



Report Card on the Resolutions

2021

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

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Introduction

The Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2021 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2021 Provincial ASB Conference. The Report Card on the Resolutions includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from the resolutions, response, response grade and comments from the Committee and ASBs for each resolution. The resolutions and responses are also posted on the Agricultural Service Board website at agriculturalserviceboards.com. Actions taken by the Committee on current and prior resolutions are also included in this report.

2021 ASB Provincial Committee Members

| Members | Alternates | Representation |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Corey Beck, Chair | Dale Smith | Peace |
| Marc Jubinville, Vice Chair | Kevin Smook | Northeast |
| Jane Fulton, Secretary | | Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen |
| Morgan Rockenbach | Shawn Rodgers | South |
| Wayne Nixon | Brenda Knight | Central |
| Dale Kluin | Walter Preugschas | Northwest |
| Jason Schneider | | Rural Municipalities of Alberta |
| Sebastien Dutrisac | | Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen |
| Doug Macaulay | | Agriculture and Forestry |
| Arlene Stephens, Recording Secretary | | Agriculture and Forestry |

The Committee reviewed the responses and assigned one of four grades: *Accept the Response*, *Accept in Principle*, *Incomplete* and *Unsatisfactory*. The Committee considers the quality of each response and the response submitted by ASBs when assigning a final grade for the resolutions. The grades assigned are intended to provide further direction for advocacy efforts for each resolution. Please contact your Regional Representative if you have questions or comments about the grade assigned to a resolution or advocacy efforts.

A summary of grading provided by ASBs is attached for information. The Committee appreciates the input of ASBs into the grading process.

Resolution Grading Summary

The ASB Provincial Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2021 Provincial ASB Conference.

| Resolution Number | Resolution | Grade | Updated |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|---------|
| 1-21 | Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta | Accept in Principle | |
| 2-21 | Pesticide Container Collection Program | Unsatisfactory | |
| 3-21 | An Effective Solution for Control of RGSquirrels in Alberta | Accept the Response | |
| 4-21 | Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine | Accept the Response | |
| 5-21 | Fusarium Testing After Cleaning | Incomplete | |
| 6-21 | Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option | Accept the Response | |
| 7-21 | Delegation of ASBs and AAAF to Agriculture Associations and Commodity Groups | DEFEATED | |
| 8-21 | Reinstating Provincial Agriculture Department Staff | Accept the Response | |
| 9-21 | Protect Farmers Right to Farm Saved Seed | Incomplete | |
| 10-21 | Federal Fuel Charge | Accept the Response | |

Response Summary

Number of ASBs that Responded

| Region | No. of ASBs Responding | % of Region Responding |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| South | 6 | 33% |
| Central | 6 | 43% |
| Northeast | 2 | 18% |
| Northwest | 4 | 31% |
| Peace | 4 | 31% |
| Overall | 22 | 32% |

Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

| Resolution No. | Accept the Response | Accept in Principle | Incomplete | Unsatisfactory |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1-21 | 1 | 17 | 2 | 2 |
| 2-21 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| 3-21 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4-21 | 18 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 5-21 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 1 |
| 6-21 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 7-21 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8-21 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 9-21 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 2 |
| 10-21 | 19 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

2021 Activities

ASBPC Regular Meetings:

| Date | Delegations |
|------------------|--|
| October 9, 2020 | |
| January 14, 2021 | Orphan Well Association |
| January 21, 2021 | Provincial ASB Conference |
| March 12, 2021 | Ministry of Ag, AAAF, RMA, RDAR |
| March 31, 2021 | Special meeting Red Deer County Provincial ASB Conference concerns |
| April 30, 2021 | Ministry of Transportation |
| May 25, 2021 | AF ADM John Conrad, and ED Jake Kotowich |
| Aug 10, 2021 | Minister Nixon, Environment and Parks |

Engagements:

| Date | Event |
|------------------------|--|
| September 1, 2020 | Ministry of Transportation |
| November 23, 2020 | Minister of Agriculture |
| CFIA online engagement | CFIA online engagement seed regulatory modernization |
| February 25, 2021 | Minister Dreeshen Budget 2021 stakeholder conference call |
| March 16, 2021 | Alberta Climate Engagement – Technology and Bio-based Solutions |
| May 4, 2021 | Presented to the South Rural Caucus, Q&A on ASBs |
| June 15, 2021 | Chaired the ADM Town Hall |
| June 16, 2021 | Invited to provide feedback into Provincial New Ag Policy Framework |
| July 13, 2021 | Ag Minister's Reception Calgary Stampede |
| September TBA | Weed Concerns on Oil and Gas Sites Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corey Beck, County of Grand Prairie, - Jason Schneider, RMA, Vulcan County Reeve - David Kluthe, Sturgeon County - Leavitt Howg, Taber County - Paul McLaughlin, Ponoka County - James Schwindt, Ag Fieldman Wainwright - Matt Janz, Ag Fieldman Bonnyville |

Committee Appointments and Activities:

| Date | Committee | Member Attending |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| June 14, 2021 | Agriculture Plastics Recycling | Wayne Nixon |
| May 27, 2021 | AB Farm Mental Health Network Steering Committee | Linda Hunt |
| | | |

The Committee continues to meet remotely via Zoom and has seen a vast improvement in the level of engagement by the Ministries that are impacted by the resolutions.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry:

John Conrad, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Primary Agriculture Division has initiated biannual ASB Town Halls for direct communication with his office. Primary Agriculture has also started a quarterly ASB

e-newsletter sent directly to ASBs and committed staff to the new ASB Liaison program. ASBs are being recognized as important sources of grassroots information and feedback for the Ministry. The ADM was also able to get a working group together with the Ministry of Energy to discuss resolution 1-21: Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta. The names put forward by the ASBPC are listed in the Engagement table above.

Alberta Environment and Parks:

Minister Nixon and staff at Alberta Environment and Parks were very pleased to meet with the Committee to discuss the 5 current resolutions with him. Updates to the resolutions were written up in a blog post and sent directly to the sponsoring ASBs for their comment and feedback. Ministry staff have been helpful in engaging with Cleanfarms on resolution 2-21: Pesticide Container Collection Program and the Committee expects to see some engagement and changes to Container Collection this fall. The ASBPC was also extended the invitation to participate in the AEP Climate Engagement on the topic of 'Technology Bio-Based Solutions'.

The Committee continues to look for ways to improve communications with the ASBs and to streamline resolution process. This year ASBs were sent direct email notice of actions related to the resolutions they sponsored and were encouraged to give feedback back to the Committee through their Regional Representative. Online engagement opportunities were shared via the blog post and through the AAAF email list so that every ASB can participate. Training resources for the resolution writing are being developed by the AAAF and will be shared on the ASB website.

Work on the ASB website continues and there are now 60 email subscribers to the blog. Most of the activity on the site is the blog page, followed by resolutions and ASB contact information. About a third of the traffic is linking to the site from the Alberta.ca website, and the rest are finding the site through search engines. The most popular page this year is the Agriculture Disaster Declarations 2021 page which is the only page that lists every municipality that has declared with links to their website or declaration letter.

Definition of Terms

The ASB Provincial Committee has chosen four indicators to grade resolution responses from government and non-government organizations.

Accept the Response

A response that has been graded as **Accept the Response** addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the ASB Provincial Committee.

Accept in Principle

A response that is graded **Accept in Principle** addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

Incomplete

A response that is graded as **Incomplete** does not provide enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit information for the ASB Provincial Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

Unsatisfactory

A response that is graded as **Unsatisfactory** does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the ASB Provincial Committee

2021 Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1-21: WEED ISSUES ON OIL AND GAS SITES IN RURAL ALBERTA

WHEREAS: the Province of Alberta has experienced an extended period of economic challenge in the oil and gas industry. This has resulted in many resource companies becoming insolvent, forced into receivership, or ultimately claiming bankruptcy;

WHEREAS: there are over 1,000 oil and gas wells in the M.D. of Taber where regular lease maintenance is not being carried out as per the terms of private surface lease agreements. These include wells transferred to the Orphan Wells Association (OWA), companies in receivership or in bankruptcy proceedings, or companies currently still operating and producing product;

WHEREAS: there are no legislated timelines for oil and gas companies to reclaim inactive wells. This has resulted in 90,000 inactive wells in Alberta;

WHEREAS: the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has been reluctant to suspend well licenses or limit access to these sites for companies that are in non-compliance of their surface leases terms. These terms could include issues such as weed control, contamination issues, fence maintenance, non-payment of surface rentals, and/or non-payment of municipal taxes;

WHEREAS: the agricultural community in Alberta have been left to deal with the liabilities of countless oil and gas wells that have been abandoned by bankrupt companies or companies that are unwilling or financially unable to maintain their sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy and the Alberta Energy Regulator, who are responsible for energy development, to put in place appropriate legislation and standards to protect landowners from undue hardship as a result of oil and gas company's neglect of oil and gas sites maintenance issues, namely weed control

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA ENERGY

I have consulted with Honourable Devin Dreeschen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and the Orphan Well Association (OWA), and am responding to Resolution 1-21: Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta.

I recognize that weed control on oil and gas sites remains an important concern for ASB members, agricultural communities, and in particular for the MD of Taber. Legislated responsibility for weed control on these sites falls to different departments depending on the circumstance.

Under the Weed Control Act (Agriculture and Forestry), the landowners and/or occupant are responsible to control noxious weeds and destroy prohibited noxious weeds. Weed control on oil and gas surface leases is typically the responsibility of the oil and gas company, as

per the commitments made in a private surface lease agreement. On private lands, the AER does not have authority over weed control unless it impacts the function of the oil and gas site, in which case it would become a matter of public safety. On Crown Lands, the AER can follow up on weed control issues under the Public Lands Act.

Agriculture and Forestry understands that this can leave landowners in a difficult position and is seeking a viable solution. Agriculture and Forestry will update the ASB Provincial Committee as discussions progress. For updates, contact Minister Dreeshen's office at AF.minister@gov.ab.ca.

The AER has the authority to ensure that companies clean up and close their energy sites so that they pose no threat to the public or the environment. If a weed issue is within the AER's jurisdiction, and it is determined that the company is failing to meet their requirements under the Public Lands Act, a notice of noncompliance may be issued. ASB members may contact the AER at inquiries@aer.ca or 1-855-297-8311 for clarification about the AER's role. When a site is designated as orphan, it means the owner is no longer financially viable. Weed control for orphan sites falls under the care and custody of the OWA. Sites in the inventory of the OWA are managed in accordance with its policies, and the OWA does not control weeds on suspended or abandoned orphaned oil and gas sites. Given the unprecedented growth of orphaned oil and gas sites in Alberta in recent years, the OWA prioritizes available funds for closure activities-instead of weed management-to ensure that energy infrastructure is removed from the landscape as soon as possible.

The OWA addresses weed infestations on orphan well sites only after the well has been moved into its reclamation inventory, where weed management is required for reclamation success. The OWA will control weeds during reclamation, prior to applying for a reclamation certificate from the AER. As well, the OWA will control weeds prior to reclamation, but only if the OWA believes that failure to do so will significantly impact reclamation efforts. The OWA will not address weed control if the company is simply refusing to pay, is in receivership, or is in the midst of the AER process of having Working Interest Participants identified.

I understand the frustration of agricultural communities about delinquent oil and gas companies neglecting their responsibilities. That's why government is taking the boldest and strongest action to tackle oil and gas liabilities in Alberta's history. The Liability Management Framework, announced in July 2020, will contribute to a healthy oil and gas sector and ensure that industry bears the costs of site clean-up. During its multi-stage implementation, the new framework will begin to shrink the inventory of inactive and orphaned wells across the province, accelerating the timely restoration of land and protecting future generations of Albertans from experiencing a backlog of these sites.

In summer 2020 we strengthened orphan site management, including the OWA's ability to speed up site closures and the AER's ability to order the OWA to provide reasonable care and measures to prevent damage or impairment.

Under the new framework's Inventory Reduction Program, we're taking action to ensure a responsible and sustainable sector, including establishing five-year rolling annual spending targets for site clean-up and a formal opt-in mechanism, which will provide a way for landowners, land users, and communities to nominate specific inactive sites for clean up to the AER. The Licensee Special Action function in the AER provides practical, proactive guidance for struggling operators. Working with struggling operators will protect Albertans from the financial and environmental burden of more inactive or orphaned sites-while ensuring operators can meet their environmental responsibilities. Additionally, the Licensee Capability Assessment System will replace the AER's current Licensee Liability Rating program, providing an improved method of assessing the capabilities of oil and gas operators to meet their regulatory obligations at each stage of the development lifecycle.

It is important to note that farmers can apply to the Surface Rights Board for compensation for adverse effects, which could include compensation for weed control, under the five-year lease review provisions of the Surface Rights Act (Section 27). Farmers can apply for compensation under section 30 of the Act for damage to any land that is offsite, which may include compensation for weed control or weed infestation. The board decides these matters based on the relevant evidence and arguments in each case.

The Farmers' Advocate Office can help landowners file their paperwork with the Surface Rights Board, or help direct municipalities or landowners to the appropriate agency. The Farmers' Advocate Office can be reached at farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca or by calling 310-FARM (3276). For more information on how the Surface Rights Board has decided weed control and weed infestation issues, view decisions at CanLII's online law database at www.canlii.org.

Finally, on May 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta initiated the Site Rehabilitation Program (SAP), to direct up to \$1 billion of federal oil and gas relief funding to provide grants to eligible oil field service contractors to perform well, pipeline, and oil and gas site closure and reclamation work. As part of SRP, we launched the Landowner and Indigenous Community Site Nomination program, and any landowner, Indigenous Community, or Metis Settlement resident may nominate a site for closure. For more information, see www.alberta.ca/landowner-and-indigenous-community-site-nomination.aspx.

Should the ASB wish to discuss how government is addressing oil and gas liabilities on the landscape further, contact Mr. Wade Clark, Executive Director of Resource Stewardship Policy, at 780-427-7426 or wade.clark@gov.ab.ca. Again, thank you to the ASB Provincial Committee for raising this important issue.

Sonya Savage
Minister of Energy

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE

Under the Weed Control Act (Agriculture and Forestry) the landowners and/or occupant are responsible to control noxious weeds and destroy prohibited noxious weeds. Weed control on oil and gas surface leases is typically the responsibility of the oil and gas company, as per the commitments made in a private surface lease agreement. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) will not review a weed control matter unless weeds impact the function of an oil and gas site, in which case it would become a matter of public safety.

A municipality may issue notice to an oil and gas company to control or destroy weeds on the lease site. However, the ultimate cost of weed control is the responsibility of the landowner. When a site is designated as "orphan", it means the owner is no longer financially viable. Weed control for orphan sites falls under "care and custody" and will be taken care of by the Orphan Well Association (OWA). The Association, however, will not address weed control if the company is simply refusing to pay, is in receivership, or is in the midst of internal AER process of having Working Interest Participants identified.

Agriculture and Forestry (AF) understands that this can leave landowners in a difficult position and has instigated conversations with the AER to seek a viable solution to this issue. AF will update the Provincial ASB committee as discussions progress.

Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

GRADE: Accept in Principle

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBS:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| Accept the Response | 5% | |
| Accept in Principle | 77% | |
| Incomplete | 9% | |
| Unsatisfactory | 9% | |

COMMENTS from Committee: All of the concerns from the resolution were addressed in the response. The Committee will follow up with the Ministry/Department of Agriculture and Forestry for updates. May 25, the Committee brought the resolution and the responses to the attention of ADM John Conrad who committed to checking in on the status and getting back to the Committee. The Committee will be sure to bring this up when they meet with Minister Dreeshen later this year.

UPDATE: The ASBPC was asked to submit names for a working group consultation on this resolution to the Ministry of Agriculture. Names were submitted in July and the ministry is in the process of organizing a meeting sometime in September. Names that were put forward by the Committee are listed in the Engagement table under the 2021 Activities section of this report.

RESOLUTION 2-21: PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION PROGRAM

- WHEREAS:** Since 1989, Alberta's municipalities have been involved with the collection of empty pesticide containers and have done so with only one time funding from Alberta Environment & Parks to establish permanent collection sites within their municipalities, which many of these sites are in need of repair;
- WHEREAS:** Municipal governments in cooperation with transfer station and landfill operators manage the day to day maintenance and supervision of the sites and cover the costs associated with the transfer of containers from temporary depots to permanent sites without any funding from Alberta Environment and Parks;
- WHEREAS:** The highest rinse rate compliance on pesticide containers are in the provinces that are currently running the program through the Agricultural Retail Industry as a result of their zero tolerance policy and container rejection if they do not meet the requirements due to their constant supervision;
- WHEREAS:** Collection programs are poised to become increasingly expensive and labor intensive with the addition of bale & silage wrap, Ag-film, twine and grain bag collection programs;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta and Manitoba are the only provinces in Canada that utilize municipalities to deliver the pesticide collection program within their province while the remaining provinces place this responsibility and cost on agricultural retail facilities who market and sell pesticide products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Environment and Parks develop, with CleanFARMS, an empty pesticide container program that places the responsibility of collecting pesticide containers in Alberta with the Agricultural Retail/Dealer and removes the responsibility from the municipalities.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Municipalities and agricultural retailers have been an integral component and important supporter of pesticide container collection since collection began in 1980. In 1989, the program was transferred to Croplife Canada, and then CleanFARMS, a stewardship offshoot of Croplife Canada formed in 2010. Since that time, there has been no provincial funding or Alberta government role in administering a pesticide container program.

Municipalities and agricultural retailers have been an integral component and important supporter of pesticide container collection since collection began in 1980. In 1989, the program was transferred to Croplife Canada, and then CleanFARMS, a stewardship offshoot of Croplife

Canada formed in 2010. Since that time, there has been no provincial funding or Alberta government role in administering a pesticide container program.

- the Pesticide Sales Handling Use and Application Regulation requires that no person shall dispose of a non-refillable plastic or metal container that held a pesticide listed in Schedule 1 or 2 except at a container collection site, and
- the Waste Control Regulation (all regulations are available at www.qp.alberta.ca) requires the following to be properly disposed of, unless otherwise authorized by the director:
 - contaminated paper, glass, cardboard material or a bag that contained pesticides listed in Schedule 1 or 2,
 - empty containers with pesticides listed in Schedule 3 or 4, and
 - empty containers with grains/seeds treated with pesticides.

Through Alberta's Natural Gas Vision and Strategy designed to transition toward a circular economy for plastics, Alberta aims to establish the western North American centre of excellence for plastics diversion and recycling by 2030. For more information, please visit www.alberta.ca and search for "natural gas vision and strategy."

Environment and Parks is engaging with stakeholders to develop and implement a new extended producer responsibility (EPR) policy framework. The aim is to shift responsibility for waste management and recycling from municipalities and taxpayers to product producers and consumers. Under this framework, the department is also considering new recycling programs for packaging and printed paper, and household hazardous wastes. This could also allow for recycling of additional plastic items and waste into the future.

For more information, please contact Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Pesticide Policy Specialist, in Edmonton, at 780-718-3490 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or at nasir.shaikh@gov.ab.ca.

Jason Nixon
Minister of Environment and Parks

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| Accept the Response | 5% | |
| Accept in Principle | 0% | |
| Incomplete | 0% | |
| Unsatisfactory | 95% | Didn't offer a solution, just passed the responsibility on. |

COMMENTS: The ASBPC feels that this response, does not address the issue brought forward by the resolution and has asked for further clarification from AEP as to the legal responsibilities of the municipalities should they choose to close their pesticide container collection site; who would become responsible for improperly disposed of pesticide containers, and how would the legislation be enforced. Additional response from AEP was not yet received on May 31. On May 25 the ASBPC brought this

resolution to the attention of ADM for Primary Agriculture John Conrad and he agreed to speak to AEP on behalf of the ASBs as well.

Once the second response from AEP is received it will be posted on the ASB website.

May 20, - conversation with AEP Pesticide Policy Specialist – requested further clarification of the roles and responsibilities of municipalities under the current regulations.

May 25, conversation with ADM and ED regarding this resolution, will be inquiring on our behalf

RESPONSE: June 17, 2021

Thank you for your follow-up letter regarding Resolution 2-21 Pesticide Container Collection Program. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

Environment and Parks' role in pesticide container management is only regulatory in nature. Pesticide container collection sites are subject to regular inspections by Environment and Parks staff to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (all acts and regulations mentioned can be found at www.ap.alberta.ca). For more information regarding pesticide policy, please contact Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Pesticide Policy Specialist, in Edmonton, at 780-718-3490 or at nasir.shaikh@aov.ab.ca.

Further to my previous letter, section 28 of the Pesticide Sales Handling Use and Application Regulation requires that no person shall dispose of a non-refillable plastic or metal container that held a pesticide listed in Schedule 1 or 2 except at a container collection site, or in a manner authorized by the director. Section 29 of the regulation requires that empty containers, which contained pesticides (listed in Schedule 3 or 4 or pesticide-treated grains/seeds) should be disposed of in accordance with the Waste Control Regulation (AR 192/96), unless otherwise authorized by the director. Section 33 of the regulation clarifies a person who contravenes the above sections is guilty of an offence and liable.

Municipalities are responsible for waste management, which may include garbage and other items such as pesticide containers. Under the Municipal Government Act, waste management is set by the discretion of the municipality: therefore, waste can be landfilled or recycled as the municipality sees fit. A municipality may choose to no longer collect pesticide containers and may close a pesticide container collection site at any time. The municipality may also use the site for other purposes, or they may choose to divest it. Should a municipality choose to close a pesticide container collection site, the municipality would remain responsible for the disposal of containers already collected.

As regional landfills already accept plastic and rinsed out pesticide containers, any future pesticide containers would go to a regional landfill in a respective area and would be handled as regular municipal waste. As described in my previous letter, municipalities and agricultural retailers are integral components, and important supporters, of pesticide container collection.

Since the implementation of CropLife Canada and CleanFARMS, there have been no provincial funding or Alberta government role in the administration of the pesticide container program. Pesticide container collection sites have always been operated by municipalities and funded by CleanFARMS, an industry-based program. Local municipalities are responsible for building

collection sites for waste or hazardous waste storage as a service for agricultural producers. As the Alberta government has no oversight over CleanFarms, I cannot comment on how fees are collected or how they are used.

You indicate your membership feels that the Alberta government has some responsibility to facilitate the development of a new system. Environment and Parks is actively engaging with stakeholders to develop and implement a new extended producer responsibility policy framework. For more information about this engagement, please contact Ms. Jennifer Chapelsky, Senior Waste Policy Advisor, in Edmonton, at 780-638-3070 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection) or at jennifer.chapelsky@gov.ab.ca.

June 24, Discussion between Executive Assistant and representative from CleanFarms regarding the situation. Recent survey done by CleanFarms showed that the service providers were happy with the collection of the pesticide containers, so they were shocked by the ASB resolution. CleanFarms received a notice and the resolution from AEP and has been exploring options. CleanFarm staff are presenting some options to their board at the meeting in September for decisions and expect that they will be following up with ASBs through some kind of engagement this fall and working on a new process over the winter with the plan to have issues resolved by next spring 2022.

August 10, Committee met with Minister Nixon, Environment and Parks and had a brief discussion of this resolution. The minister is pleased with the progress and the engagement with CleanFarms and discussed the End User Responsibility policy that they are working on to make the end user of plastics products responsible for their safe disposal.

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.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

PMRA

As per the Pest Control Products Act, before a new pesticide is allowed to be used or sold in Canada, it must undergo a rigorous scientific assessment process to determine that the health and environmental risks of using the product are acceptable, when used according to label directions. The same is true when pesticides that are on the market are re-evaluated to assess whether they continue to meet the Department's health and environmental standards, and whether they should continue to be permitted for use in Canada. Health Canada must take regulatory action at any time should unacceptable risks to human health or the environment be identified.

As per the regular process for the re-evaluation of pesticides, the public was consulted on the proposed decision for strychnine (Proposed Re-Evaluation Decision, PRVD2018-13: Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products (Ground Squirrel Use)). Multiple lines of evidence (risk assessment based on available information, incident reports, information from provinces including information generated through the Integrated Pest Management Committee) indicated that risks of concern for non-target poisonings continue to occur with the use of strychnine.

In the final re-evaluation decision (RVD2020-06), Health Canada reviewed and took into consideration all comments, data and information received from the Canadian public and stakeholders, including Agricultural Service Boards. However, the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels (RGS) remained due to the lack of practical mitigation measures to protect non-target organisms, including species at risk. As a result, Health Canada concluded that cancellation of the use of strychnine for the control of RGS was necessary.

Health Canada recognizes that products to control RGS populations are needed and acknowledges the value of strychnine to agricultural users. The following registered alternatives to strychnine were provided previously, although it is understood that these alternatives have their limitations as well:

- chlorophacinone and diphacinone (multi-feed anticoagulant baits);
- zinc phosphide (non-anticoagulant bait);
- aluminum phosphide (fumigant); and
- white mustard seed powder and sodium alpha-olefin sulfonate (foam)

Health Canada encourages grower groups to contact the registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and their provincial representatives to discuss the possibility of pursuing further research into RGS control.

Please note that the Province of Alberta and several regional municipalities have submitted Notices of Objection (NoO) to request a “Reconsideration of Decision” following the re-evaluation decision. The NoOs are currently being assessed, and the outcome will be posted to Health Canada’s PMRA website in the Public Registry.

Peter Brander
ED PMRA

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Alberta continues to advocate for strychnine be reinstated for Richardson's Ground Squirrel control. In fall 2020, Alberta submitted a Notice of Objection to Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for the de-certification of Strychnine. In March 2021, the PMRA informed AF that the re-evaluation decision was still under internal review following delays in completing the assessment.

Departmental Responses
Agriculture and Forestry

GRADE: Accept the Response

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| Accept the Response | 86% | |
| Accept in Principle | 9% | |
| Incomplete | 0% | |
| Unsatisfactory | 5% | Needs to be reviewed further, LSC is a valuable tool to manage pests. |

COMMENTS: The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.

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.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF and Environment and Parks, in partnership with the Farmer Pesticide Certification Committee, have developed a Farmer Pesticide Training Course and Certificate Examination. The training material is now housed on the Environment and Parks website. This is free of charge and is available for farmers needing to purchase or use pesticides on their own land (or land they rent or lease), and where the label requires all users to be certified.

In fall 2020, Alberta submitted a Notice of Objection to PMRA for the de-certification of Strychnine. In March 2021, the PMRA informed AF that the re-evaluation decision was still under internal review following delays in completing the assessment. Until a final decision is made by

PMRA on the use of strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel, the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program is not looking to incorporate Strychnine training into the program.

Departmental Responses
Agriculture and Forestry

PMRA

See response for 3-21

GRADE: Accept the Response

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| Accept the Response | 81% | |
| Accept in Principle | 14% | |
| Incomplete | 0% | |
| Unsatisfactory | 5% | |

COMMENTS: The Committee graded the responses to 3-21 as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.

RESOLUTION 5-21: FUSARIUM TESTING AFTER CLEANING

- WHEREAS:** Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) is a fungal disease of cereal crops that affect kernel development, affecting yield and quality;
- WHEREAS:** FHB was added as a declared pest to Alberta’s Agricultural Pest Act in 1999;
- WHEREAS:** The Fusarium graminearum Management Plan was released in 2002, hoping to limit the spread of the disease and lessen the economic impact;
- WHEREAS:** Currently some seed cleaning plants still require testing for FHB prior to cleaning in order to avoid transferring to other seed lots;
- WHEREAS:** The initial sample might not be representative of the seed lot due to improper sampling procedures;
- WHEREAS:** Seed can be sold as “Certified Fusarium Free”, but still have a high concentration of the disease present due to improper sampling resulting in false negative test results;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada revise the labeling requirements to include “Fusarium graminearum Free” seed, in that the sample is taken at the seed plant after it is cleaned by the seed plant operator in order to ensure the quality of the certified seed, and test results, same as the germination test, will have to be provided to the buyer

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

As you may know, Canadian farmers and seed producers rely on efficient and flexible Seeds Regulations that help prevent fraud and ensure the traceability, quality, and safety of Canada’s seed supply, which is the basis for all agricultural production. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has launched seed regulatory modernization, a multi-year, structured and comprehensive review of the seed regulatory framework. The goal of the modernization is to improve consistency, reduce complexity, and provide flexibility for seed systems to keep pace with advancements in industry as well as bolster consumer protection.

Seed regulatory modernization is an excellent forum to introduce seed testing and labelling issues for discussion, such as the one identified in resolution 5-21. There will be many opportunities for agricultural associations to provide input.

You can provide direct input on seed regulatory modernization to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency by emailing cfia.seedregmod-modregsem.acia@canada.ca.

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

GRADE: Incomplete

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| Accept the Response | 14% | Per late received response |
| Accept in Principle | 9% | |
| Incomplete | 68% | Vague response and provides no solution. |
| Unsatisfactory | 5% | |

COMMENTS: The ASBPC graded this response as Incomplete because the response was not received on time and so was at the time of Committee review, Incomplete. Since this response was received the Committee has distributed the response to all the ASBs so they can provide their feedback through the email address provided by the Minister.

RESOLUTION 6-21: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CHECK OFF OPTION

- WHEREAS:** Producers must pay mandatory checkoff's on various agricultural products;
- WHEREAS:** Producers have no voluntary option to chose where they send these checkoff dollars;
- WHEREAS:** This process seems to violate freedom of choice and would be an excellent candidate for red tape reduction;
- WHEREAS:** Agricultural Research Associations have conducted variety trials and provided proof of concept for farming practices for decades, efforts that are often unsung, and face a funding crunch under the changes to Agricultural Research funding in the Province of Alberta;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council create the option for producers to allocate check-off dollars directly to their local Applied Research Association or various approved Agricultural Research and Development Organizations.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL

Each of Alberta's 20 agricultural marketing boards and commissions (MBCs) is created and governed by a set of regulations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAPA). These regulations set out specific purposes and powers for each MBC, and clearly establish the requirement that service charges collected under each regulation are to be used to finance the respective MBC's activities. The formation of any MBC under MAPA requires producers of a specific commodity to take collective action to establish the organization for the express purpose of representing producers of that commodity. This includes demonstration of producer support to establish a service charge to fund the organization.

Shifting to a model that directs service charges to Applied Research Associations (ARAs) or Agriculture Research and Development Organizations (ARDOs) would require amendments to MAPA that may change the intent of the legislation and expand Marketing Council's mandate beyond commodity-specific MBCs. MBCs may choose to direct service charges toward research projects through ARAs or ARDOs – producers may present this option for consideration by the MBC Board, who would likely seek support from the majority of producers.

In addition, twelve of Alberta's 20 MBCs operate with a refundable service charge model. Producers in these sectors can request a refund of their service charge contributions and could potentially provide this funding to ARAs or ARDOs if they feel this is a more appropriate use of their funds.

Recently, Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) approved funding the ARAs \$2 million per year for 2 years (2021-22 and 2022-23). Funding is to be delivered to a single organization to administer. RDAR is open to providing this funding, including a potential increase, but will require a written plan demonstrating increased efficiency, results measurement, and a province-wide approach to activities. In addition, RDAR will further assist the ARAs by providing an additional grant in the range of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to hire a consultant to help the ARAs work through the planning process and writing of the detailed plan.

I encourage the ASB Provincial Committee to work with RDAR and the MBCs in defining specific opportunities for partnerships, which may also include funding or contracting research and extension projects.

Brent McEwan
General Manager
Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Each of Alberta's 20 agricultural marketing boards and commissions (MBCs) is created and governed by a set of regulations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act. These regulations set out specific purposes and powers for each MBC, and clearly establish the requirement that service charges collected under each regulation are to be used to finance the respective MBC's activities. The formation of any MBC under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act requires producers of a specific commodity to take collective action to establish the organization for the express purpose of representing producers of that commodity. This includes demonstration of producer support to establish a service charge to fund the organization.

MBCs may choose to direct service charges toward research projects through Applied Research Associations (ARAs) or Agriculture Research and Development Organizations (ARDOs). Producers may present this option for consideration by the MBC Board, who would likely seek support from the majority of producers.

Twelve of Alberta's 20 MBCs operate with a refundable service charge model. Producers in these sectors can request a refund of their service charge contributions and could potentially provide this funding to ARAs or Agriculture Research and Development Organizations if they feel this is a more appropriate use of their funds.

Recently, Results Driven Agriculture Research (ROAR) approved funding to the ARAs of \$2 million per year for 2 years (2021-22 and 2022-23). Funding is to be delivered to a single organization to administer. ROAR is open to providing this funding, including a potential increase, but will require a written plan demonstrating increased efficiency, results measurement, and a province-wide approach to activities. In addition, ROAR will assist the ARAs reach these goals by providing an additional grant in the range of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to hire a consultant to help the ARAs work through the planning process and writing of the detailed plan.

AF encourages the ASB Provincial Committee to work with ROAR and the MBCs in defining specific opportunities for partnerships, which may also include funding or contracting research and extension projects.

Departmental Response
Agriculture and Forestry

ASBPC INITIAL GRADE: Accept the Response

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| Accept the Response | 91% | |
| Accept in Principle | 0% | |
| Incomplete | 0% | |
| Unsatisfactory | 9% | |

COMMENTS: The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response because it addressed the resolution as presented.

On May 25 the ASBPC brought this resolution to the attention of the ADM and had a discussion about the importance of the Applied Research Associations (ARAs) to ASBs and producers. They discussed the importance of extension and base funding for the ARAs, and mentioned their concerns about ARAs accessing their funding through the Results Driven Agriculture Research association (RDAR) as RDAR is focused on research and not extension. It was acknowledged that extension is front of mind with the department and that they were also watching RDAR to see how things progress.

RESOLUTION 7-21: DELEGATION OF ASB'S AND AAAF TO AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMODITY GROUPS

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been more vocal regarding provincial agricultural issues;

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been increasingly discussing municipal/provincial policies and legislation;

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have a lack of legislative and municipal/provincial government experts on their board;

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have made legislative and policy recommendations that negatively impacted the agricultural industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations listed below be contacted and requested to have an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) representative chosen by the ASB Provincial Committee and a technical advisor chosen by the AAAF to be present as a delegation during policy and legislative discussions at their Board/Director meetings and/or Annual General Meetings & Special Meetings.

STATUS: Provincial

GRADE: DEFEATED

RESOLUTION 8-21: REINSTATING PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT STAFF

- WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for supporting environmentally sustainable resource management practices;
- WHEREAS:** Staffing levels in the Agriculture and Forestry department have been reduced significantly;
- WHEREAS:** Municipal staff have been required to provide assistance to agricultural producers and acreage owners;
- WHEREAS:** Agriculture and Forestry staff members having years of experience represent institutional experience that cannot be replaced;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstates funding for extension staff that will assist agricultural, apicultural, and horticultural producers throughout Alberta.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF understands the ASB Provincial Committee's concerns with the workforce adjustments that occurred in 2020 and early 2021, and the reduction in dedicated extension staff within the department. The Ag-Information Centre has transitioned from being the first point of contact for agriculture information and resources to being the first point of contact for department programs and resources for the agriculture community. AF is working with industry partners to ensure clients are connected with the right information and resources.

GRADE: Accept the Response

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| Accept the Response | 90% | |
| Accept in Principle | 5% | |
| Incomplete | 0% | |
| Unsatisfactory | 5% | |

COMMENTS: The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.

RESOLUTION 9-21: PROTECT FARMERS RIGHTS TO USE FARM SAVED SEED

- WHEREAS:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) conducted consultations on implementing a system to collect royalties on farm saved seed in 2018/19;
- WHEREAS:** Paying royalties on farm saved seed will increase the price of seed and decrease profit margins for farmers;
- WHEREAS:** Royalties on farm saved seed could limit seed choices for farmers as seed companies move to deregister old varieties, which could mean farmers would be forced to pay royalties and to grow only newer varieties;
- WHEREAS:** AAFC and CFIA have not outlined details on how much a royalty would be, how it would be collected or how royalties would be dispersed;
- WHEREAS:** The Canadian Plant Technology Agency launched a pilot project in spring 2020 to test value use agreements whereby farmers would be required to pay royalties on farm saved seed;
- WHEREAS:** A royalty system has potential to decrease farmers' ability to make sound agronomic decisions and operate profitably;
- WHEREAS:** Other options to fund crop variety research are available, including increased investment of grain commission check-off funds in variety research;
- WHEREAS:** Options other than royalty systems to increase investment in crop variety development are required in order to maintain Canada's competitive advantage in the global market;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada abandon the proposal to implement the adoption of End Point Royalties or farm saved seed "trailing royalty contracts" and pursue investment options for globally competitive crop variety development that have direct and tangible on farm benefits.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY

As you are aware, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency were asked by the Grains Value Chain Roundtable, a consultative body with representation from across the value chain, to launch public consultations on two proposed seed royalty models to stimulate greater investment and innovation in Canada's cereal sector. The first phase of the consultative process consisted of a series of face-to-face meetings across Canada in late 2018 and early 2019. These five sessions are viewed by government as an initial step in a multi-stage discussion process.

The Government of Canada understands that many farmers place considerable value on their ability to save seed and often choose specific crop kinds and varieties that allow for replanting of saved seed in subsequent years. At the same time, a large number of agriculture sector stakeholders have signaled a desire for Canada to consider some form of value-creation model that would allow increased investment in wheat variety development by both public and private breeding programs across the country. Many producers see increased investment in research as being key to ensuring the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Canada’s cereals sector.

The government remains open to hearing all perspectives on this matter, and will consider the feedback heard to inform next steps in the process. Again, thank you for writing on what is a critical issue for the cereals sector, farmers, and Canadian agriculture.

Siddika Mithani
 President
 Canadian Food Inspection Agency

GRADE: Incomplete

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| Accept the Response | 14% | Per late received response |
| Accept in Principle | 0% | |
| Incomplete | 77% | May have to revisit in the future should consultations resume |
| Unsatisfactory | 9% | |

COMMENTS: The Committee grading this response as Incomplete because it did not specify how ASBs and farmers could present their perspectives, offer feedback and participate in next steps in the process. The Committee wrote to Siddika Mithani to ask for further information on the process and how to participate.

Additional Response received May 27, 2021

CFIA

Thank you for your follow-up letter in regards to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s response to the Alberta Service Board Provincial Committee’s seed royalty resolution (Resolution 9-21: Protect Farmers Rights to Use Farm Saved Seed), passed at your 2021 meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your views, and to clarify the status of stakeholder engagement efforts around seed royalty models.

As indicated in my previous correspondence, the six in-person sessions held across Canada in late 2018 and early 2019 were part of a consultative process that was undertaken at the request of the Grains Value Chain Roundtable. From what we heard at these sessions, and from the letters sent by stakeholder groups such as yours, there was a lack of consensus on a clear path forward. As a result, a decision was made to postpone further consultations for the time being.

The Government of Canada will continue exploring ways to improve Canada's existing system for cereal variety development. In doing so, we remain open to all perspectives and options to enhance the profitability of the sector.

Siddika Mithani
President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

RESOLUTION 10-21: FEDERAL FUEL CHARGE

- WHEREAS:** the Federal Fuel Charge (Carbon Tax) mandated under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act came into effect in Alberta on January 1, 2020;
- WHEREAS:** the Federal Fuel Charge amount varies by fuel product offering and the Federal Government has announced targeting relief for certain sectors and individuals including farmers;
- WHEREAS:** the Climate Leadership Implementation Act effective January 1, 2017 states “that every recipient shall pay a carbon levy on purchases of natural gas and propane”;
- WHEREAS:** as purchasers, farmers cannot pass the additional costs on to consumers or international markets as the international markets set the price for agricultural products and that a producer trying to increase their price to compensate would not be able to sell their product and recover the additional costs;
- WHEREAS:** certain categories of customers are exempt from paying the Federal Fuel Charge, including:
- Farmers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
 - Fishers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
 - Registered Distributors;
 - Registered Air Carriers;
 - Registered Rail Carriers;
 - Registered Road Carriers;
 - Remote Power Plant Operators that generate Electricity for remote Communities for light fuel oil; and
 - A partial exemption at eighty per cent (80 %) for propane supplied to Greenhouse operators;
- WHEREAS:** propane and natural gas used by many farming operations in their agricultural production is not included in the list of eligible exemptions;
- WHEREAS:** under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purpose of farming and that is a “farm truck or tractor”, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, an industrial machine, or a stationary or portable engine, or prescribed activity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Energy jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta’s Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to provide a carbon levy exemption for all consumption of propane and natural gas for all recognized agricultural production, including, but not limited to grain farming, greenhouse, and other similar practices.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF strongly supports the expansion of the carbon tax exemption for agriculture to include natural gas and propane. Minister Dreeshen wrote a letter in January 2020 to federal Minister Bibeau, outlining the undue burden that the federal carbon tax places on agricultural producers, with a particular focus on the use of natural gas and propane used in grain drying.

On a positive note, recently, a Private Members Bill (C-206) was introduced by MR Lawrence (Northumberland-Peterborough South) calling for the expansion of the exemption to include all agricultural use of natural gas and propane. The Bill recently passed second reading with cross-party support from the Conservative, Bloc Quebecois, and NDP.

In the interim, AF offers a cost-sharing program for producers to upgrade the efficiency of their grain dryers. The Efficient Grain Dryer Program will pay for half the cost of grain dryer components, on new or existing dryers, that improve the energy efficiency of the operation. These efficiency improvements will lower fuel costs for grain drying and provide relief from any future fuel cost volatility.

Department Response
Agriculture and Forestry

ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

On May 1, 2019, the Government of Alberta repealed the Climate Leadership Implementation Act, ending the collection of the provincial carbon levy in Alberta. No such taxes are currently collected by the government, and no exemptions are awarded or managed.

The Government of Canada's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA) is not a provincial policy. Applicable starting in January 2020, consumers - including farmers - are obliged to pay a fuel charge (carbon tax), barring some specific farming exemptions. The Government of Alberta does not agree the federal government has the right to impose the GGPPA on the provinces. That is why the Alberta government has taken the federal government to court and is awaiting the decision from the Supreme Court of Canada on whether the federal government has the right to implement the GGPPA.

The Alberta government acknowledges the scope of exemptions offered under the GGPPA is too narrow to capture the breadth of farming activities, and we will raise these concerns in our discussions with the federal government. Furthermore, we encourage the Agricultural Service Board to contact federal representatives through engagement on the newly released federal climate plan, "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy" (found at www.canada.ca).

I also encourage you to contact Judy Meltzer, Director General Corporate Secretariat, Environment and Climate Change Canada, at judy.meltzer@canada.ca. You could also contact Matt Parry, Director General for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, at matt.parry@canada.ca.

Jason Nixon
Minister Environment and Parks

GRADE: Accept the Response

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

| GRADE | | COMMENTS |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| Accept the Response | 86% | |
| Accept in Principle | 9% | Need further advocacy towards federal fuel charge and to hold further conversation in regards to the fuel charge put on farmers. We need to keep this conversation open. The Board would like the Provincial ASB Committee to lobby for 'All AG Use' as the resolution is written. |
| Incomplete | 0% | |
| Unsatisfactory | 5% | |

COMMENTS: The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.

Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

2020 Resolutions

| Resolution Number | Resolution Grade | Grade | Updated |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1-20 | Ropin' the Web | Accept the Response | |
| 2-20 | Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant | Incomplete | |
| 3-20 | Clubroot Pathotype Testing - UofA funding continues for this testing into 2021 | Unsatisfactory | <i>Accept in Principal</i> |
| 4-20 | Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors | Unsatisfactory | |
| 5-20 | AFSC Assist in Preventing the Spread of Regulated Crop Pests | Unsatisfactory | |
| 6-20 | Beehive Depredation | Accept in Principle | |
| 7-20 | Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions | Accept in Principle | |
| 8-20 | Emergency Livestock Removal | Accept in Principle | |
| 9-20 | Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom | Unsatisfactory | |
| 10-20 | Reinstate a Shelterbelt Program | Accept in Principle | |
| 11-20 | Compensation to Producers on Denied Land Access to Hunters | Defeated | |
| 12-20 | Proposed Amendments to Part XV of the Federal <i>Health of Animals Regulations</i> | Accept in Principle | |
| 13-20 | Canadian Product and Canadian Made | Incomplete | |
| E1-20 | Review of Business Risk Management Programs | Unsatisfactory | |
| E2-20 | Initiate Agri-Recovery Framework | Unsatisfactory | |
| E3-20 | Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability Changes | Unsatisfactory | |

2019 Resolutions

| Resolution Number | Resolution Name | Grade | Update |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|--------|
| 1-19 | <p>Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health Canada/PMRA leave 2% LS permanently available to farmers for control of RGS ● <i>Follow Up</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ discussed with Agriculture Minister who expressed support to maintain registration ○ Agriculture Minister requested that letter be sent to PMRA with | Accept in Principle | |

| | | | |
|------|---|------------|--|
| | <p>concerns for alternate products – letter dated Dec 19, 2019 cc Minister Dreeshen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Update</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 4, 2020, Re-Evaluation Decision by PMRA is published https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2020/strychnine.html ○ The Committee’s letter was included in PMRA’s Re-evaluation Decision, however as stated in the final decision our letter had no effect on the decision. ○ A reversal of the decision requires significant scientific evidence to show that there is little risk to non-target species, particularly species at risk. ● <i>Recommendations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocate for research into adapting or improving alternative RGS control methods, or further scientific evaluation of methods to use 2% liquid strychnine in a way that is safe for non-target species. ○ Tracer products be included with Strychnine ○ Producers using Strychnine be trained | | |
| 2-19 | <p>Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement using smartphone technology to provide photographic/video evidence for confirmation of livestock injury and death in a timely and prompt manner ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> | Incomplete | Committee has reached out to the AEP ministry staff reviewing this program and requested a meeting to update and give opinion. Status of this resolution pending |

| | | | |
|------|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee is connecting with the Predator Compensation Program working group ● <i>Follow up 2021</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aug 10 meeting with Minister Nixon suggested that the program was up for review so the Committee was invited to connect with the staff in charge for update and input. Email invite to Travis Ripley was sent inviting him to meet with the Committee in September. ○ | | the outcome of that engagement. |
| 3-19 | <p>Deadstock Removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Province compensate producers 50% of deadstock pick up fees ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuing to monitor what other provinces are doing to find a recommendation for the minister | Unsatisfactory | |
| 4-19 | <p>Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of process to allow farmers to access carbon credits under permanent cover (pasture, perennial forage crops, forested) ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiting to see how to engage with the Ministry of Environment consultations on carbon credits ● <i>Recommendation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep tabs on the Carbon offset market and continue to advocate for perennial cover carbon off sets. <p>The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFIA) partnered with a carbon offset company called Climate Action Reserve out of California to develop a Canadian Grassland Protocol. The Protocol Version 1 was announced in October 2019, and is available through their website http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/canada-grassland/</p> | Accept in Principle | |

| | | | |
|------|---|------------|--|
| | <p>This is a “conversion avoidance” protocol that pays to producers who can convert grassland into cropland but choose not to. Eligibility and process are available through the Climate Action Reserve website.</p> <p>CFGA media release can be viewed here: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Media-Release--CFGA-leads-First-Ever-Canadian-Grassland-Offset-Protocol-for-Producers.html?soid=1104692932142&aid=BUbfaGjEokk</p> | | |
| 5-19 | <p>Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Govt of Alberta sets up a multi-stakeholder committee to work at reducing the use of fresh water by the oil and gas industry in Alberta ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ referred the committee to ‘Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach’ found at the following link : https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ef2df211-1091-4470-9b42-defe6529a862/resource/abce01b3-2011-494c-bc50-a42774d49995/download/directivehydraulicfracturing-feb16-2018.pdf ● <i>Follow Up 2021</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aug 10 meeting with Minister Nixon and staff. They feel that upon review of the revised “Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas” the ASBs will agree that the resolution is resolved satisfactory. (email sent to Brazeau County ASB for their review) ○ Since 1970 the sector has reduced water consumption by 67%, This | Incomplete | <p>Ministry of AEP feels they have addressed this issue and there is no need for a further committee. Update was sent to the sponsoring municipality for their review and comment. Status is being reviewed by the ASBPC</p> |

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| | includes the 15% reduction that has occurred since 2015. | | |
| 6-19 | STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility | Accept the Response | |
| E1-19 | <p>Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources</p> <p>https://www.farms.com/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-resources/</p> <p>https://www.farms.com/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-resources/alberta.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Province create and maintain a 24/7 crisis line dedicated to the ag industry and that it be staffed with professionals that understand the stress and pressures of farming • Resolution Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF- no money, Farm Business Canada has a proposal for research so ASBs should partner and contribute. AF will reach out to Alberta Health to see what can be done to support farmers. ○ AB Health – concerns are known and align with AB Health Mental Health concerns and initiatives. • <i>Follow up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mental health topic was brought to the attention of the Minister Dreeshen when he met with the Committee in November. • <i>Follow up 2021</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In response to the resolution AF provided ARECA with 2 years of funding to create a Farm Mental Health Network. ARECA hired a project coordinator and organized a steering committee. ○ The goal of the project is to identify gaps and barriers to service and how to address them, develop or adapt resources for service providers and | Unsatisfactory | |

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| | farmers, encourage training to build resilience and reduce stigma, engage post secondary/research to contribute to the national movement and momentum and maintain awareness within governments. | | |
| E2-19 | <p>No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AAFC/CFIA abandon the proposal to implement royalties on farm saved seed ● <i>Resolution Response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CFIA is still doing consultation ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter of 2020 is when the federal government decision on which royalty option will be pursued is expected. ○ Engaging commodity groups to gather further information ● <i>Follow up 2021</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jan conference the minister was asked about this issue and spoke about improving access to new seed varieties by updating the Act and allowing royalties. | Accept in Principle | |

2018 Resolutions

| Resolution Number | Resolution Name | Grade | Update |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| 1-18 | Environmental Stream Funding of the Agriculture Service Board Grant | Accept in Principle | |
| 2-18 | Appeals to the Minister Under the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pests Act | Unsatisfactory | |
| 3-18 | Requirement to Report Certain Pests to the Local Authority | DEFEATED | |
| 4-18 | <p>Weed Control on Alberta Vacant Public Lands Within Green Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permanent program with adequate staff and funds for weed control in vacant public lands in the green | Incomplete | Status being reviewed by the Committee due to restructuring of the AEP |

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| | <p>zone as part of a comprehensive framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking to increase funding to the green zone program and will continue to work with the municipalities and the white zone program to address issues. • <i>Follow up 2021</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aug 10, 2021 Committee met with Minister Nixon (AEP) to discuss this resolution: Green zone and White zone weed control budgets and programs have recently been combined to improve efficient use of funding. The budgets were not reduced as the Minister knows the importance of weed control. There are ongoing agreements with municipalities that have known historical issues. ○ For new agreements municipalities are encouraged to connect with their local lands person who can be reached through the contact centre 310-3773, aep.outreach-services@gov.ab.ca, or on the Lands Management Contact List. ○ The weed control budget is fully prescribed every year, and sites are prioritized and triaged. ○ At this time the ministry did not feel they had the resources to develop a “comprehensive framework” that was asked for in the resolution | | <p>department and budgets. Sent update to sponsoring municipality and waiting for their input.</p> |
| 5-18 | Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement | Accept in Principle | |
| 6-18 | Review of Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Crop Insurance Program | Unsatisfactory | |
| 7-18 | Crop Insurance for Alberta Fruit Producers | Accept the Response | |
| 8-18 | Increasing limits for Farm Direct Marketing of Chickens for All Farm Direct Producers | DEFEATED | |

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| 9-18 | Farm Direct Marketing of Eggs and Products using Eggs | Accept in Principle | |
| 10-18 | Proposed Federal Tax Changes | Accept the Response | |
| 11-18 | Organic Food Testing and Labeling | Accept in Principle | |
| 12-18 | Chemical Control of Wireworms | DEFEATED | |

Expiring Resolutions

The Provincial Rules of Procedure state in section 3(10) that the ASB Provincial Committee will actively advocate for resolutions for a period of five years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain actively advocated for must be brought forward for approval at the next Provincial ASB Conference.

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2021.

| Resolution Number | Resolution Name | Grade | Update |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|--------|
| 1-17 | <p>Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deliver a more effective weed control and mowing program along primary and secondary highways ○ Control regulated weed species and unsafe vegetation on full right of way using appropriately timed herbicide applications and mowing ○ Allow municipalities to enter in service agreements in all districts ● 2020 resolution response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee met with the Ministry of Transportation in September 1, 2020, to discuss a continuation of the 2017-19 Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. ○ Alberta Transportation is working on a process to improve communication between municipalities and the Regional Managers who oversee the Hwy maintenance contracts. ○ Regional Managers have been invited to attend and speak at 2020 Regional ASB Conferences ● <i>Recommendation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASB Committee to continue to check in with the ministry of Transportation key contact and monitor progress on the development of the 2021-2023 Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. | Accept in Principle | |

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| 2-17 | Ensuring Competition for Seed and Crop Protection Products | Incomplete | |
| 3-17 | Incorporating Agriculture and Agri-Food Education in the Classroom | Incomplete | |
| E1-17 | Carbon Levy Exemption on Natural Gas and Propane for All Recognized Agriculture Production | Accept the Response | |
| E2-17 | Agricultural Disaster Policy | DEFEATED | |
| E3-17 | <p>Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution ask:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Parks Canada depopulate diseased bison and ○ Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Parks Canada develop a measurable plan to eradicate all diseased bison from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo Nation Park. ● <i>Response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF recognizes this as an important issue and continues to monitor ○ AEP Working on a strategy with Federal and NWT governments to eliminate disease transmission from wild herds. Terms of reference for the committee are being reviewed by the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee. CFIA conducted a risk assessment for transmission from bison to cattle and concluded it was insignificant, so eradication program is unlikely. ○ AAFC risk of transmission to cattle is low so CFIA involvement will be restricted to providing vet advice and lab testing as required by the issue partners. ○ Environment and Climate Change Canada. The Bison are endangered and need to be protected. CFIA is doing a risk assessment and the buffer zone is being evaluated. It is a priority to engage fully the | Unsatisfactory | Being reviewed by the ASBPC due to draft of new management plan that is open for public engagement, sent update to sponsoring municipality Aug, 2021, and waiting for their response and input. |

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| | <p>indigenous groups who are also affected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Follow up 2021</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee met with Minister Nixon and his AEP staff on Aug 10, ○ Recognizing that this is a multijurisdictional issue, they recommended a round table so that all the affected departments are available to address concerns. ○ Committee sent an email updating the sponsoring municipality (Mackenzie County) and included a link for public engagement in this issue, as well as a link to the Alberta-Canada Wood Bison section 11 Conservation Agreement for their review and comment. | | |
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Current Advocacy

Ag Plastics

- Activities around the Ag Plastics Recycling pilot and the soon to be released AEP Policy on End User Responsibility continue. End User Responsibility will make the purchaser and user of plastics responsible for their proper disposal. ASBPC continues to be in touch with both AEP ministry staff and the AF ministry staff on these issues and is also keeping in touch with CleanFarms who has expressed the desire to engage with ASBs to address concerns with the Pesticide Container Collection Program. ADM John Conrad is particularly interested in plastics Recycling and has worked in AEP as ADM in the past so has been an excellent conduit to AEP on these issues.

Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites

- ADM John Conrad has assisted the ASBs in addressing this issue. A working group has been set up to start this September to give expert feedback to Alberta Energy on the issues in the current process and work to try to find a solution.

RDAR funding to Applied Research Associations and to continue to fund research for monitoring and surveillance of agriculture pests

- ASBPC met with RDAR and had an excellent engagement and was invited to put a name forward to be included in the RDAR advisory committee. The Committee is still waiting to hear if their candidate was appointed to the committee and how they can provide input.

Farm Mental Health

- The Committee continues to monitor and support the AB Farm Mental Health Network being set up by ARECA (www.areca.ca), and advocate for its continued success.