

**RESOLUTION 3-22**

**CELEBRATE CANADA AGRICULTURE DAY IN ALBERTA SCHOOLS (FEB 22, 2022)**

- WHEREAS:** Education about agriculture is limited within the current school curriculum;
- WHEREAS:** The Classroom Agricultural Program is only able to spend one hour with grade 4 students but was cancelled due to Covid-19;
- WHEREAS:** Consumer interest of how agriculture production is achieved, and food is produced is increasing;
- WHEREAS:** Less than 2% of the population have a direct role in primary agriculture production, people have a less direct experience with growing their own food or participating in the agriculture industry;
- WHEREAS:** There is an increasing amount of incorrect or incomplete information about agriculture and the agri-food industry;
- WHEREAS:** Consumer purchases can be influenced by the amount and quality of agriculture and agri-food awareness and education they have received;
- WHEREAS:** The Ag More Than Ever website has information and resources to make this easy for schools to access;

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

that the Minister of Education, direct all schools to celebrate Canada Agriculture Day at the elementary, junior high and high school levels.

- SPONSORED BY:** Cypress County
- MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_
- SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_
- CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_
- DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_
- STATUS:** Provincial
- DEPARTMENT:** Education

## **BACKGROUND**

The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is a well-known and highly respected education program currently reaching over 20,000 Grade 4 Alberta students annually. Since its beginning, CAP has reached more than 570,000 Alberta youth. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic the program was put on hold.

The Irvine School Agriculture Discovery Centre in Cypress County is the first school in Alberta to inspire students to consider pursuing the fantastic careers in agriculture. This student-led farm will develop critical thinkers with an entrepreneurial spirit. Students will raise crops, produce and livestock and learn about the vital role that sustainability plays in feeding our future.

In addition to the one hour spent through CAP with students and the new discovery centre in Irvine, other agriculture programs and initiatives are necessary to educate Alberta students on agriculture.

For generations most Albertans grew up on family farms and had an intimate knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities were raised. Now, most Albertans live in urban communities and do not have the same level of understanding. Meanwhile, modern agriculture is being severely tested by concerns about how livestock, crops, and agricultural produce is being raised, especially regarding environmental impacts, animal cruelty, and farm safety. Historically, the general public has had a high regard for agriculture and farmers as they put food on the tables of Albertans, Canadians, and worldwide.

Agriculture is a vitally important industry in Alberta, and there should be many opportunities for students to learn about agriculture. Canada Agriculture Day is one day that should be celebrated in schools across the province to educate students on where and how the food that they eat, is produced.