

**RESOLUTION 4-21  
REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE**

**WHEREAS:** Under the authority of the *Pest Control Product Act* and based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada has stated that products containing strychnine for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels do not meet the current standards for environmental protection and, therefore, have been cancelled;

**WHEREAS:** Studies conducted by the PMRA and the province of Alberta indicated that risks associated with label-approved use to non-target species was low;

**WHEREAS:** Richardson's Ground Squirrels are considered agricultural pests due to the substantial damage they cause to crops, livestock, and equipment which can result in economic losses for farmers;

**WHEREAS:** Training in the safe use of pesticides can be provided to agricultural producers in Alberta by participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program;

**WHEREAS:** To help maintain a level of Richardson ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Forestry lobby with all other Provincial Ministries of Agriculture to encourage Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to reinstate 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market available on a temporary basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create and maintain a system that provides producers participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program the opportunity to purchase and use Strychnine safely.

**SPONSORED BY:** Stettler County No. 6

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial & Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Health Canada and the PMRA have reviewed the label and use of 2% Liquid Strychnine. According to the review conclusion the recommendation is to remove the use of 2% Liquid Strychnine for use on ground squirrels. Richardson Ground Squirrels continue to pose a significant threat to agricultural production and strychnine has been used to reduce the impacts of severe infestations.

Strychnine being a single feed bait is efficient and effective and allows producers to treat small area and large area infestations when other parts of their integrated pest management practices have failed. Using multi-feed baits can be ineffective due to the fact that there are too many other options for Richardson's Ground Squirrels to eat. Using shooting and trapping methods can be time consuming especially during peak times of production (seeding, spraying, irrigating, calving, branding, etc.).

2% Liquid Strychnine is an essential tool in any agricultural producers integrated pest management toolbox as a consistent, effective tool in controlling Richardson's Ground Squirrel infestations.