

**RESOLUTION 11-23
LOSS 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 canceled the product; and

WHEREAS Alberta producers have used Strychnine to effectively control Richardson's Ground Squirrels for decades; and

WHEREAS in an integrated pest management plan there is a need for options of control like 2% liquid Strychnine dependent on different circumstances (time of year, area of land infected, infestation levels, pest being controlled, etc.).

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

That Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency make 2% Liquid Strychnine available to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels through an emergency registration for the 2023 season and until an alternative single feed product is available.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation study alternative products in part with Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency to replace 2% liquid Strychnine with a viable single feed alternative product that is classified as safe and effective for the control of Richardson ground squirrels.

SPONSORED BY: County of St. Paul No. 19

CARRIED

STATUS: Federal and Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Health Canada
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada have reviewed the label and use of 2% Liquid Strychnine and have chosen to cancel the use of Strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS). The last date that agriculture producers can legally use the product is on March 4, 2023. They have not been able to purchase the product since March 4, 2022.

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB's) have long brought forward resolutions concerning Strychnine and this should underline its importance to agricultural producers in Alberta. It is an effective tool to control RGS because it is a single feed bait and this allows producers to efficiently treat large infestations and help prevent small infestations from becoming large ones. Other options for gopher control is with the use of multi-feed baits such as Rozol and Ramik Green . However, these baits can be unproductive because they can take from 7 to 10 days to be effective. As such, other methods of control can be very time consuming during demanding times of production (seeding, calving, etc.).

Strychnine has been used in Alberta for decades and has been effective in gopher control with little impact on the wildlife population. For effective gopher control, 2% Liquid Strychnine is an essential tool in any agricultural producers integrated pest management plan and should be available for use.