

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD POLICY MANUAL

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M.D. OF FAIRVIEW # 136 – AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

INTRODUCTION

The Board re-evaluated its priorities and objectives in the fall of 1993. With the funding shortfalls and budget cutbacks expected in 1994, the Board felt that a fundamental restructuring of the Board was required. Therefore, in November the ASB held “Kitchen Meetings” throughout the Municipality to discuss with ratepayers the role and programs of the ASB. These meetings and other rounds of kitchen meetings have helped to lay down the foundation for the Agricultural Service Board in the coming years. The ASB programs and budgets are the result of this process.

In the spring of 2001, the ASB reviewed its goals and objectives under the strategic plan and amended the strategic plan to reflect the changing needs of the Municipality’s producers. The ASB Policy Manual is periodically updated when required.

SITUATION

Agricultural Base:

In 2013, the MD of Fairview currently has 331,958 acres under production with this land base being made up of 292 farm units. These farm units vary from large grain/oilseed farms to purebred and commercial cattle operations. Land utilization illustrates this diverse agriculture base as seen in Table 1.

<i>Table 1: Land Utilization</i>	Cereal Grain	
	Canola	
	Field Peas	263,840 ac
	Forage Seed	
	Improved Pasture	35,680 ac
	Native Pasture	47,040 ac
	Waste Areas	4,800 ac
	Yard Sites	6,104 ac

Note: Numbers may not add to the total farmed acres due to confidentiality of some commodities.

Plant Industry:

Forages play an important role in the agricultural production of the MD. Legume and grass crops are used for livestock feed, forage seed and as a management tool in local Soil and Water Conservation. Market development for the Municipality’s forage crops are a major priority for some producers.

The production of Canola is vital to the cash flow of the Municipality’s producers. For this reason, Canola accounts for half of the annual crop acres every year. Virulent Blackleg of Canola was found in the Municipality in 1994 and was followed up with an intensive inspection, enforcement and awareness program that was successful in

controlling the spread of the disease. Since then, Clubroot has spread in Alberta and our M.D. had awareness meetings and informational literature distributed throughout. Fall field inspections are also done annually for Clubroot.

The Municipality is responsible for weed control on all roadsides and Municipal property within its boundaries. Weed inspection is carried out on all private land in the MD with the emphasis on new and restricted weeds. Canada Thistle, Perennial Sow Thistle and Toadflax represent the majority of weed problems. Scentless Chamomile sites have also been found and dealt with. The two Hamlets are also inspected along with the Town of Fairview of which we contract our inspection services to them.

Animal Industry:

Cattle production in the MD has decreased in recent years due to low prices which occurred due to the BSE outbreak. Recent surveys have shown a dramatic decrease in the number of breeding animals being retained by local producers. The forecast over the next couple of years, due to increases in markets and prices, should show increases. The cattle spend the grazing season on approximately 35,680 acres of improved pasture and 47,040 acres of unimproved pasture and native range. Pasture and hay land make up roughly a quarter of the farmable land in the MD.

Extension Services:

There is one very active producer group operating in the MD presently, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA).

PCBFA operates in an area stretching from Bear Canyon on the Alberta-B.C. border to High Prairie and areas between. The group's full-time manager and its members conduct a variety of forage and beef related activities ranging from production and conservation projects, marketing and management seminars and also research plot trials. They also execute the Environmental Stream for several municipalities including the M.D. of Fairview.

In December of 2003, the Fairview Applied Research Association (FARA) ceased activity within the Municipality. In 2005, that business transitioned and became Peace Agriculture Research and Demonstration, (PARDA), in 2006. PARDA was a creator and accumulator of credible and valuable information through research, extension and demonstration. They did provide beneficial information to the farming community but had ceased activity in 2013.

Agro-Climatic Factors:

Moderate winter snowfalls in the MD coupled with rapid spring thaws have the potential for causing serious erosion damage to cultivated land. Large tracts of sloping land along the Peace River are of prime concern for this reason. Although rainfall during the growing season is comparable to some of the more arid areas of the province, the relatively low heat units found in the MD tend to moderate the effects of drought during dry periods.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS AND GOALS

The Agricultural Service Board's three key priorities have the following goals:

a) Weed Control:

Goal: To maximize the production potential of farm land within the Municipality by controlling the introduction, establishment and spread of weeds detrimental to agricultural production.

Goal: To increase the public's understanding of the role of pesticides in the production of safe and healthy food products.

b) Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

Goal: To reduce the loss of productive farmland and topsoil due to wind and water erosion.

Goal: To promote better water management practices to increase the quantity and quality of available water sources.

Goal: To promote the use of farming practices that contributes to better soil and water quality.

Goal: To increase the public awareness of environmentally sustainable farming techniques and practices with PCBFA administering this on our behalf.

c) Agricultural Development

Goal: To maximize the productive capability of the farmland in the Municipality by controlling the introduction, establishment and spread of agricultural pests as stated in the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

Goal: To promote the development of a sustainable farming community.

Goal: To promote the development of a sustainable agriculture industry by supporting the demonstration of sustainable farming techniques.

Goal: To promote a positive image of the local agriculture industry in the Municipality's rural and urban communities.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

The Agricultural Service Board has the intention to plan and provide programming based on the needs of the farming ratepayers within the Municipality. The ASB will encourage all ratepayers to participate in and provide input into all activities undertaken by the Board. Ratepayers will be provided with information, results and benefits derived from the Board's resources.

The following objectives and respective programs have been developed in order to meet the goals of weed control, environmentally sustainable agriculture and agricultural development as set out by the ASB, M.D. of Fairview #136.

a) Weed Control

Regulatory Objectives:

Weed inspection shall be carried out as per ASB policy and procedure as stipulated in the ASB policy manual and the Weed Control Act.

Owners and occupants of problem quarters shall be advised of the type of weed problem and every effort made to work cooperatively with those parties to rectify the problem.

Weeds new to the area and new weed infestations shall be given priority for inspection purposes.

Extension Objectives:

ASB staff shall inform ratepayers of any new weed problems in the Municipality.

ASB staff shall assist ratepayers to find extension resources necessary to solve present or potential weed problems.

The ASB will attempt to provide ratepayers with new weed control information by means of the media, newsletters, field tours and on-farm calls.

Roadside Weed Control Objectives:

Weed problems on municipal roadways and properties shall be controlled by spraying, mowing or hand picking.

Public awareness in the use of pesticides for roadside vegetation management will be promoted through newspaper articles and newsletters.

b) Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

Soil Erosion Objectives:

Soil erosion problems in the municipality shall be identified and documented, and the landowners contacted to formulate an appropriate plan to rectify the problem.

Water Conservation Objectives:

Water management practices that enhance water conservation and utilization shall be demonstrated through on-farm demonstrations, and Producer Group projects.

Extension Services:

Financial, technical and in-kind support shall be given to PCBFA for the purpose of promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

c) Agricultural Development

Agricultural Pest Objectives:

Inspection and extension will be provided to ratepayers experiencing problems with predation of livestock. Control devices will be distributed under the supervision of the Ag Fieldman.

Inspection and extension will be provided to ratepayers to prevent the introduction and spread of various pests within the Municipality.

Inspection and extension will be provided to ratepayers to prevent the establishment and spread of any agricultural pest posing a threat to agricultural production.

Development Objectives:

Rental equipment shall be available to ratepayers in order to promote the development of improved farming practices.

Promotion Objectives:

A positive image of agriculture shall be promoted through the M.D., and extension groups and/or workshops are to be held throughout the year.

EVALUATION

The goals and objectives of the Agricultural Service Board shall be reviewed annually. Programs will be evaluated by way of feedback from ASB meetings, events and tours.

POLICY – ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1) **Budget**

- a. Policy Budgeting and fund allocation will be done in such a manner as to address the needs of the various programs supported by the Agricultural Service Board.

- b. Procedure 1. The ASB will review and evaluate annually during the December meeting all programs and policies in effect and any new recommendations to determine programs to be implemented in the next budget year.

2. The ASB will prioritize all programs in relation to the budget.
3. The Agricultural Fieldman will prepare a draft budget for the ASB to review prior to January 15th.
4. The ASB will review and adopt the final budget for Council's consideration.

Sec. 2) **Board Meetings**

- a. Policy Work in accordance with the Agricultural Service Board Act.
- b. Procedures
 1. Work in accordance with the ASB Act.
 2. Hold a joint meeting with MD Council and to call special meetings should the need arise to discuss issues of mutual concern.
 3. Hold regular meetings as required. The Agricultural Fieldman and the ASB chairman will be responsible for setting the date and time for meetings.
 4. Members shall bring their policy manual to all ASB meetings.
 5. The Agricultural Fieldman makes reports for Council to review at every Council meeting.

Sec. 3) **Duties & Responsibilities**

- a. Policy The duties of the Agricultural Service Board and the representative for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, (AAF), shall be in accordance with the Agricultural Service Board Act.
- b. Procedure The duties of the Agricultural Fieldman shall be in accordance with the Agricultural Service Board Act and MD of Fairview Municipal Employee Policy.

Sec. 4) **Per Diem & Expenses**

- a. Policy The per diem and expense schedule established by Council is to be paid monthly to Board Members who attend to duties as authorized representatives of the ASB. Per Diem and expenses shall be paid to ASB members who attend seminars/workshops with prior approval by the ASB. Attendees shall report highlights of the workshops or conferences attended, to the ASB for possible publication to producers.

- b. Procedure A statement showing the per diem and mileage allowances to be paid to Board members shall be presented to the ASB members.

Sec. 5) Funding Requests

- a. Policy Organizations requesting ASB funding shall have their requests reviewed by the ASB and may be funded if the proposal falls within the mandate of the ASB and if funds are available within the ASB budget.
- b. Procedure
 1. Written documentation must be presented on the following:
 - Cost/benefit to ratepayers and the submitting organization.
 - Amount and share from ASB being requested.
 - Duration of the project.
 - Provide a report to the ASB.
 2. Should the ASB feel that a proposal for which funds are being requested is of merit but is either outside the ASB mandate or insufficient funds are available, the Board may recommend the funding proposal to Council for their deliberation.

Sec. 6) Agricultural Fieldman Calendar

- a. Policy The Agricultural Fieldman shall use as a guideline of an approved Agricultural Fieldman Calendar as established by the ASB.

Sec. 7) FARM FAMILY POLICY

- a. Policy To support agricultural families in the Municipal District of Fairview #136 through recognition with Farm Family Awards.
- b. Procedure The MD supports the agricultural sector of the municipality and recognizes the contribution our farm families make in the community in the following ways.
 1. The ASB representative will budget expenses required to sponsor a farm family and an ASB member who may attend the Farm Fair International in Edmonton. The nominated farm family will be recognized as the M.D. of Fairview Farm Family at Farmfair International and banquet.
 2. The ASB will award the M.D. of Fairview farm family based on the Provincial Farm Family Award Program guidelines.

3. Current Council members, ASB members, and employees of the M.D. of Fairview #136 can **NOT** be nominated for the Farm Family award, whether full time or part time employed.

Sec. 8) ASB EQUIPMENT PLUG-IN POLICY

- a. Policy To compensate M.D. of Fairview ratepayers for the use of power used in winter by ASB equipment when equipment is away from the M.D. shop area.
- b. Procedure The MD recognizes that there is a cost to our ratepayers for the use of power when plugging in ASB heavy equipment left in their yards overnight and feel the need to compensate them in the following way.
 1. When ASB equipment is left at ratepayers yards and plugged in with their permission, the MD ASB will compensate those producers at a rate of \$20.00 per day per unit. The Ag Fieldman shall submit an A/P payment request form in a timely fashion after the equipment has departed that premise.

POLICY – SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Sec. 1) Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Programs

- a. Policy The ASB will promote the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices, outlined in the Soil Conservation Act, by supporting the efforts and activities of the Environmental Stream administered by PCBFA.
- b. Procedure
 1. The Agricultural Fieldman shall assist PCBFA with the planning, coordinating, and implementing of the municipality's programs as time permits.
 2. The Wetland Policy of Alberta shall be implemented as required by law.
 3. Extension groups approved by the ASB will apply for government funding for all Environmental projects. This funding shall be used to offset association expenses and project costs.
 4. Extension groups shall be allowed to store equipment in the MD compound at no charge but shall be responsible for insurance on that equipment unless otherwise approved by the ASB. MD equipment shall have priority over association

equipment should space become limited or should groups dissolve.

Sec. 2) Agricultural Field Tours

- a. Policy The ASB shall help promote environmentally sustainable agriculture practices by means of helping with tours with PCBFA.

- b. Procedure 1. In cooperation with PCBFA, we will help select possible sites to tour.

- 2. Help secure sponsorship from industry partners to offset costs when required.

POLICY – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Sec. 1) Noxious & Prohibited Noxious Weed Control – Programming

- a. Policy The ASB shall develop and implement programs that will prevent the establishment and spread of noxious and eradicate prohibited noxious weeds as per the Weed Control Act. They will control and eliminate infestations of existing weed problems and prevent the spread of identified new weeds within the M.D. and when possible encompassed urban centers.

- b. Procedure 1. Establish a continuing awareness campaign through such things as farm calls, kitchen meetings, tours, newsletters and local media resources.

- 2. Hire and train enough weed inspectors to conduct weed inspections and aid in carrying out enforcement as required in accordance with the Weed Control Act.

- 3. ASB staff will conduct weed inspection and carry out enforcement as required in accordance with the Weed Control Act.

- 4. The Agricultural Fieldman shall coordinate all vegetation management programs (brushing, mowing and the application of pesticides) in such a manner so as each component compliments the other program components.

- 5. The vegetation management program shall be reviewed and amended as required on an annual basis.

Sec. 2) **Noxious Weed Control - Enforcement**

a. Policy The Agricultural Fieldman/weed inspector will enforce the Weed Control Act. The ASB will provide guidance and support to the Agricultural Fieldman.

- b. Procedure
1. Inspections are conducted in a timely manner to identify new problems that have developed over the growing season.
 2. Owners of Subdivided land, 20 acres or less in size, and urban lots within the Hamlets of Bluesky and Whitelaw containing uncontrolled weeds shall be given notice to rectify the problem as per the Weed Control Act.
 3. Where a problem exists, a weed inspection report is prepared and the occupant, which is defined in the Weed Control Act as a person occupying or exercising control or having the right to occupy or exercise control over land, is verbally contacted to discuss options to remedy the weed problem.

All contact with the occupant must be recorded in the weed inspection report and consist of time and date of contact plus what was discussed.

If no contact can be established during the first attempt, the weed inspector needs to attempt to contact the occupant a second time.

If after all reasonable efforts to contact the occupant have been unsuccessful, a letter regarding the weed problem will be sent to the occupant with a copy being forwarded to the landowner.

Should, in the year following the issuance of a letter, the landowner/occupant fail to follow the recommendations stipulated in the letter, a weed notice will be issued to the landowner/occupant for the control of the identified weed problem.

Weed inspection reports are to include a written report, a picture of the site including time and date taken, the legal land location and the identified weed problem.

4. The weed problem will be identified, and a control program developed with the occupant. If the weed problem is not rectified a weed notice, as set out by the Weed Control Act

4. The Agricultural Fieldman will act and arrange for enforcement work to proceed. The Municipal Secretary will invoice the owner for the cost of control work. If not paid within 30 days, the Municipal Secretary shall cause the amount owing to be placed on the tax roll.
5. Enforcement work shall be carried out as directed in the Notice and in accordance with the Weed Control Act.

Sec. 4) Noxious & Prohibited Noxious Weed Control – Roadside Spraying

- a. Policy The ASB shall control noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds and brush along Municipal right-of-ways.
- b. Procedure
 1. All municipal roads shall be sprayed as part of a two-year rotation using a short-term residual broadleaf herbicide for control of noxious weeds. All prohibited noxious weeds will be eradicated through a combination of hand picking and pesticide application.
 2. Problem areas as designated by the Agricultural Fieldman shall be sprayed annually or as required.
 3. Brush spraying will take place where brush is less than 3 meters in height. Brush higher than this shall be either hydro-axed, cut and piled or mowed depending on the size and density of the brush.
 4. Only selective herbicides registered for use on right-of-ways shall be used in the vegetation management program.
 5. Spraying shall be followed up the following year by mowing as required to remove dead brush residue.
 6. No spraying shall take place adjacent to hedges, shelterbelts, dugouts or environmentally sensitive areas, and yard sites unless authorized by the owner of the site.
 7. Ratepayers shall be notified by newspaper/website prior to the start of the spraying program each year.
 8. Ratepayers may request that no spraying be conducted adjacent to their property by signing a written waiver in person at the Municipal office. Ratepayers shall assume

the responsibility for control measures on adjoining roadside where they have requested no spraying.

Sec. 5) Sale of Pesticides

- a. Policy The ASB will not offer for sale any pesticides to ratepayers due to environmental regulations as stipulated in the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

Sec. 6) Roadside Seeding

- a. Policy The ASB shall reseed any Municipal right-of-ways that have been built, rebuilt or had erosion scars repaired, in order to reduce further erosion and the introduction of weeds. Contractors must warranty their work for one year and all seed mixtures must be made up of desired species specified by our municipality.

- b. Procedure 1. Seed species and varieties shall be left to the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman to choose the combination that is best suited for the given site to be reclaimed. Seed mixture recommendations are based on area standards.

- 2. Certified or Common #1 seed will be used and shall be purchased from local Peace River region sources.

- 3. Sweet Clover, restricted and noxious weed seeds are not to be included in seeding mixes.

- 4. A certificate of seed analysis must be provided to the Agricultural Fieldman prior to the seed mixture being used.

Sec. 7) Seed Cleaning Plant Inspections

- a. Policy The Agricultural Fieldman shall inspect those seed cleaning plants within the Municipality that custom clean seed for ratepayers in order to protect against the spread of weeds due to faulty practices, design and maintenance of the plants.

- b. Procedure 1. The Agricultural Fieldman shall, without prior notice, annually inspect for licensing each custom seed cleaning plant operating within the Municipality.

- 2. Cleaned samples of seed shall be collected and analyzed for weed seed content only.

- 3. A license shall be issued in accordance with the Weed Control Act.

4. The ASB shall receive a copy of the inspection results and the final grade given to each plant

Sec. 8) **Roadside Mowing**

- a. Policy Municipal roadsides shall be mowed (15 feet, +/-) for the purpose of safety and road maintenance and increased widths will be done where required.
- b. Procedure 1. The priority for roadside mowing shall be as follows:
 - i) Areas known as Dell Hill and Henry's Hill
 - ii) Road west of Fairview to airport and airport area
 - iii) Hamlets of Bluesky and Whitelaw and their lagoons
 - iv) All other municipal roads
2. Intersections of priority roads that have visibility problems due to the growth of sweet clover will be mowed back 50 meters from the intersection.
3. The Hamlets of Bluesky and Whitelaw will have municipal property mowed at least once per year when the mower is in the area.
4. Roadside mowing shall be coordinated with roadside spraying to ensure the effective use of the spraying budget. Roadside mowing will begin in the area that is not designated to be sprayed in any given year.
5. Airport grass will be kept mowed to an acceptable height for the safe operation and maintenance of the facility.

Sec. 9) **Brushing Policy**

Purpose of Policy:

To set out a policy for the M.D. for a time when brushing will be done on developed and undeveloped road allowances.

Procedure:

The Municipal District will only do brushing on developed and undeveloped road allowances, when in the opinion of the Municipality; the work is needed to improve the condition of the road for safety reasons or where it is needed because of snowplowing or road construction reasons.

Priorities of brushing required will be decided between the Superintendent of Public Works & Ag Fieldman.

If someone wishes to brush a road allowance, they must first receive permission from the Superintendent of Public Works or Ag Fieldman.

POLICY – AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT & EXTENSION

Sec. 1) ASB Rental Equipment

- a. Policy In cooperation with the M.D. of Clear Hills #21 and the M.D. of Peace #135, the ASB shall provide and maintain rental equipment deemed necessary to assist in the development of the agriculture industry within the Municipality.

- b. Procedure 1. Equipment shall be rented to people on a first come first serve basis.
- 2. A list will be kept of all bookings including the date first requested, length of time required, name and phone number.
- 3. Renters will provide the personnel and equipment required to haul and operate equipment.
- 4. Renters must sign a rental agreement form and waiver and leave damage deposits only on specified equipment before picking up equipment.
- 5. Renter will pick up and return equipment during business hours. All rental equipment must be cleaned or washed of debris. A \$100.00 cleaning fee will be applied if not.
- 6. Equipment shall be returned to the designated location in the M.D. yard.
- 7. All rental equipment shall be inspected prior to being rented out again to ensure proper maintenance.
- 8. Damage shall be noted on the rental form at the time of return and acknowledged by the renter.
- 9. Damage shall be assessed whether due to normal wear or negligence. Damage due to negligence shall be charged to the renter.
- 10. The maximum time rental equipment will be let out is five days unless approved by the Agricultural Fieldman.
- 11. Rental equipment is not to be used for custom operations; anyone found doing so will be charged the current industrial lease rate for that type of equipment.

Sec. 2) Veterinary Services Inc. (VSI) – Funding Policy

- a. Policy The M.D. of Fairview #136 shall support Veterinary Services Incorporated (1980) Ltd. to a level that is both agriculturally and financially sustainable.

- b. Procedure 1. The ASB will, during budget deliberations, recommend to Council the level of support it feels V.S.I. warrants.

- 2. The Municipality will forward a cheque to VSI for the full amount requisitioned for the year.

- 3. At the end of the year, the Agricultural Fieldman shall calculate the percentage of use that was incurred by each VSI member if required.

The difference between the level of funding approved and the amount requisitioned shall be charged back to VSI members based on their percentage of use. (Please note example i. on following page)

- 4. The Municipality may waive the funding difference if administration feels that the cost of collection will exceed the amount in question.

- 5. The amount owed the MD by the VSI members shall be entered into the Municipality’s accounts as an account receivable for the year in which it was incurred.

- 6. Any VSI member refusing to pay the billed amount will lose his privileges under VSI until such time as his account is paid in full.

- 7. Applicants must be ratepayers with agricultural lands within the M.D.

- 8. Husband and wife are only permitted to hold one card between them.

- 9. This policy and procedure shall be supported by a by-law of council.

Example i.

- VSI Requisition for MD of XYZ \$30,000
- VSI Funding Approved by MD of XYZ \$25,000

- MD advances a cheque to VSI for \$25,000 and at the end of the year; VSI claims for the MD are \$30,000
- MD Funding difference for VSI - \$5,000

Farmer “X” had VSI claims totaling \$3000 and farmer “Y” had VSI claims totaling \$300

Farmer “X” had 10% of VSI claims

Farmer “Y” had 1% of VSI claims

Therefore: Farmer “X” shall pay 10% of \$5000 = \$500
Farmer “Y” shall pay 1% of \$5000 = \$50

Sec. 3) **Beaver Control**

a. Policy The ASB shall be responsible for controlling beaver problems on Municipal right-of-ways only.

b. Procedure 1. After freeze-up each year, the Agricultural Fieldman shall obtain a list of problem beaver dams from Public Works.

With the assistance of the Public Works department, beaver dams shall be removed using a staged release using a backhoe or other suitable machinery. In the event that the mechanical release is unsuccessful, a licensed explosive technician shall be contracted to remove the problem dam. This removal shall be in accordance with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

2. The Agricultural Fieldman shall through shooting or trapping dispose of other problem beavers after the dams have been removed.

3. Ratepayers experiencing beaver problems will be encouraged to work with local Fish & Wildlife officers to solve these problems.

Sec. 4) **Predator Control Program**

a. Policy The problem of livestock predation shall be addressed through extension and the distribution of control devices in a manner that is both agriculturally and environmentally sustainable.

b. Procedure 1. Ratepayers requiring assistance with a livestock predation problem shall contact the Agricultural Fieldman.

2. Upon receiving the complaint, the Ag Fieldman shall instruct the producer to secure any carcass or remains, if possible. The Ag Fieldman will, as soon as possible, investigate the complaint to ensure that the death loss was caused by predation and not another health problem.
3. If the loss was the result of predation, the Ag Fieldman may then issue up to a maximum of six 1080 pellets (Monosodium fluoracetate). The Ag Fieldman shall assist the producer in preparing and placing the baits when necessary.

If further losses should take place at a later date, the Ag Fieldman may issue additional 1080 pellets (up to a total maximum of 6) to the producer to use on his own.

4. If in conducting his initial investigation, the Ag Fieldman determines that poor management was a contributing factor in the predation problem, he shall make recommendations to the producer on management changes that would reduce the chances of further predation.

If the producer chooses to ignore recommendations and continue in his present management practices, the Ag Fieldman shall reserve the right to refuse further assistance by not distributing 1080 pellets.

5. The Form 7, Permit to Use Control Material, is to be issued for a specific time period as determined by the Ag Fieldman (15 days) but to a maximum of 30 days. All unused pellets must be returned to the Ag Fieldman by the expiry date stipulated on the Form 7.
6. 1080 pellets are to be issued for coyote control. Potential predation due to wolves needs to be reported to the local Fish and Wildlife Department.

Sec 5) **Virulent Blackleg of Canola**

OBJECTIVE:

To provide direction for the Peace Region to reduce the impact of Virulent Blackleg of Canola

PURPOSE:

Establish a minimum standard in the Peace Region municipal program and policies for dealing with Virulent Blackleg of Canola

DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Guideline, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. Agricultural Township – an area as defined by Alberta Township System (ATS), that contains a field currently in agricultural production.
- b. Agricultural Pest Act - the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the Agricultural Pest Regulation (184/2001).
- c. Field – a plot of land capable of growing a crop susceptible to Virulent Blackleg.
- d. Municipal Policy – policy established by each of the Peace Region Municipalities.
- e. Pest Inspector – Agricultural Fieldman or Pest inspector employed by the Municipality.
- f. Reported Field - any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

AUTHORITY:

Virulent Blackleg of Canola is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta.

The Agricultural Pests Act requires the municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6)

The municipality shall appoint Pest Inspector(s) under the Act who are authorized to

- enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may
- issue notices specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

GUIDELINES:

1. Each Municipality shall have a Virulent Blackleg of Canola Policy in place.
2. Inspectors will inspect a minimum of 1 field per every agricultural township for Virulent Blackleg of Canola in the Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure the canola fields inspected are spread as equally as possible throughout the Municipality.
3. Priorities for inspected fields may include:
 - i) Symptoms are observed through other inspections (i.e. weed inspections).
 - ii) The possibility that infected seed was utilized (i.e. seed was imported from outside the Peace Region).
 - iii) Canola grown in short rotation, especially if grown in succession.
 - iv) Reported Fields.

AWARENESS:

The stakeholders will have access to information as the Region will:

1. Maintain information as handouts and annually print information in various media.
2. Inform municipally based Seed Outlets of Municipal Policy and concerns. Request that seed preferably of a more tolerant variety be utilized.

3. Have Regional Agricultural Service Board members act as ambassadors to inform producers and industry about Virulent Blackleg of Canola.
4. Advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be of a more tolerant variety.
5. Advocate longer rotations between host crops.
6. Inform all Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen when Virulent Blackleg of Canola is confirmed within a municipality.

ENFORCEMENT:

Since Virulent Blackleg of Canola can potentially be found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, landowners will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

1. Harvest canola crops with the total crop being sold or fed, but not sold or kept for seed.
2. Tarp any loads being transported.
3. Clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before moving from fields known to be infested to prevent spread.

Since Virulent Blackleg of Canola can potentially be found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the Municipality should consider adopting the following measures:

A Notice should be issued when a situation becomes unabated and the inspection results are averaging more than 3 on the Blackleg rating scale. If the Pest Inspector issues a notice it should contain the following,

- i. Seed a non-host crop and /or perform summer-fallow, for 3 or more consecutive years from initial infestation.
- ii. Clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking them off the infested land.
- iii. For the 3 or more consecutive crop years from initial detection, the Field is to be inspected annually by the Pest Inspector.
- iv. Following the expiry of the Pest Notice, the landowner may return to a tolerant variety of host crop.
- v. If an infected field is re-seeded to a host crop during the three following crop years of the initial detection, the crop will be destroyed as per the Agricultural Pest Act.

Sec 6) Clubroot of Canola

OBJECTIVE:

To provide direction for the Peace Region to reduce the impact of Clubroot of Canola

PURPOSE:

Establishing a minimum standard in the Peace Region municipal programs and policies in dealing with Clubroot of Canola

DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Guideline, the following definitions shall apply:

- g. Agricultural Township – an area as defined by Alberta Township System, that contains a field currently in agricultural production.
- h. *Agricultural Pest Act* - the *Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta* (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Agricultural Pest Regulation* (184/2001).
- i. Field – a plot of land capable of growing a crop susceptible to Clubroot.
- j. Municipal Policy – policy established by each of the Peace Region Municipalities.
- k. Pest Inspector – Agricultural Fieldman or Pest inspector employed by the Municipality.
- l. Reported Field - any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of Clubroot of Canola.

AUTHORITY:

Clubroot of Canola is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta.

The Agricultural Pests Act requires the municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6)

The municipality shall appoint Pest Inspector(s) under the Act who are authorized to

- enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may
- issue notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

GUIDELINES:

- 4. Each Municipality shall have a Clubroot Policy and a Foreign Equipment Cleaning Policy (or section within the Clubroot Policy) in place.
- 5. Inspectors will inspect a minimum of 1 field per every agricultural township for Clubroot of Canola in the Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure the canola fields inspected are spread as equally as possible throughout the Municipality.
- 6. Priorities for inspected fields may include:
 - v) Symptoms are noticed through other inspections (i.e. weed inspections)
 - vi) The possibility that infected equipment was utilized (i.e. equipment was imported from outside the Peace Region)
 - vii) Canola grown in short rotation, especially if grown in succession
 - viii) Reported Fields

AWARENESS:

The stakeholders will have access to information as the Region will:

7. Maintain information handouts and annually print information in various media.
8. Inform municipally based construction and earth moving companies of Municipal Policy and concerns and request that local equipment be used.
9. Have Regional Agricultural Service Board members act as ambassadors to inform producers and industry on Clubroot of Canola.
10. Advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be of a resistant variety and this should become mandatory when the disease has been found in the immediate area.
11. Advocate longer rotations between host crops.
12. Inform all Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen when Clubroot is confirmed within a municipality.

ENFORCEMENT:

When Clubroot of Canola is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

1. Harvest the crop with the total crop being sold or fed, but not sold or kept for seed.
2. Store future seed and crop on site until ground is less prone to contaminate vehicles, i.e. frozen or dry ground.
3. Tarp any loads being transported from the infested land.
4. Clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land (*following the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan*).
5. Seed an area to grass around field approaches so equipment and vehicles can be parked and cleaned while minimizing contamination.

When Clubroot of Canola is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the Municipality should consider adopting the following measures:

1. The Pest Inspector shall ensure that the operating producer follows the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan and Municipal Policy
2. The Pest Inspector shall issue a Notice that should contain the following,
 1. Seed a non-host crop and /or perform summer-fallow, for 3 or more consecutive years from initial infestation.
 2. Store the crop on site until it can be removed from the field while minimizing contamination of other areas (i.e. moving the crop while the ground is frozen).
 3. Clean any crop residue and sterilize (*following the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan*) all equipment and implements before taking them off the infested land.

4. For the 3 or more consecutive crop years from initial detection, the Field is to be inspected annually by the Pest Inspector.
5. Following the expiry of the Pest Notice, the landowner may return to a Clubroot tolerant variety of canola.
6. If an infected field is re-seeded to a host crop prior to the expiry of the Pest Notice, the crop will be destroyed as per the Agricultural Pest Act.
7. Seed an area to grass around field approaches so equipment and vehicles can be parked and cleaned while minimizing contamination.

Sec 7) **Fusarium Graminearum**

OBJECTIVE:

To provide direction for the Peace Region to reduce the impact of *Fusarium graminearum*

PURPOSE:

Establish a minimum standard in the Peace Region municipal program and policies for dealing with *Fusarium graminearum*

DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Guideline, the following definitions may apply:

1. Agricultural Township – an area as defined by Alberta Township System (ATS) that contains a field currently in agricultural production.
2. Field – a plot of land capable of growing a crop susceptible to *Fusarium graminearum*
3. Municipal Policy – policy established by each of the Peace Region Municipality.

AUTHORITY:

Fusarium graminearum is a pest. The municipality may "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality.

GUIDELINES:

1. Each Municipality may have a *Fusarium graminearum* Policy in place.
2. An attempt will be made to ensure the cereal fields inspected are spread as equally as possible throughout the Municipality.
3. Priorities for inspected fields may include:
 - ix) Symptoms are observed through other inspections (i.e. weed inspections)
 - x) The possibility that infected seed was utilized (i.e. seed was imported from outside the Peace Region)

- xi) Cereals grown in succession, short rotation and particularly those that includes corn in the rotation.

AWARENESS:

The stakeholders will have access to information as the Region will:

1. Maintain information handouts and annually print information in various media.
2. Inform municipally based Seed Outlets of Municipal Policy and concerns.
Request that seed, preferably of a more tolerant variety, from a non-infected area be utilized.
3. Keep Regional Agricultural Service Board members as ambassadors to inform producers and industry about *Fusarium graminearum*.
4. Advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be of a more tolerant variety and treated with a product registered to control *Fusarium graminearum* if the disease has been found in the immediate area.
5. Advocate longer rotations between host crops.
6. Inform all Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen when *Fusarium Graminearum* is confirmed within a municipality.
7. Work with seed cleaning plants offering services within their municipality to ensure all cereal crops are tested and certified fusarium free prior to entering the plant. In addition, work with area seed plants to ensure they share information regarding positive test results for cereal samples submitted to the plants.

ENFORCEMENT:

When *Fusarium Graminearum* is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the producer will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

1. Harvest the crop with the total crop being sold or fed, but not sold or kept for seed.
2. Tarp any loads being transported from the infested land.
3. Clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land
4. Test any grain which is to be fed for mycotoxins & adjust feed ratios to ensure livestock are not affected, severely infected grain may need to be disposed of.
5. Chop & spread straw uniformly during the harvest operation.
6. Treat all seed of a susceptible crop being farmed by the producer with a product registered to control *Fusarium graminearum*.

When *Fusarium Graminearum* is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the Municipality should consider adopting the following measures:

1. The Fieldman shall ensure that the operating producer follows Alberta *Fusarium Graminearum* Management Plan and Municipal Policy

2. The Fieldman may issue a Notice that contains the following
 - a) Seed a non-host crop and /or perform summer-fallow, for 3 or more consecutive years from initial infestation.
 - b) Clean any crop residue off all equipment and implements before taking them off the infested land.
 - c) For the 3 or more consecutive crop years from initial detection, the Field is to be inspected annually by the Pest Inspector.
3. Following the expiry of the Notice, the landowner may return to a tolerant variety of host crop treated with a product registered to control *Fusarium graminearum*.
4. If an infected field is re-seeded to a host crop prior to the notice expiring, the crop will be destroyed as per the Municipality By-Law.

SEC. 8) Animal Health – Livestock Health and Disease Control

a. Policy

To establish a policy in accordance with the Alberta Animal Health Act and Regulations in assisting the office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian in measures against livestock disease spread, livestock disease surveillance, and livestock traceability.

b. Procedure

1. The ASB office will have available the latest information to assist livestock producers in accordance of the Animal Health Act Regulations.
2. The ASB office will communicate to M.D. of Fairview livestock producers any change in regulation requirements or new information that will assist in safeguarding our livestock industry.
3. When requested, the ASB office will cooperate with the office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian and/or their designates should a livestock disease outbreak occur within the Municipal District of Fairview #136.