services Board Act*

1.1

Objective:

Establish and maintain an effective governance structure according to the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities

1. Formation of an Agricultural Service Board and appointment of members to the Board
2. Appoint a qualified Agricultural Fieldman
3. Advocate for issues through the Provincial ASB resolution process
4. Advise on and help organize ASB programs
5. ASB provides Council with an annual report of activities
6. ASB follows and aims to accomplish activities outlined in the strategic plan and is approved by Council
7. Collaborate with organizations with common goals whose work benefits County of Minburn residents
8. Encourage and facilitate training opportunities for ASB staff to stay informed
9. Provide agricultural rental equipment not readily available to producers and residents from private industry

Outputs & Targets

1. Yearly appoint ASB members
2. Appointment of an Agricultural Fieldman
3. Attend and provide resolutions as applicable at the regional ASB and provincial ASB conferences
4. Hold ASB meetings as stated in the ASB Terms of Reference to share pertinent information
5. Council approves and accepts the ASB annual report

6. ASB and staff annual attendance at NE Regional ASB Conference, Provincial ASB Conference, AAAF In-Service Training and other related conference or training

1.2

Objective:

Support effective governance for the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Ensure the Board has access to current and relevant information on matters pertaining to legislation, programs, and services
2. Advocate to appropriate agencies regarding concerns and issues facing county ratepayers
3. Receive and document ratepayer concerns and forward to the board as necessary
4. Promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality
5. Promote, enhance, and protect viable sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer

Outputs & Targets

1. Provide ASB Board members ASB orientation as needed
2. Provide correspondence on relevant concerns to ratepayers and other agencies
3. Review and develop ASB policies, programs, and services as required
4. Develop policies to support sustainable agriculture in the county

Goal Area #2 Delivery/Support of the *Agricultural Pests Act*

2.1

Objective:

To help prevent the establishment and spread of declared pests and assist with the control of nuisance pests as described in the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

Priorities:

- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Ensure appropriate training for county inspectors
2. Inspect reasonably accessible private lands and accurately record infestations (location, abundance, severity)
3. Maintain an accurate database of pest infestations
4. Encourage voluntary compliance through discussion/dissemination of information
5. Provide correspondence as per the most recent policy
6. Enforce the *Agricultural Pests Act* as a "last" resort
7. Provide information through website, social media, and print media

Outputs & Targets

1. Provide seasonal staff orientation
2. Appoint pest inspectors to complete inspections and report pest observations on accessible lands
3. Ensure an accurate and functional county database for inspectors use
4. Post pertinent information on website, social media, and print media
5. Participate in available Applicator, Weed ID, and Pest ID workshops
6. Participate in Provincial Pest Surveillance Program
7. Provide Predation Management Program
8. Participate in Provincial Rat Control Program as required

Goal Area #3: Delivery/Support of the *Soil Conservation Act***3.1****Objective:**

To maintain the integrity of agricultural soils and prevent erosion through the delivery of the *Soil Conservation Act*.

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Develop and maintain a soil conservation policy for identifying and responding to soil erosion in the county
2. Ensure appropriate training for inspectors
3. Maintain an accurate database of soil concerns and riparian area issues
4. Provide correspondence regarding soil concerns as per the current policy

5. Encourage voluntary compliance through discussion/dissemination of information
6. Enforce the *Soil Conservation Act* as a last resort
7. Undertake soil erosion control measures on municipal construction projects
8. Seeding of road ROWs and borrow areas

Outputs & Targets:

1. Review the Soil Conservation policy and update if needed
2. Appoint the Agricultural Fieldman and other applicable staff as Soil Conservation Officers
3. Participate in available training opportunities
4. Investigate and document concerns of soil conservation issues
5. Ensure accurate and functional database for inspectors use
6. Provide pertinent information to ASB and Council
7. Provide awareness on relevant issues for ratepayers and other agencies
8. Post pertinent information on website, social media, and print media
9. Inspection and monitoring of cultivated land
10. Reclamation of road ROWs, borrow areas, and gravel pits as required
11. Respond promptly to active soil loss events

Goal Area #4: Delivery Support of the Weed Control Act

4.1

Objective:

Maintain policies and Bylaws to effectively meet all *Weed Control Act* and Weed Control Regulation requirements on municipal/public and private lands and address weeds of concern within the municipality that are negatively impacting agriculture and/or the environment.

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Appoint one or more Weed Inspection Officers
2. Conduct regular inspections
3. Support Partner Organizations (i.e. Alberta Invasive Species Council)
4. Develop and maintain weed control policies
5. Provide education and extension programs that support landowners in the areas of weed identification and weed management strategies

6. Collaborate with external agencies on weed management, education, and extension
7. Continue rental program of assorted sprayers for ratepayers
8. Be responsive to current issues
9. Weed control of municipal hamlets, gravel stockpiles, waste transfer sites, and county yards
10. Integrated vegetation management of municipal roadside ROWs

Outputs & Targets:

1. Appoint weed inspectors
2. Annual reporting to County of Minburn ASB and Council, and AB Agriculture and Irrigation
3. Update ASB policies and Bylaws as required
4. Collaborate with the AISC and PVMA on matters of mutual interest
5. Investigate any prohibited noxious site and facilitate control
6. Annual use of rental equipment
7. Active weed monitoring and control program
8. Regular inspections of Municipal ROW and 4500 Km of roadway for control of invasive species
9. 1050 Km of estimated roadside weeds sprayed annually
10. Known prohibited noxious and noxious weed sites monitored annually

4.2

Objective:

Manage the spread of weed seeds through appropriate inspection of stationary and mobile seed cleaning plants.

Priority:

- Pest and Weed Management

Activities:

- Conduct inspections for licensing of all stationary and mobile seed cleaning plants that are operating within the County of Minburn.

Outputs & Targets:

1. Inspect clean seed samples as per the current seed cleaning plant licensing process
2. Perform local cleaning plant inspections annually
3. Perform mobile seed cleaning plant inspections as applicable

Goal Area #5: Delivery/Support of the *Animal Health Act*

5.1

Objective:

To assist in the control of animal diseases under the *Animal Health Act* and to provide support for animal health outbreaks and livestock emergencies.

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. To establish an emergency response plan to assist the CFIA and the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
2. To report any diseases designated under the Reportable and Notifiable Disease Regulation
3. To promote animal health care and best management practices

Outputs & Targets:

1. Disclose reportable and notifiable diseases to the office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
2. Assist the office of the Chief Federal Veterinarian, Health Canada, and CFIA when requested
3. Review and update current county EMP for livestock emergencies

Goal Area #6: Support of Outreach Programming for Legislation (Awareness & Education)

6.1

Objective:

Promote awareness and understanding of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Maintain current ASB related information (meeting minutes, link to legislation on website)
2. Host Public ASB meetings

Outputs by Activities & Targets:

1. Post ASB meeting agendas and minutes as available on county website
2. Promote ASB services provided to County residents via website and social media and other public events
3. Provide links to policies and Bylaws on the county website

6.2**Objective:**

Promote awareness of pests in County of Minburn and the Northeast Region.

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Maintain *Agricultural Pests Act* on the county website
2. Deliver programs and support for management of crop and tree disease, and insect pests
3. Deliver programs for control of vertebrate pests (i.e. wild boar and coyote)

Outputs by Activity & Targets:

1. Maintain listing of pest and disease concerns on county website and social media
2. Report surveillance program results on county website and social media
3. Submit samples for crop and tree diseases and insect pests to the Alberta Plant Health Lab

6.3

Objective:

Promote awareness of the *Soil Conservation Act*

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Maintain Soil Conservation Policy for the County of Minburn
2. Support environmental programming and country residential living programming for the County of Minburn
3. Collaborate with other Agencies (ALUS, Green Acreages Program)

Outputs by Activity & Targets:

1. Review and update Soil Conservation Policy as needed
2. Disseminate information regarding BMPs via county website and social media
3. Provide EFP support and other workshops

6.4

Objective:

Promote awareness of the *Weed Control Act*

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

- Maintain current *Weed Control Act* related information on county website and social media

Outputs by Activity & Targets

1. Promotion of County of Minburn vegetation management plan
2. Provide access to current list of regulated weeds from the *Weed Control Act* on the county website and social media
3. Report surveillance program results on county website and social media

6.5

Objective:

Promote awareness of the *Animal Health Act*

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Maintain up to date *Animal Health Act* related information on the county website and social media
2. Promote manure management according to the *Agricultural Operations Practices Act*
3. Support best management practices

Outputs by Activity & Targets

1. Promote BMPs via county website and social media
2. Provide information on animal diseases, outbreaks and bio-security practices via county web site, social media, and workshops
3. Provide EFP support and other workshops relating to AOPA

Goal Area #7: Support & Extension Programming to Benefit Producers (Awareness & Education)

7.1

Objective:

To provide extension programming to support the viability of producers and those who live the country lifestyle.

Priorities:

- Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Pest and Weed Management
- Education and Outreach

Activities:

1. Delivery of environmental and country residential living programming
2. Provide relevant equipment rentals of plastic bag rolling equipment to producers
3. Promote BMPs via county website, social media, and workshops

Outputs by Activity & Targets

1. Delivery of EFP and other workshops
2. Partner with other agencies to expand the beneficial services and programs to producers
3. Maintain bag rolling equipment available for rent
4. Provide information on BMPs (i.e. Ag Plastics recycling) via website, social media and workshops



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: County of Minburn Hosting ASB NE Region Conference in 2025

Date: April 16, 2025

Background

Every year the ASB NE Region Conference is hosted by one of the eleven County's and Municipal Districts in the region. This year, 2025, is County of Minburn's turn to host.

Information for the Committee

The Regional ASB Conference is scheduled for November 3, 2025, shortly after the next municipal election. The date was selected to align with Council's training calendar and in consultation with the eleven Municipal Districts. Following the April ASB meeting, a save-the-date notice will be sent to the other municipalities in the Northeast Region.

Planned Agenda Items:

- Approval of 2024 Regional Conference Minutes
- ASB Program Updates
- Pre-ASB Orientation
- Election of NE Region ASB Member and Alternate
- NE Regional ASB Representative Report
- *Resilient Rurals* – Recognizing the power and potential of small and rural communities to foster resilience and advance climate initiatives
- Alberta Innovates Agri-Food Innovation Team – Invitation sent

Next Steps (led by Administration):

1. **Immediate:** A save-the-date notice, including hotel options, will be sent to the Municipal Districts to support early planning and accommodation bookings if needed.
2. **June 2025:** Administration will present a draft agenda for the Conference for ASB's review and consideration.
3. **July 2025:** The final registration package and agenda will be sent to the Municipal Districts to allow for early registration and catering planning.

Recommendation

THAT the ASB accepts this report as information and requests that Administration provide a draft agenda for the June ASB meeting.

Attachment:

Save the Date Announcement





AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: ALUS Budget
Date: April 16, 2025

Background

At the March 12, 2025 ASB meeting there was a presentation on ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services). Christine Campbell, ALUS Senior Hub Manager and Eldon Kozak, Agricultural Fieldman, Two Hills County presented the information to the County of Minburn ASB.

Information for the Committee

Program and budgetary requirements for ALUS were presented to the ASB. ALUS Canada requires an annual program access fee of \$5,000 which provides the municipality with access to the database, communications support, hub manager support, programming, and other grant funding for projects.

Member expenses (e.g., per diems based upon number of members X per diem rate X number of meetings) for the Partner Advisory Committee (PAC), as well as some project funding, will be covered by the municipality. Most of the funding for projects and staff is provided by ALUS aligned granting agencies, and the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) grant from the Alberta Government.

County of Two Hills historically has budgeted \$15,000.

2025 - \$15,000 approximately \$5000 spent
2024 - \$15,000 approximately \$10,500 spent
2023 - \$15,000 approximately \$10,000 spent
2022 - \$15,000 Approximately \$10,400 spent

Estimated PAC Per Diem would be approximately \$200 full day or \$100 half day per meeting as per Policy CC 3001-02 Remuneration and Benefits for Councillor and Appointed Members.

County of Two Hills is willing to work in Partnership with the County of Minburn to share an ALUS Coordinator between the two Counties.

Recommendation

THAT the ASB recommend to Council the allocation of \$10,000 as a line item in the 2025 budget, and that Administration prepare Terms of Reference for a Project Advisory Committee, as well as a contract to share a coordinator with the County of Two Hills, and that this information be brought to the June ASB meeting.

Attachment:

Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) for Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Alternative Land Use Services Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) is a committee that oversees management and implementation of the ALUS program within County of Minburn in conjunction with Administration. PAC members will provide input and decide on project applications that deliver ALUS to producers within the community.

Authority

The PAC is delegated with the ability to decide on project applications submitted by eligible producers to the County of Minburn ALUS Program. The PAC may dedicate funds towards approved projects as established within the County of Minburn Annual Budget.

Goals

The goal of the PAC is to improve ecosystem goods and services within County of Minburn on agriculturally marginal land in conjunction with local producers. This goal is achieved via the decision-making process on projects that fit the framework of the ALUS Program in County of Minburn.

Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members

The roles and responsibilities of the PAC include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Review and decide on potential projects based on ALUS criteria.
- 2) Establish payment structure and amounts for each project.
- 3) Communication with external organizations as it relates to projects or the ALUS Program.
- 4) Act as a liaison between the PAC and other agricultural producers.
- 5) Identify potential sources for in-kind contributions, sponsors, and grants to support the ALUS Program.
- 6) Attend meetings and vote on motions and decisions.

Membership

The PAC will remain in its role as long as County of Minburn has an active Memorandum of Understanding with ALUS Canada. Strong producer representation is required on the committee, balanced by external agencies that can provide feedback on project proposals. As such, the committee will strive to consist of:

- 1) A majority (60%) of local producers (being defined as those producers that actively farm & ranch within County of Minburn municipal boundaries).
- 2) A minority (40%) of external agencies including non-governmental organizations, provincial, and federal government representatives.

- 3) One County of Minburn Councillor and one alternate Councillor selected by Council.

Members will be selected from relevant external agencies and area producers. A list of recommended agencies and individuals will be compiled by Administration and provided to Council for final approval.

PAC Chair

PAC members shall elect a Chair on an annual basis from amongst the producers on the committee. The Chair's duties will include:

1. Preside at meetings, maintain order and keeps the meeting flow moving.
2. Work closely with the Project Coordinator to prepare the agenda.
3. Start and adjourn meetings on time.
4. Prioritize agenda items, schedule them accordingly and adhere to the agenda, accepting only discussion on the agenda topic from the floor.
5. Know and follow the rules of meeting procedure by adhering to any relevant bylaw in place currently.

Decision Making

Decisions of the PAC will be reached by formal votes and the majority shall rule. Each member casts one vote adhering to any relevant bylaw in place currently.

Minutes

Minutes will be taken at each meeting and circulated to all PAC members soon after each meeting. Other members of the community expressing interest in ALUS may receive approved minutes upon request to the Chair. Approved minutes will also be posted on the County website and may also be placed on the ALUS website.

Meeting Frequency

Meetings will be held a minimum of four times per year, or as required at the discretion of the committee.

Remuneration

Members of the PAC will be reimbursed as per Policy CC 3001-02 in place currently. If the member represents an external agency and receives wages from that agency, they are not eligible for remuneration.

Roles and Responsibilities of Administration

1. Administration shall orientate committee members with regards to the Terms of Reference and roles of committee members and administration.
2. Administration shall attend meetings to provide guidance and assistance in accordance with the Terms of Reference and ALUS framework, and to take minutes.

3. Agendas will be prepared by administration, in consultation with the appointed Chairperson, which will be provided to all members one week in advance of the meeting.

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

Conflict of interest is defined as an opportunity by committee members to receive personal gain over and above the benefits by other project participants because of prior knowledge or time advantage. Where committee members are party to exclusive information which may be perceived as a personal advantage, the committee member must declare the potential conflict and act to ensure no personal gain occurs both in the eyes of the PAC, government, or the local community. No person who has a conflict of interest shall use the knowledge or material which creates the conflict in a way that would create any personal gain that is not available to other actual or potential participants. All conflicts of interest must be declared up front, and all committee meetings will include the opportunity to do so at the beginning of meeting agendas. Committee members declaring a conflict of interest must not participate, speak to or vote on any matter for which a conflict was declared.

Term of Appointments

All committee term appointments shall be for one year only.

Sub-Committees

The PAC may strike sub-committees as appropriate. Such committees must be chaired by a PAC member but may include members of the community who are supportive of the ALUS concept. Proposed actions by committees must be approved by consensus or by a quorum of the PAC prior to implementation.

Dissolution

The PAC will exist as long as the ALUS Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Minburn and ALUS Canada remains in force. Dissolution of the PAC will occur if either ALUS Canada or the County of Minburn decides to end their participation in the County of Minburn ALUS program, pursuant to the termination clause contained in the Memorandum of Understanding. Should dissolution of the PAC occur as a result of the above, each member will be provided with written notification thirty (30) days in advance of the dissolution of the PAC. Upon receipt of the notice of dissolution, the Chair of the PAC may call for a final meeting to resolve any outstanding business that may exist.

Agriculture and Municipal Services Update

Agriculture Service Board Update:

- Brushing Program has completed 29,150 metres.
- Attended the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) workshop and conference March 4-6, 2025 in Olds, AB.
- Attended Vermillion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA) TAC meeting online March 14, 2025.
- Attended the ASB spring seminar by AB Ag & Irrigation online, March 19, 2025.
- Attended the NE AAAF regional meeting on March 21, 2025 in Two Hills, AB.
- Attended the Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) on March 24, in Camrose, AB.
- Interviewed and hired seasonal staff for 2025.
- Compiling information on livestock numbers, PID numbers and other various items for animal health, and livestock emergencies (Emergency Management Plan).
- Renewed the County of Minburn explosive magazine permit from Natural Resources Canada.
- Renewed the County of Minburn Pesticide Service Registration from Alberta Environment.

January 14, 2025

Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
204 Legislature Building
108000 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Follow-Up on Updates to the Farmer Pesticide Program

Dear Honourable Minister Rebecca Schulz,

The Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board wishes to follow up on prior correspondence and discussions regarding the Farmer Pesticide Program. In our letter dated April 25, 2022, we outlined several concerns regarding outdated course materials, inconsistencies in exam alignment, and gaps in resource allocation for the program. We appreciated the response from Devon Smiegielski on May 16, 2022, which highlighted plans for a review in Fall 2022 and the establishment of a sub-committee to update the training materials. However, despite this assurance, we have yet to observe substantive progress regarding the status of this critical program update.

We commend your ministry's efforts to modernize Alberta's regulatory framework, including developing the new Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS) and updating the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticide Use. These initiatives align with the broader goals of sustainable pesticide management. We also recognize the recent updates to the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core in 2024 as a valuable reference that could support the redevelopment of the Alberta Farmer Pesticide Program.

However, the Farmer Pesticide Program faces unique challenges, including reliance on municipal facilitators and limited resource access. Unlike other pesticide certification programs with access to Lakeland College resources for development and review, this program is not a part of the Lakeland College partnership. It may require additional provincial support to ensure its modernization aligns with evolving standards and meets the needs of Alberta's agricultural producers. In this process, it is essential to include municipal stakeholders, who bring firsthand knowledge of the program's delivery and the needs of local producers, to ensure that revisions are both practical and effective.

To advance this essential program, we respectfully request:

1. An update on the timeline and progress of the program review and redevelopment.
2. Consideration of dedicated provincial resources to support the modernization and implementation of the program.
3. An outline detailing the intended stakeholder involvement in the program review and development.



Box 400, 1600 - 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta, T0M 2A0
Phone: 403-443-5541 · Toll Free: 1-866-443-5541
Email: office@kneehillcounty.com
www.kneehillcounty.com



The Farmer Pesticide Program is essential for Alberta's agricultural sector, ensuring the safe and effective use of restricted pesticides while supporting environmental stewardship and market access. A timely update to this program will reinforce Alberta's commitment to its producers and stakeholders.

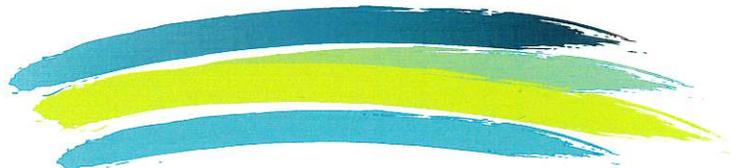
Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and continued engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wade Christie".

Wade Christie
Chair, Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board

cc:
Honourable Nathan Cooper
Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards



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Municipal District of **GREENVIEW**

March 17, 2025

Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
204 Legislature Building
108000 - 97 A venue
Edmonton, AB TSK 286

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB TSK 2B6

Attention: Honourable Minister Rebecca Schultz and Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson
Subject: Farmer Pesticide Program and Updated Registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate

On January 14th, Kneehill County wrote a commendable letter requesting an update to the Farmer Pesticide Program that detailed required amendments to the certification. The letter specified the programs reliance on municipal facilitators for delivery, as opposed to provincial representatives or inclusion in the Lakeland College's suite of pesticide certification programs. The Farmers Pesticide Certification is the only pesticide certification program in Alberta outside of the Colleges purview.

With the changes announced to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's registration for sodium monofluoroacetate (1080), released on March 7th, 2024 in RVD2024-04, specific actions the registrant must take for the continued registration of 1080 as regards product stewardship were listed. One of the four points within these requirements is as follows:

- Develop and implement a training program on how to properly use sodium monofluoroacetate and dispose of poisoned baits and carcasses. This includes making sure people know that they can only use the product after all other predator management methods have failed.

Training exists for municipal staff dispensing 1080, so we can only surmise that this training requirement is for producers accessing the product when all other manner of control of coyote predation have been exhausted.

We echo and agree with the concerns expressed by Kneehill County. We would like to add that in light of the changed registration of 1080, an important tool we feel needs to remain in livestock producers' toolboxes, that the required modernization and alignment with current standards for the Farmers Pesticide Certification be prioritized by both ministries. In addition, we would like to emphasize the importance of producers being able to access this training readily through Lakeland College in an online format as opposed to only being delivered by municipal facilitators.

Dave Gibbard, Chair
Greenview Agricultural Service Board

cc: Provincial Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman



January 14, 2025

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

Honourable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5
aafc.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca

Dear Ministers RJ Sigurdson and Lawrence MacAulay,

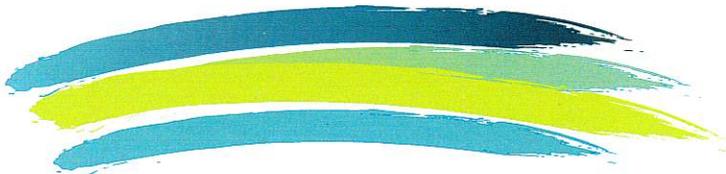
Subject: Urgent Need for Support in Addressing Richardson Ground Squirrel Infestations in the Agriculture Industry

The Kneehill County Agriculture Service Board is writing to express our deep concern regarding the increasing negative impact of Richardson ground squirrels (commonly known as gophers) on the agricultural industry in Alberta. These pests are causing widespread damage to agricultural resources, resulting in significant economic losses for producers. The removal of 2% liquid strychnine, a previously effective control measure, has worsened the situation.

The challenges posed by Richardson ground squirrels are multifaceted and deeply impactful. Their burrowing activity not only damages pastures and creates hazards for livestock but also disrupts the structural integrity of agricultural land. Their consumption of crops reduces yields and often requires costly replanting, adding to producers' burdens. Producers now rely on less efficient and costlier alternatives, exacerbating their financial challenges. This issue threatens the sustainability of the agriculture sector, underscoring the need for immediate and comprehensive solutions.

We respectfully request the following support from your respective ministries:

4. **Insurance Coverage:** Inclusion of Richardson ground squirrel damage as an insurable form of wildlife damage eligible for compensation under the Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) programs. This would provide critical financial relief to producers facing significant losses due to these pests.



Box 400, 1600 - 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta, T0M 2A0
Phone: 403-443-5541 · Toll Free: 1-866-443-5541
Email: office@kneehillcounty.com
www.kneehillcounty.com

5. **Funding Support:** Establishment of financial assistance programs for producers to access effective alternative control measures. This could include subsidies for approved pest control products, cultural practice implementation, equipment, and training.
6. **Research and Development:** Increased investment in research to develop new, effective, and environmentally sustainable solutions for Richardson ground squirrel management. This includes exploring potential biological controls, innovative deterrents, and safer chemical options.
7. **Advocacy to Other Ministries and Levels of Government:** Collaboration with other relevant ministries, such as Environment and Parks, to ensure that regulatory frameworks support practical and effective pest control solutions. Advocacy to federal bodies and international partners to address this issue as a shared priority in the context of agricultural sustainability.

The removal of 2% liquid strychnine has left a critical void in pest management, depriving producers of an essential, cost-effective tool to combat Richardson ground squirrel infestations. This growing challenge continues to harm crops, pastures, and ecosystems, escalating the financial and environmental strain on the agricultural sector. Immediate and decisive action from your ministries is essential to address this gap, protect our producers, and ensure the long-term sustainability of agriculture in the region.

We urge your ministries to recognize the severity of this issue and to take proactive steps to support the agricultural community. Richardson ground squirrels are a persistent threat, but with the right resources, research, and regulatory support, we can mitigate their impact and protect the livelihoods of Canadian farmers.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wade Christie".

Wade Christie
Chair, Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board

cc:

Honourable Nathan Cooper

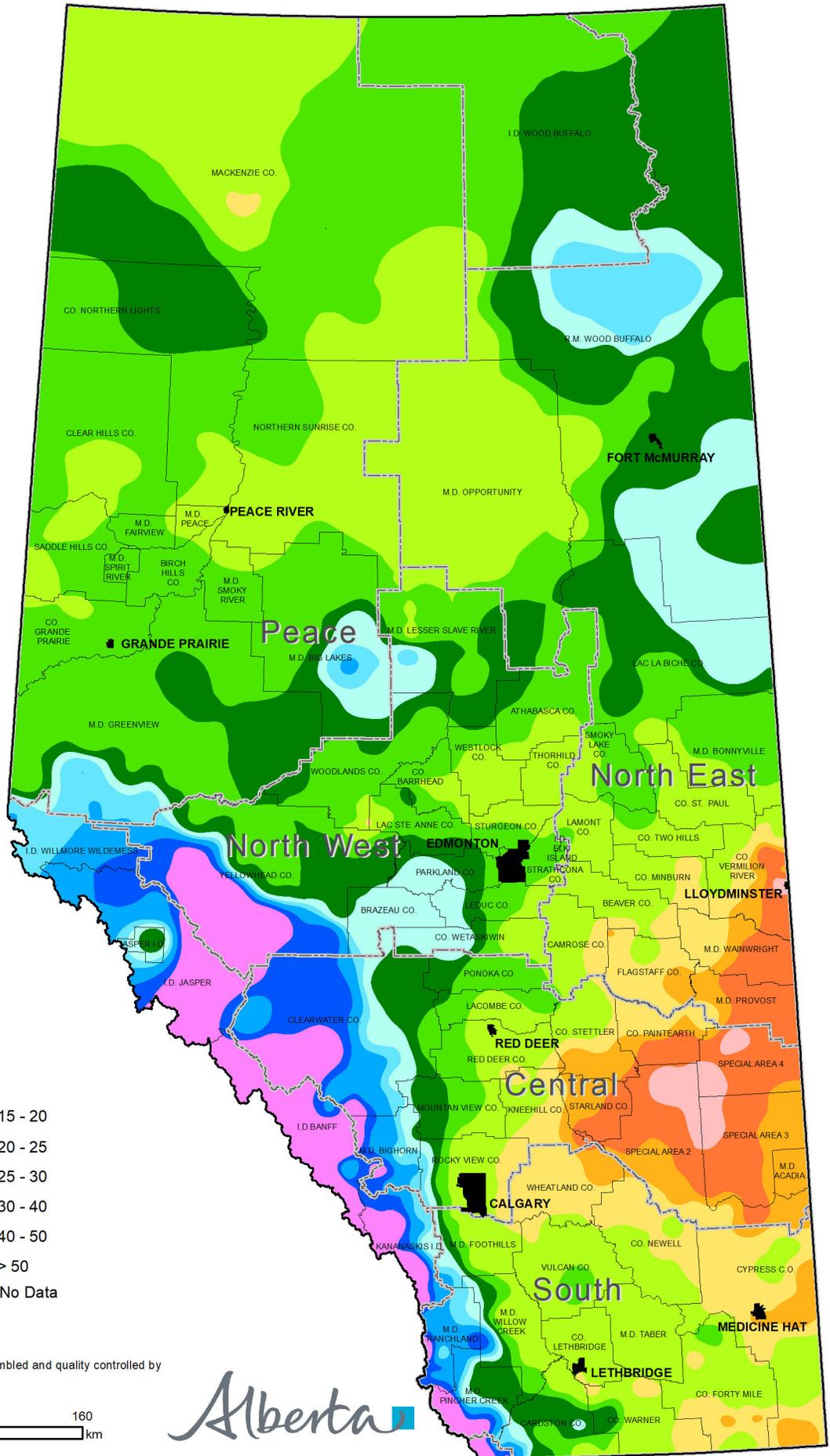
Honourable Damien Kurek

Honourable Martin Shields

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards

Municipality	Approved Workbooks 2024
Acadia MD	3
Athabasca County	6
Banff	0
Barrhead County	5
Beaver County	9
Big Lakes County	5
BigHorn MD	1
Birch Hills County	4
Bonnyville MD	15
Brazeau County	3
Calgary	1
Camrose County	24
Cardston County	5
Clear Hills County	9
Clearwater County	5
Crowsnest Pass	0
Cypress County	6
Drumheller	0
Edmonton	2
Enoch	0
Fairview MD	4
Flagstaff County	21
Foothills MD	8
Forty Mile County	16
Grande Prairie County	9
Greenview MD	6
Kneehill County	30
Lac La Biche County	9
Lac Ste. Anne County	4
Lacombe County	19
Lamont County	7
Leduc County	10
Lesser Slave River MD	7
Lethbridge County	32
Mackenzie County	7
Minburn County	9
Mountain View County	16
Newell County	12
Northern Lights County	7
Northern Sunrise County	3
Paintearth County	15
Parkland County	6
Peace MD	5

Pincher Creek MD	1
Ponoka County	10
Provost MD	11
Ranchland MD	0
Red Deer County	15
Redcliff	1
Rocky Mountain House	0
Rocky View County	10
Saddle Hills MD	13
Smoky Lake County	21
Smoky River MD	4
Special Areas 2	10
Special Areas 3	12
Special Areas 4	5
Spirit River MD	2
St. Paul County	16
Starland County	22
Stettler County	11
Strathcona County	3
Sturgeon County	12
Taber MD	18
Thorhild County	4
Two Hills County	12
Vermillion River County	14
Vulcan County	9
Wainwright MD	7
Warner County	6
Westlock County	6
Wetaskiwin County	13
Wheatland County	17
Willmore Wilderness	10
Willow Creek MD	0
Woodlands County	1
Yellowhead County	6
Total	667



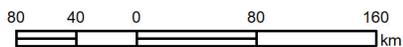
Precipitation Received During the Past 30-days

February 18, 2025 to March 19, 2025

Precipitation (mm)

	< 0.5		15 - 20
	0.5 - 1.0		20 - 25
	1 - 2		25 - 30
	2 - 3		30 - 40
	3 - 5		40 - 50
	5 - 10		> 50
	10 - 15		No Data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 20, 2025

Alberta

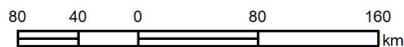
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

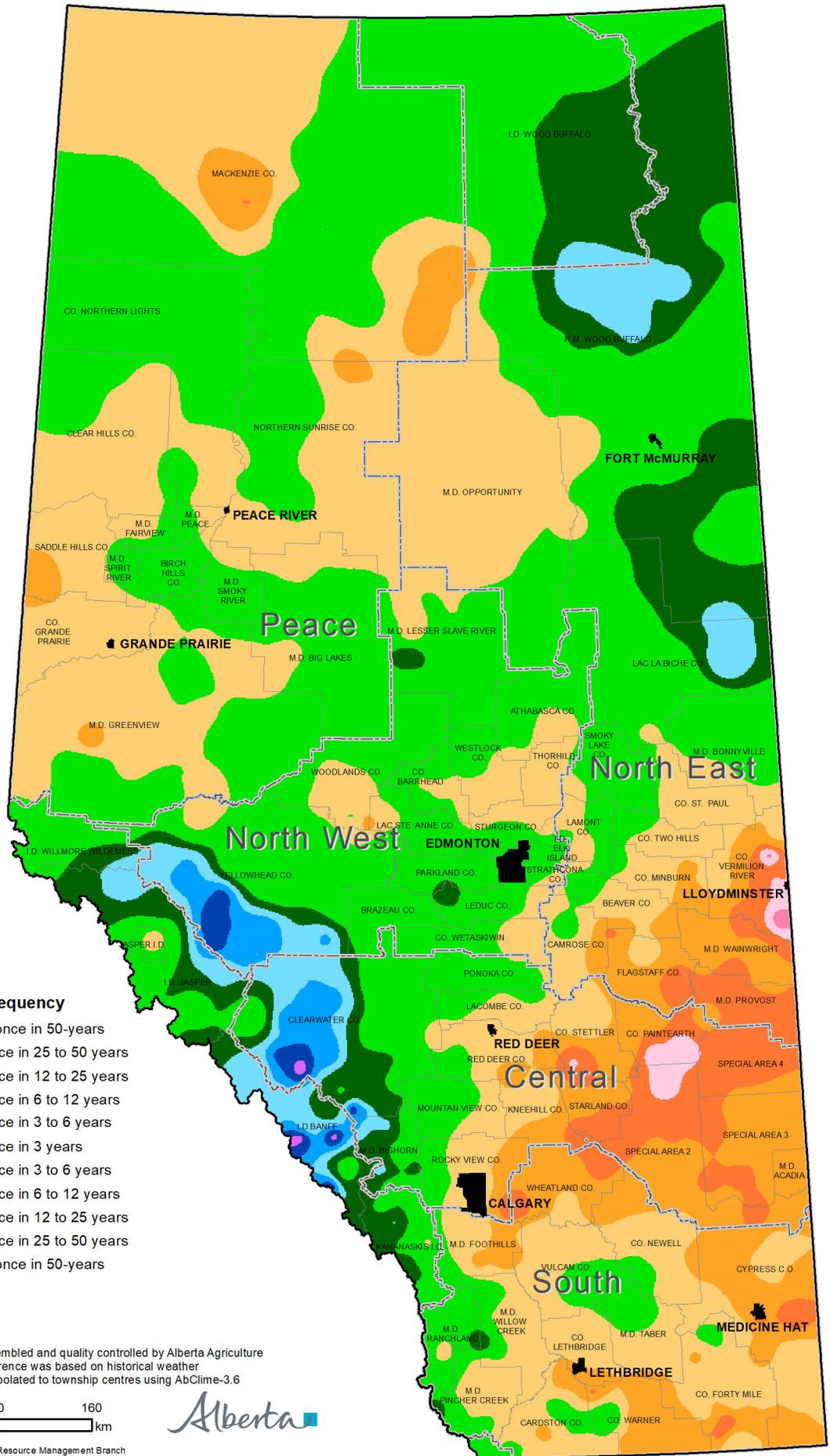
February 18, 2025 to
March 19, 2025

Condition	Frequency
	< once in 50-years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 3 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	< once in 50-years
	no data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClim-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 20, 2025



Cold Season Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

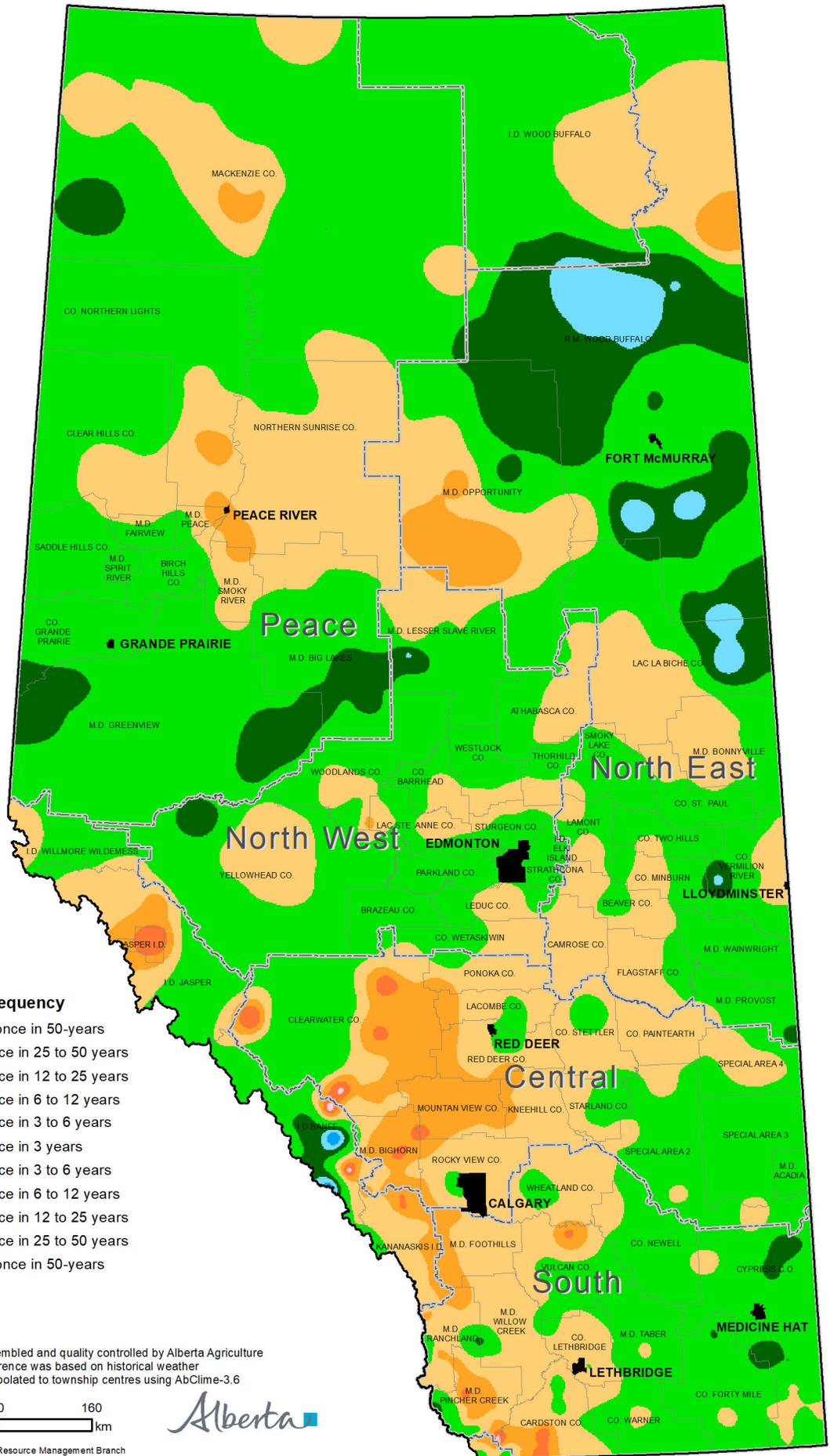
November 01, 2024 to March 19, 2025

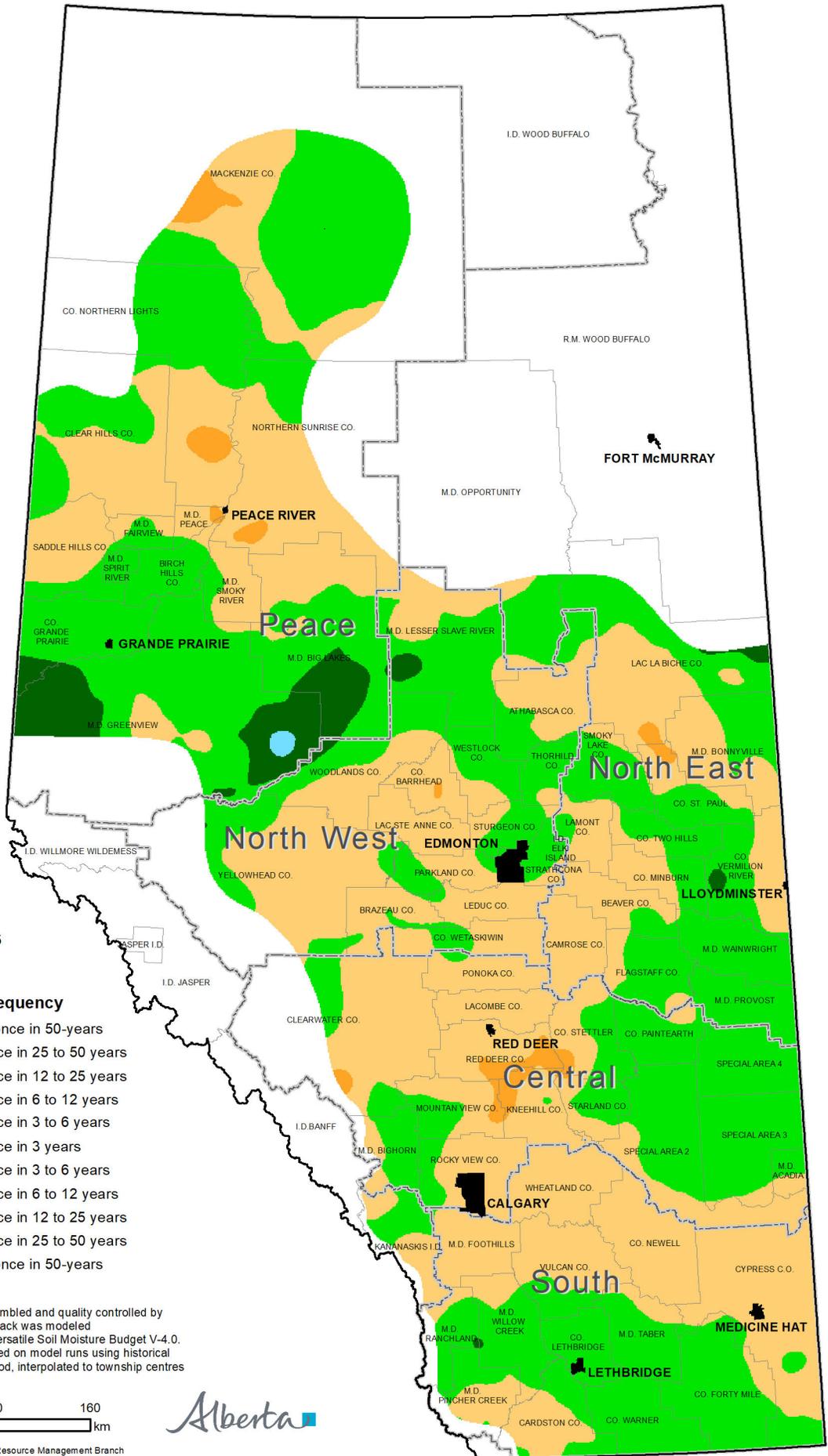
Condition	Frequency
	< once in 50-years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 3 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	< once in 50-years
	no data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClim-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 20, 2025





Snow Pack Accumulations on Stubble Fields Relative to Long Term Normal

Estimated as of March 19, 2025

Condition	Frequency
	< once in 50-years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 3 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	< once in 50-years
	no data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. The snow pack was modeled for stubble fields using the Modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 20, 2025



365-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

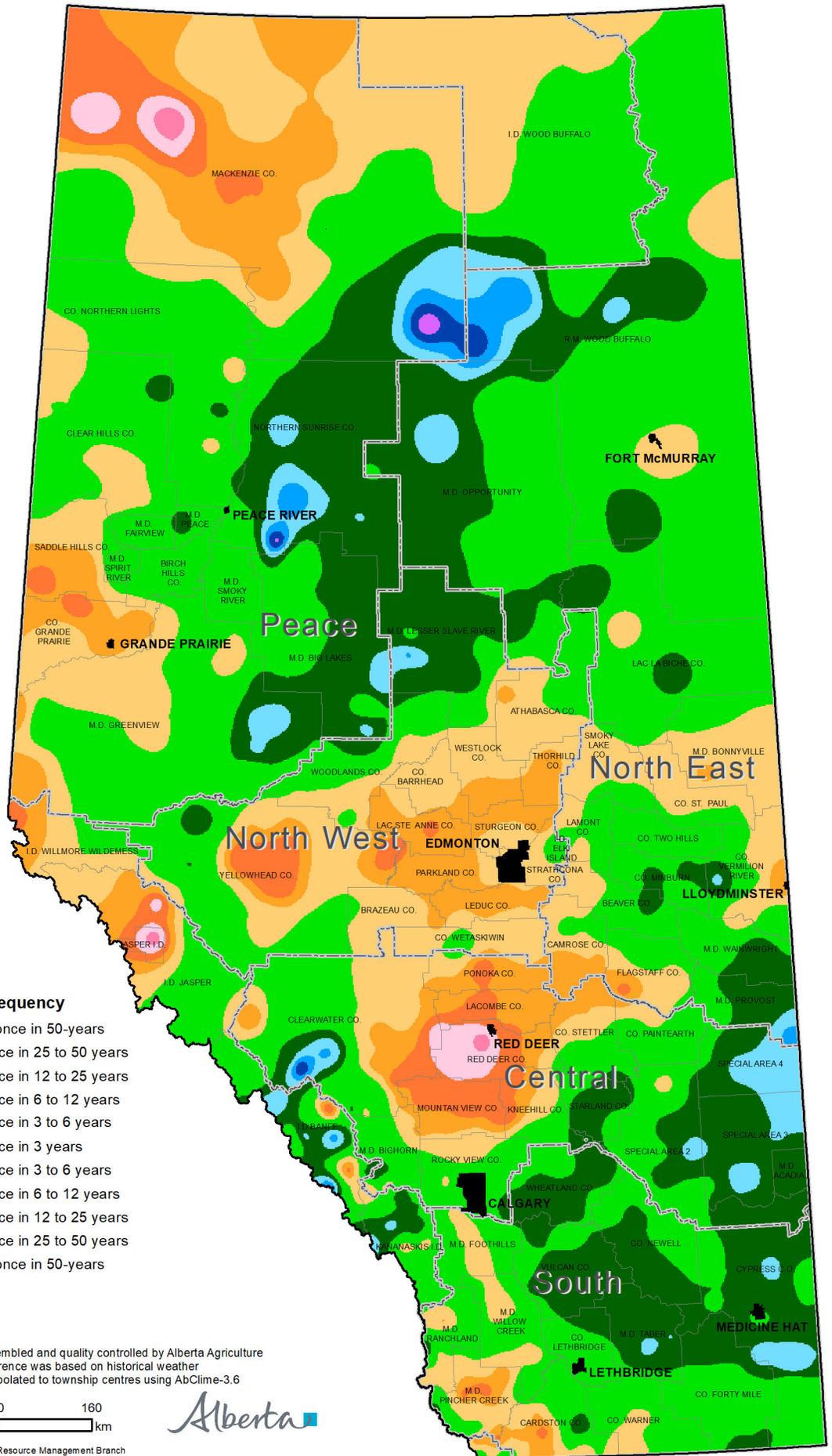
March 20, 2024 to
March 19, 2025

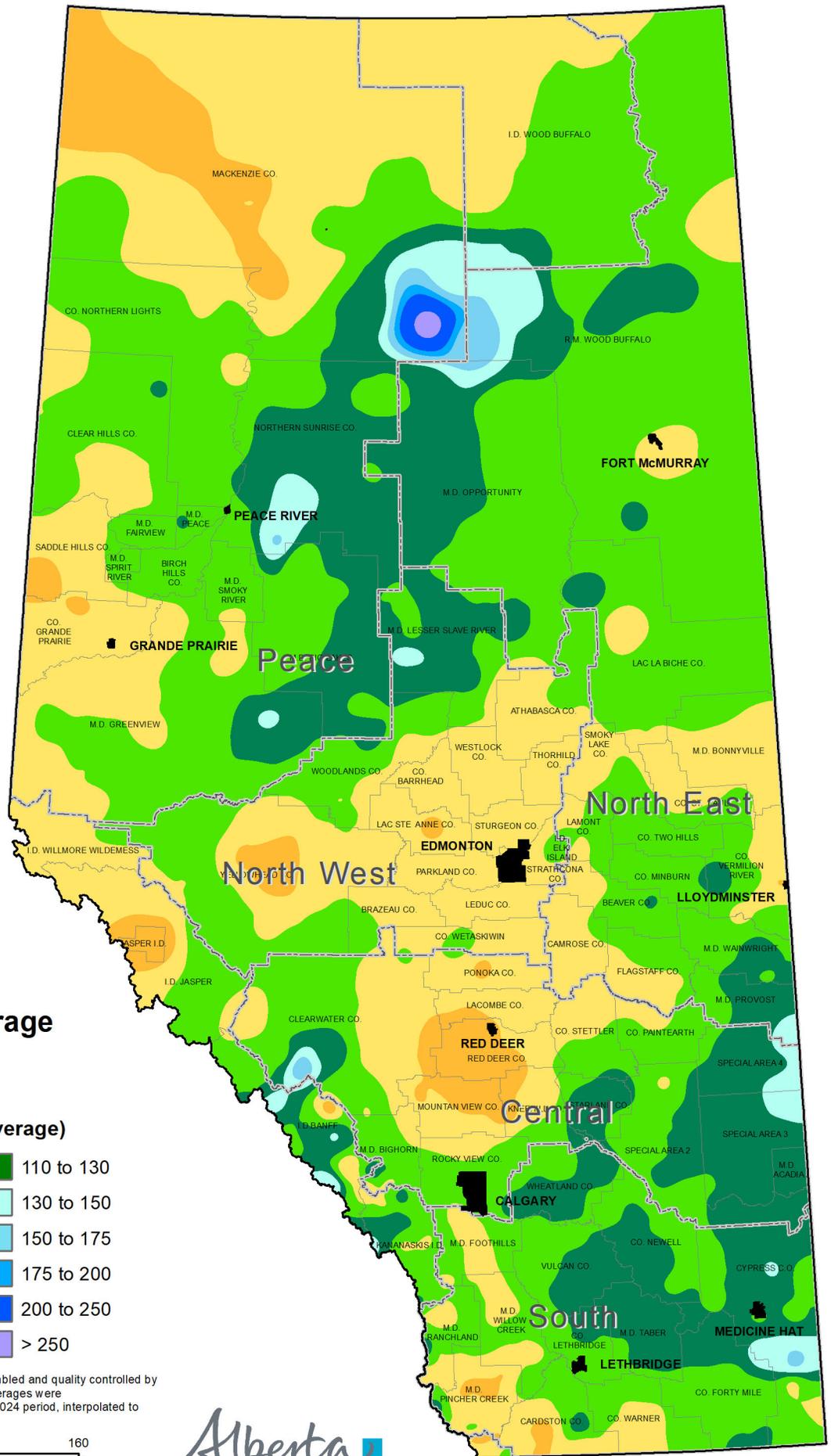
Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClim-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 20, 2025





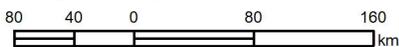
365-Day Precipitation Accumulations Percent of Average

March 20, 2024 to
March 19, 2025

Precipitation (% of Average)

	< 10		110 to 130
	10 to 30		130 to 150
	30 to 50		150 to 175
	50 to 70		175 to 200
	70 to 90		200 to 250
	90 to 110		> 250

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 20, 2025



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data