

**RESOLUTION 3-21
AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR CONTROL OF RICHARDSON GROUND
SQUIRRELS IN ALBERTA**

WHEREAS: Strychnine will no longer be available for Richardson Ground Squirrel Control as of March 4, 2023;

WHEREAS: There is no efficacious, cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to strychnine;

WHEREAS: Richardson Ground Squirrels can multiply quickly and can be very destructive to both annual and perennial crops and cause livestock injuries;

WHEREAS: It appears little research has recently been carried out on alternate, effective control measures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

the Pest Management Regulatory Agency have Strychnine registration extended until an effective and safe alternative control be found and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry make significant funding available for research into a sustainable, long term solution for control of Richardson ground squirrels.

SPONSORED BY: Flagstaff County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Federal, Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Producers had access to strychnine up until 1993. After that they were restricted to using a pre-treated grain bait. Due to severe drought in 2001 and very significant damage to annual crops and pastures, access was again granted to producers to 2% strychnine solution. The PMRA, the registering body for pesticides in Canada, has reviewed the registration for 2% strychnine solution and decided not to renew the registration. Repeated research has shown there is a high level of non-target species being negatively affected from scavenging of dead squirrels and unintended poisoning. However, there is little, recent research available on alternative methods to control Richardson Ground Squirrel populations.

Richardson ground squirrels continue to be a problem to both graziers and annual crop farmers. There does not appear to be any recent research conducted into a more effective, targeted control method and this motion looks to address this issue.