

**Municipal District of Peace No.135
Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 9.00 A.M. at the MD of Peace Council Chambers**

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Adoption of Agenda**
- C. Confirmation of Minutes of April 24, 2025, ASB Meeting**
- D. Business Arising out of Minutes**
- E. Delegations**
- F. Reports**
 - 1) Manager of Ag Services Report**
- G. New Business**
 - 1) Declaration of Agricultural Disaster 2025**
 - 2) Advocacy for Alberta's Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage**
 - 3) Shelterbelt Trees 2026 and Tree Canada Opportunities**
 - 4) Rural Roads and Setbacks for Shelterbelt Tree Planting**
 - 5) Peace Regional ASB Conference, Saddle Hills County, November 5, 2025, at Gardendale Community Hall.**
- H. Member's Business**
- I. Information**
 - 1) Letter from the MD of Pincher Creek: Agricultural Disaster Declaration**
 - 2) Letter from the MD of Greenview: Agricultural Disaster for Livestock Industry**
 - 3) Letter from the County of Northern Lights: Agricultural Disaster Declaration**
 - 4) Letter from Mackenzie County: Agricultural Disaster Declaration**
 - 5) Letter from the Athabasca County: Agricultural Disaster Declaration**
 - 6) Letter from the MD of Smoky River: Agricultural Disaster Declaration**
- J. Next Meeting**
- K. Adjournment**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Peace No.135,
held April 24, 2025, at the Municipal Office in Berwyn, in the Province of Alberta.

Present	Chairman	Sandra Eastman
	Councillor Member	Lori Kinnee
	Members at Large	Judy Bowcott via Zoom
		Rick Keillor
		Christi Friesen via Zoom
		Brian Grant
	Manager of Ag Services	Nasar Iqbal
	Recording Secretary	Denise Frank
Call to Order	Chairman Eastman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.	
Delegations	Ken Herlinveaux – Mobile Seed Cleaning Ken joined the meeting at 9:04 am	
Adoption of Agenda	Lori Kinnee:	MOVED that the agenda for the April 24, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting be approved with the addition of Ken Herlinveaux under Delegations CARRIED
Confirmation of Minutes	1. January 15, 2025, Agricultural Service Board Meeting	
	Rick Keillor:	MOVED that the minutes of the January 15, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED
Business Arising Out of Minutes	None	
Delegations	Ken Herlinveaux – Mobile Seed Cleaning via Zoom	
	Rick Keillor:	MOVED that the Chairman Eastman of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) write a letter to Clear Hills County, Northern Lights County, and MD of Fairview about Fusarium Testing in their municipalities and the Manager of Ag Services to investigate the cost of a full fungal scan. CARRIED
	Ken Herlinveaux left the meeting at 9:43 am	
Reports	Manager of Ag Service Report	
	ASB directed the Manager of Agricultural Services to research the MD Century Farms and post them on the MD website with their consent.	
	Brian Grant	MOVED to accept the Manager of Ag Service Report. CARRIED

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Chairman Eastman called for a short break at 10.25 a.m.
Re-convened meeting at 10:33 a.m. with all members present.

New Business

1. Resource Management Grant-Memorandum of Agreement and Application

Members accepted as information.

2. VSI Producers Meeting Outcome

Lori Kinnee: MOVED to lower the VSI cap to \$1,200.00 effective January 2026.

CARRIED

Rick Keillor: MOVED to explore and participate in the interest with neighboring municipalities to create a large animal veterinary bursary.

CARRIED

Brian Grant: MOVED ASB write a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Todd Loewen, MLA, and Dan Williams, MLA advocating for the urgent need for Large Animal veterinarians in rural Alberta. Additionally, a template letter will be provided to MD VSI producers to support their lobbying efforts. Furthermore, MOVED to use our Municipality and livestock producers in our MD to lobby for large animal veterinarians in rural areas.

CARRIED

3. ASB-18 Animal Disease Control Policy

Lori Kinnee: MOVED to accept the ASB 18 Animal Disease Control Policy as presented.

CARRIED

4. ASB-19 Soil Management and Conservation Policy

Rick Keillor: MOVED to accept the ASB 19 Soil Management and Conservation Policy as presented.

CARRIED

5. Brainstorming the MD of Peace ASB's quarterly newsletter name

Rick Keillor: MOVED to call the ASB quarterly newsletter "Fields of the Peace" with the tagline Sowing Innovation - Agricultural Excellence - Seeking Harmony.

CARRIED

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**New Business
Continued**

6. Location of 2027 AAAP Inservice Training and 2028 Provincial ASB Conference

Brian Grant: MOVED that the 2027 AAAP Inservice Training and 2028 Provincial ASB conference be held in Grande Prairie, Alberta, and furthermore, that the MD of Peace AG Service Board recommends that the future Provincial ASB Conferences be rotated around the province of Alberta.

CARRIED

7. Spring fires in the MD of Peace

Brian Grant: MOVED to recommend to Council to pursue their endeavors to inquire about controlled burns in the Municipality.

CARRIED

Member Business None

Information

- 1. Letter from Parkland County: Parkland County ASB Concerns Regarding Bill C-293**
- 2. Letter from County of Northern Lights: 2025 ASB Conference.**
- 3. Letter from the Wheatland County: 2026 Provincial ASB Tour.**
- 4. Letter from the Big Lake County: Provincial producer, conduct, and preparation.**
- 5. Letter from the MD of Spirit River: 2025 ASB Conference.**
- 6. Letter from the Northern Sunrise County: Declaration of Ag Disaster for Honey Producers in NSC.**
- 7. Letter from Starland County: State of High Speed Internet in Rural Alberta.**
- 8. Letter from County of Minburn: Urgent Concerns regarding China's Retaliatory Tariffs on Canadian Agriculture Products.**
- 9. Letter from the MD of Greenview: Farmer Pesticide Program and Updated Registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate.**

The nine information items for information were accepted.

Next Meeting

The next Agricultural Service Board meeting will be August 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

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Adjournment

Being that the agenda matters have been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Chairman

Manager of Agricultural Services

These minutes approved by Council the ____ day of _____, 2025.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Manager of Agricultural Services Report ASB Meeting August 19, 2025

1. AGI Webinar on Compound 1080

On April 10, 2025, the Manager of Agricultural Services attended the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) webinar on Sodium Monofluoroacetate (Compound 1080). Health Canada has completed its 15-year re-evaluation of Compound 1080, allowing AGI to maintain its registration. AGI is developing a product stewardship program that includes enhanced training for farmers and dispensers. Farmers are required to obtain a Farmer Pesticide Applicator Certificate, while Ag Fieldmen must hold a Core Applicator Pesticide Certificate through Lakeland College. We have got the 1080 tablet back for coyote management, but the training schedule has not been announced yet.

2. ASB Summer Staff Hiring

The hiring process for ASB summer staff was completed. The following ASB summer staff were hired:

- Weed Inspector: Aspen Bogner (resigned due to health issues at the end of June)
- Pesticide Applicator: Jason Paul
- Mower Operator: Ira William Iverson
- Vanessa Neil
- Wayne Dones

Returning staff include:

- Mower Operator: Frank Himer
- Weed Picker: Chad Himer

Start Dates:

- Frank Himer and Aspen Bogner began work on May 1, 2025
- One Mower Operator and the Pesticide Applicator will start on May 12, 2025
- Chad Himer, July 2, Vanessa, July 7 and Wayne Dones, July 8, 2025

3. Alberta Transportation Weed Control Agreement

The MD of Peace has signed an agreement with Alberta Transportation, allowing weed spraying in highway ditches within the MD upon receiving complaints or conducting inspections. This process eliminates the need for formal weed notices, with all costs directly billed to Alberta Transportation.

4. MD of Peace Strategic Plan Session

On April 30, 2025, the Manager of Agricultural Services participated in the MD of Peace Strategic Plan Session alongside Council and other staff members. The session was highly productive and provided valuable insights for future planning.

5. Staff Training & Equipment Upgrades

The ASB summer staff, Pesticide Applicator Jason Paul and Mower Operator Ira Iverson, commenced work on May 12, 2025. Both staff members, along with the weed inspector, completed safety management and job-specific training to ensure compliance with operational standards. Additionally, both mower operators assisted in upgrading the spray truck, replacing the wooden deck with a steel deck to enhance durability and prevent future structural issues.

6. Professional Development & Training

The Manager of Agricultural Services, the weed inspector, and the pesticide applicator attended PRAAAF training in Roycroft on May 14–15, 2025, alongside summer staff from Peace Regional municipalities. Sessions covered the Weed Act, Agricultural Pest Act, conflict resolution, dog bite prevention, weed identification, and pest identification, equipping staff with essential knowledge for field operations.

7. Certification Achievement

The pesticide applicator completed a full day authorized assistant training, successfully passing the certification exam to obtain an Authorized Assistant Certificate.

8. 2025 Shelterbelt Program

Under the 2025 Shelterbelt Program, 38 MD of Peace ratepayers placed orders for over 4,000 trees of various species. The trees, sourced from two nurseries, were sorted and made available for pickup starting June 4, 2025, at the ratepayers' convenience. The Manager of Agricultural Services provided guidance on tree species selection, mulching techniques, and mulch sourcing to assist ratepayers in establishing successful shelterbelts.

9. Roadside Tree Removal

Mower operators picked dead trees from roadside ditches from May 20, 2025, to June 26, 2025. With initial guidance from Erik on how to use the backhoe, Frank Himmer used the equipment thereafter. On average, six to seven dump trailer loads of debris are transported to designated disposal sites daily. Our two mower operators and the pesticide applicator assisted with the

removal and transport of dead or fallen trees from municipal ditches. Most of the wood was cleared starting from the west end of the municipality, North of Hwy 2, extending to Peace River.

10. Pesticide Use & Public Engagement

The Manager of Agricultural Services responded to a citizen's inquiry regarding pesticide application in park areas. After addressing concerns in detail, the citizen visited the office to review signage used for public notification. The Manager provided information on herbicide spray record-keeping, LD50 pesticide data, and commonly used chemicals to ensure transparency and reinforce best practices.

11. Animal Protection Webinar

The Manager of Agricultural Services attended a webinar on Alberta's Animal Protection Act, which prohibits causing or allowing an animal to suffer distress. Enforcement authorities—including RCMP, municipal police, and designated animal protection officers—are empowered to intervene in cases of neglect or abuse. The Alberta SPCA plays a crucial role in responding to complaints and ensuring compliance with provincial animal welfare laws.

12. Equipment Procurement & Maintenance

To improve operational efficiency, the Manager of Agricultural Services procured two leaf/dust blowers for tractors and mowers. Additionally, debris protection kits were installed on both tractors, and routine servicing was completed by Foster Agri World, ensuring the equipment is ready for the 2025 season.

13. ASB Legislative Grant Approval.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation has approved \$163,247 in legislative funding over the next five years in response to our grant application earlier this year. The 2024 ASB Grant and Financial Report has been submitted to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and MD has received the funds.

14. Bertha Armyworm Monitoring

Three Bertha armyworm traps were installed across the municipality. The Manager of Agricultural Services collected weekly data and uploaded results to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's Pest Monitoring Network. One site reported higher activity, though still well below threshold levels.

15. Invasive Species Workshop

The MD of Peace, Northern Sunrise County, and the Alberta Invasive Species Council co-hosted

an Invasive Species Workshop on July 10, 2025, in Peace River. No ratepayer attended the workshop. A total of 7 people attended the workshop, and three were our staff.

16. Berwyn Weed Management

The Manager of Agricultural Services contacted the Village of Berwyn regarding Scentless Chamomile control on municipal properties, a business site, and the right-of-way to the Berwyn Lagoon. The town has begun addressing these areas.

17. Weed Spraying Activities

Weed spraying has been completed at the MD Office, MD yard, Strong Creek Park, Brownvale Park, Brownvale Cemetery, Brownvale Old Dumpsite, and Berwyn Cemetery. The spray truck operator has completed ditch spraying north of Highway 2 and Highway 684 to Peace River. We will address areas inaccessible to the side nozzle using either the boom sprayer or utility sprayer.

18. Scentless Chamomile Removal

Two summer staff picked Scentless Chamomile along Cessna Road and around the stormwater storage pond on the MD's lot. We also picked Scentless from Quinney Gravel pit and along the border of the Town of Grimshaw, and took 4 truckloads to Long Lake regional landfill.

19. Mowing Operations

Mowing operations are progressing efficiently in accordance with our established rotation policy. The first cut has been completed north of Highway 2 and Highway 684 to Peace River. Currently, Mower Operators are working in the southwest corner of the municipality, south of Highway 2, just West of Duncan Reserve. We are working to finish the first cut mowing by the end of August. A temporary breakdown occurred with one tractor's air conditioning system during a heatwave exceeding 30°C. Fortunately, the required part was sourced from Sexsmith, and our mower operator successfully installed it at no additional cost.

20. Fall Roadside Property Line Spray Program

The 2025 Fall Roadside Property Line Spray Program has been advertised via Facebook, the MD website, and the local newspaper. Four producers have already enrolled. This complementary program supports our agricultural community in managing noxious and prohibited noxious weeds.

21. Haying Agreement

In 2025, a producer entered into a haying agreement with the MD. He reported harvesting approximately 100 tons of hay from municipal ditches. However, some issues arose: the producer cut hay on roads not included in the agreement and neglected some of the roads he had signed for. Additionally, his operations were delayed by several days.

22. Weed Inspections

Our weed inspectors have completed inspections on more than 900 properties. Property owners with identified weed issues are being contacted. Two weed notices have been issued to an organic producer, who has committed to compliance. Scentless chamomile was manually removed from the Quinney pit, and spraying is planned; however, some areas may remain inaccessible.

23. Ordering Supplies, Parts and Addressing Complaints.

The Manager of Agricultural Services has ordered herbicides and booties for weed inspectors and sourced parts for tractors and mowers

24. Stampede Association Collaboration

The Manager, along with the MD staff, attended a meeting with the Stampede Association and completed mowing and spraying in the requested areas.

25. Drought Survey Participation

The Manager completed a drought impact survey from the National Agroclimatic Information Service. The survey link has been shared with Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and is being promoted on the MD's Facebook page and website.

26. Ratepayer Concerns

The Manager of Agricultural Services responded to various ratepayer inquiries related to beavers, shelterbelt trees, weed identification and weed issues.

Nasar Iqbal

Manager of Ag Services

MD of Peace No. 135



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August 14, 2025

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – Municipal District of Peace No. 135

Municipal District of Peace No. 135 Council has formally recognized the severity and prolonged nature of this year's drought conditions and, on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, passed a resolution declaring a Municipal Agricultural Disaster.

The widespread drought conditions and heightened pest pressure in the municipality have placed considerable pressure on our livestock and crop producers. Low carryover moisture from the previous year, combined with less than 20 mm of precipitation in April, May, and early June, has significantly reduced hay and pasture yields, as well as crop yields. The extensive grasshopper infestation has further exacerbated the situation. According to the latest Alberta Crop Report for the Peace Region, 78% of hay pasture conditions are rated as poor to fair, and crop conditions are estimated to be at least 30% below normal. These prevailing conditions will contribute to less feed availability, limited livestock weight gains, low yields and quality, and rising costs, placing most producers in a precarious financial situation – even with insurance programs.

We respectfully request that the Municipal District of Peace No. 135 be considered for inclusion in the federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program. We also urge the immediate initiation of the AgriRecovery process and emphasize the need for continued advocacy at the provincial and federal levels to expand access to emergency programs and financial relief tailored to the needs of both livestock and crop producers.

We appreciate your attention and look forward to further programming to alleviate the challenges faced by our producer community.

Sincerely,

Robert Willing
Reeve, Municipal District of Peace No. 135

G.(1)

cc. Honourable Premier Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks
Mr. Arnold Viersen, Member of Parliament, Peace River-Westlock
Agriculture Service Boards of Alberta
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Agricultural Financial Services Corporation



REQUEST FOR DECISION (RFD)

MEETING: Regular Council
MEETING DATE: August 12, 2025
ORIGINATED BY: Nasar Iqbal, Manager of Agricultural Services
TITLE/SUBJECT: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster
AGENDA NO.: H-7

ISSUE

The Municipal District of Peace is experiencing severe and prolonged drought conditions, as well as pest infestations, that are critically affecting livestock and crop producers. Low Carryover moisture from the previous year, combined with less than 20 mm of precipitation in April and May, has significantly reduced hay and pasture yields, as well as crop yields. According to the latest Alberta Crop Report for the Peace Region, 78% of hay and pasture conditions are rated as poor to fair. Crop yields are similarly affected, and a widespread grasshopper infestation has further exacerbated the situation. This Request for Decision seeks Council's approval to formally declare an agricultural disaster in the municipality.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal District of Peace No. 135 is facing significant agricultural challenges stemming from adverse environmental conditions. The 2024 growing season ended with minimal soil moisture reserves, and the spring of 2025 brought limited precipitation, failing to replenish those reserves adequately. As a result, hay and pasture growth have been severely stunted, with many producers reporting yields less than half of normal. According to the Alberta Crop Report for the Peace Region, 78% of hay and pasture conditions are currently rated as poor to fair. Crop yields are following a similar trend, with producers anticipating a 30 percent lower yield than normal across the board. Compounding these issues is a widespread grasshopper infestation that has emerged across the region. These pests are causing extensive damage to forage crops and cereals, further reducing already strained yields. Livestock producers are facing feed shortages and may be forced to reduce herd sizes, while crop producers are incurring additional costs for pest control amid declining revenues. Without timely intervention, the long-term viability of many farms in the municipality is at risk, making a formal agricultural disaster declaration both urgent and necessary.

OPTION 1 –

ADVANTAGES

- ✓ **Access to Support Programs:**
 - Enables producers to apply for provincial and federal disaster relief programs.
 - May trigger eligibility for AgriRecovery, low-interest loans, and feed assistance.
- ✓ **Public Awareness and Advocacy:**
 - Signals the severity of the situation to higher levels of government.
 - Strengthens lobbying efforts for regional aid and policy adjustments.
- ✓ **Municipal Coordination:**
 - Facilitates coordinated response efforts, including emergency planning.
 - Allows for better communication with neighboring municipalities facing similar challenges.

DISADVANTAGES

Not declaring the agricultural disaster may deprive producers of any Provincial and Federal assistance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Presently, there is no financial implication for the municipality.

OPTION 2 –

ADVANTAGES:

DISADVANTAGES:

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

OPTION 3 –

ADVANTAGES

DISADVANTAGES

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

Administration recommends that the Council approve the proposed resolution to declare an agricultural disaster. This action is necessary to advocate for the needs of local producers and to initiate access to critical support mechanisms.

THAT the Council of the Municipal District of Peace No. 135 formally declares an Agricultural Disaster for the 2025 growing season due to:

- Insufficient carryover moisture from 2024,
- Below-average precipitation during the growing season (Surface soil moisture 68 % rated poor to fair)
- Poor hay and pasture conditions as reported by Alberta Agriculture (78% rated poor to fair),
- Widespread grasshopper infestation is impacting forage, crop yields and quality.

AND THAT the Municipality request the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to recognize this declaration and provide appropriate disaster relief and support to affected producers.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT/RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The Municipal District of Peace No. 135's Strategic Plan for 2025–2027 is committed to advancing agricultural diversity and sustainability. Our goal is to position the municipality as a leading provider of innovative services and targeted support for the agricultural sector. Through the formal declaration of agricultural disasters and proactive advocacy for provincial and federal assistance, we aim to strengthen the long-term viability of farming operations and ensure the continued prosperity of our agricultural community.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1) Alberta Crop Report as of July 29, 2025 (3 pages)
- 2) Agricultural Moisture Situation Update July 31, 2025 (4 Pages)

Initials Show Support- Reviewed By:

CAO:

Date:



August 7/25

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of July 29, 2025

Cool temperatures continued for the majority of the province during the past week with additional precipitation mainly falling in the South and Peace regions. With the exception of some significant hail storms, most areas welcomed moisture that continues to improve sub-soil moisture reserves while helping crops meet their yield potential. This week's report includes the initial yield estimates for crops (Table 1). The yield estimates provided this week are expected to change before harvest.

Regional dryland crop yield estimates are mostly above the 5- and 10- year averages in the South and Central regions, while dryland crop yield estimates are near or below the 5- and 10-year averages in the North East, North West and Peace regions. Current yield expectations suggest the areas which received additional moisture through July will have higher than normal yields, offsetting yield losses from areas which expect lower than average production due to drier conditions. Provincially, dryland major crops are expected to produce 13.7 per cent above the 5-year average and 6.2 per cent above the 10-year average, based on the respective yield indexes. Initial provincial major crops irrigated yields, which are only reported for the South and Central regions, are expected to produce 4.2 per cent above the 5-year average and 3.9 per cent above the 10-year average.

Recent cool and wet weather is slowing crop development, with major cereal crops in various stages of milk development, while canola and pulse crops moving from flowering to podding. The dryland 5-year provincial index for major cereal crops is 106.9 per cent for spring wheat, 106.8 per cent for barley, and 88.0 per cent for oats. The yield index for oats is influenced by the higher concentration of provincial oat acres planted in the North East, North West, and Peace regions. The 5-year index for canola is 109.1 per cent with all regions except the Peace expecting yields above the 5-year average. Provincial canola staging is reported as 58 per cent of crop podding and 42 per cent flowering. The dry peas 5-year index is reported as 123.6 per cent, with all regions expecting yields above the 5-year average. Dry peas staging is at 85 per cent of crop podding and 15 per cent flowering.

Table 1: Regional Estimated Dryland Yields and Indexes for Major Crops as of July 29, 2025

	Estimated Dryland Yields (bushels/acre) and Indexes for Major Crops					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	48.2	58.5	43.2	48.8	40.8	48.4
Barley	54.2	79.5	66.4	67.2	51.6	65.2
Oats	69.0	88.9	72.0	70.1	51.4	67.5
Canola	40.7	44.1	39.4	39.4	29.9	38.6
Dry Peas	40.0	54.2	43.1	41.9	39.1	43.7
5-year Yield Index	130.0	133.3	99.9	102.6	94.5	113.7
10-year Yield Index	122.3	121.3	95.3	94.5	89.7	106.2

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincially, 64 per cent of all crops are rated as in good to excellent condition; a decrease of 2 per cent over the past two weeks, but ahead of both the 5-year average of 53 per cent and 10-year average of 57 per cent (See Table 2).

Regionally, crop conditions continue to vary with the percentage of all crops reported as good to excellent (change over two weeks) at 64 (+3) per cent in the South, 93 (+6) per cent in the Central, 59 (-9) per cent in the North East, 70 (-11) per cent in the North West and 22 (-6) per cent in the Peace.

The cool temperatures and excess moisture have also slowed the pace of the first cut of hay. Provincial first cut completion (5-year average) is at 85 (81) per cent for dryland with an average yield of 1.2 (1.4) tons per acre, while irrigated hay first cut is at 82 (90) per cent complete with an average yield of 2.5 (2.3) tons per acre. Second cuts for hay have also begun; however, fewer than average provincial producers indicate they will take a second cut. Second cuts are expected by 46 (48) per cent of dryland hay producers and by 9 (13) per cent of irrigated hay producers.

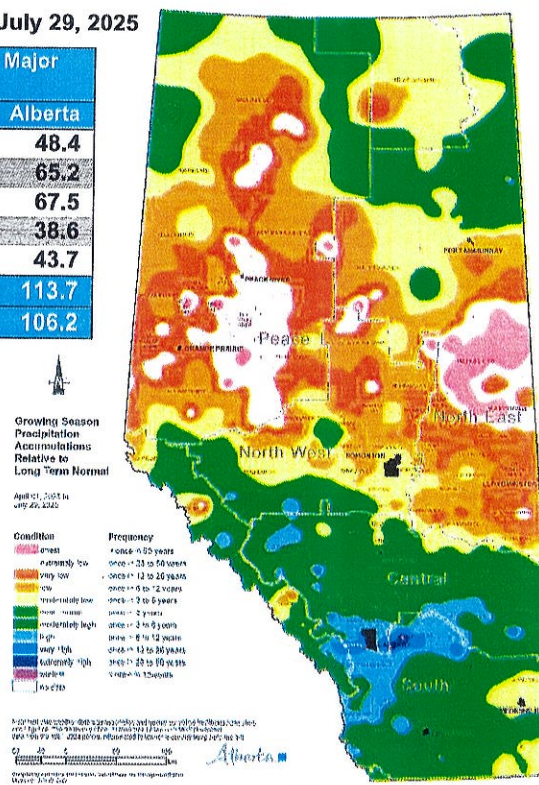


Table 2: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 29, 2025

	Per Cent Rated Good to Excellent Conditions				
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace
Spring Wheat *	65.3%	93.8%	60.4%	66.4%	23.4%
Durum	56.9%	97.6%	-	-	-
Barley *	59.7%	93.5%	61.5%	68.7%	23.1%
Oats *	74.5%	87.5%	60.4%	61.6%	24.1%
Winter Wheat	57.3%	81.0%	45.3%	71.7%	-
Fall Rye	62.5%	72.6%	56.3%	92.7%	-
Canola *	67.1%	90.6%	57.0%	73.4%	20.1%
Dry Peas *	60.0%	95.5%	62.1%	74.4%	26.3%
Mixed Grain	95.0%	85.2%	58.3%	79.6%	-
Lentils	60.4%	95.7%	-	-	-
Chickpeas	51.7%	100.0%	-	-	-
Mustard	65.8%	100.0%	-	-	-
Flax	76.9%	-	95.0%	-	-
Potatoes	95.0%	99.2%	-	94.7%	-
Major Crops (*), July 29	63.6%	92.7%	59.2%	69.7%	22.1%
All Crops, July 29	63.3%	92.9%	59.3%	69.8%	22.1%
5-years (2020-2024) Avg	53.2%	80.5%	59.9%	42.7%	51.5%
10-years (2015-2024) Avg	51.3%	55.4%	67.3%	50.8%	57.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Notable rains fell in areas of the South and Peace regions over the past week, improving soil moisture conditions in those regions. Provincial surface moisture is rated 60 per cent good to excellent, a 3 per cent increase from last week, which is above the 5-year average of 48 per cent (Table 3). Regional surface moisture rated as good to excellent (change from last week) is at 64 (+14) per cent for the South, 87 (-1) per cent for the Central, 37 (-10) per cent for the North East, 39 (-4) per cent for the North West, and 32 (+10) per cent for the Peace.

Provincial sub-surface moisture is rated at 51 per cent good to excellent, due to a 3 per cent increase over last week, which is above the 5-year average of 45 per cent. Regionally, sub-surface soil moisture rated as good to excellent (change from last week) is 43 (+8) in South, 84 (+4) in Central, 35 (-6) in North East, 29 (-5) in North West and 35 (+8) in Peace Region.

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of July 29, 2025

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	6.1%	27.6%	41.7%	22.5%	2.1%
Central	1.4%	9.8%	62.7%	24.2%	1.9%
North East	18.3%	44.3%	35.5%	1.9%	0.0%
North West	19.2%	41.7%	36.6%	2.6%	0.0%
Peace	16.5%	51.5%	29.8%	2.4%	0.0%
Alberta	9.5%	29.7%	44.7%	14.9%	1.2%
5-year (2020-2024) Avg	23.3%	25.7%	36.1%	12.2%	2.6%
10-year (2015-2024) Avg	20.0%	25.3%	36.6%	14.8%	3.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture and tame hay provincial conditions held relatively steady this week, mainly due to improving conditions in the South and Peace regions. Provincial pasture growth conditions are reported at 53 per cent good to excellent, while provincial tame hay conditions are at 43 per cent good to excellent. Both pasture and tame hay conditions improved 1 per cent over last week.

Table 4: Tame Hay Growth Conditions as of July 29, 2025

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	24.7%	34.1%	38.4%	2.7%
Central	5.0%	24.2%	58.0%	12.9%
North East	27.1%	49.8%	22.8%	0.3%
North West	14.3%	42.0%	41.3%	2.3%
Peace	24.8%	53.3%	21.4%	0.5%
Alberta	17.9%	39.0%	38.6%	4.5%
5-year (2020-2024) Avg	23.4%	28.0%	38.2%	10.3%
10-year (2015-2024) Avg	21.3%	27.6%	39.0%	12.0%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Additional early estimated dryland yields are 38 bushels per acre for durum wheat, 22 bushels per acre for lentils, 21 bushels per acre for chickpeas, and 27 bushels per acre for mustard.
- Dryland first cut hay is 87 per cent complete, with an average yield of 1.0 ton per acre. Irrigated first cut hay is 82 per cent complete, yielding 2.5 tons per acre. The second cut of irrigated hay is 7 per cent complete, with an average yield of 2.1 tons per acre.
- Soil sub-surface moisture is above 5-year averages with a reported 17 per cent as poor, 40 per cent as fair, 37 per cent as good, 6 per cent as excellent and 0 per cent as excessive.
- Gopher activity over threshold (gopher hills present in fields) is reported in 4 per cent of fields.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- In the Central Region, early estimated yields are 61 bushels per acre for durum wheat, and 54 bushels per acre for lentils.
- Dryland first cut hay is 74 per cent complete, yielding 1.7 tons per acre. Producers able to take a second cut are 4 per cent complete, with an average yield of 1.5 ton per acre.
- Sub-surface moisture continued to improve this week, now rated as 2 per cent poor, 13 per cent fair, 71 per cent good, 14 per cent excellent and 1 per cent excessive.
- Gopher activity over threshold (gopher hills present in fields) is reported in 4 per cent of fields.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- First cut dryland hay is reported as 76 per cent complete with a 1.0 tons per acre yield. Producers taking a second cut are 1 per cent complete, with a yield of 1.5 ton per acre.
- Limited recent rainfall is resulting in declining sub-surface moisture, now at 20 per cent poor, 45 per cent fair, 34 per cent good, 0 per cent excellent and 0 per cent excessive.
- Gopher activity over threshold (gopher hills present in fields) is reported in 1 per cent of fields.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- First cut dryland hay is reported as 98 per cent complete with a 1.2 ton per acre yield. Second cut dryland hay is 1 per cent complete with a yield of 1.3 tons per acre.
- Limited showers over the past week caused sub-surface moisture to decline, now at 34 per cent poor, 37 per cent fair, 28 per cent good, 1 per cent excellent and 0 per cent excessive.
- Gopher activity over threshold (gopher hills present in fields) is reported in 8 per cent of fields.

Region Five: Peace (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- In the Peace Region, dryland hay first cut is 94 per cent complete with a yield of 1.2 tons per acre. Producers are not expected to take a second cut this year.
- Rain this week helped improve regional sub-surface moisture to 12 per cent poor, 54 per cent fair, 32 per cent good, 3 per cent excellent and 0 per cent excessive.
- Grasshopper activity over threshold (+15 per square meter) is reported in 6 per cent of fields.

Contact

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Product Innovation Department
Insurance Products and Product Innovation Unit

Geoff Backman - Product Coordinator
Manglai - Product Coordinator
Email: mediainquiry@afsc.ca

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and the Government of Alberta. Percentage totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

July 31, 2025

7-Day Synopsis

Precipitation

Rainfall during the past week (July 24 to 30) was more widespread than in previous weeks (**Map 1**). Significant precipitation was once again recorded along the mountains and foothills, as well as across much of the South, Central and North West Regions.

Municipalities around Calgary, including Rocky View, Wheatland, Vulcan and Foothills, received between 15 to 50 mm of precipitation over the past 7-days (**Map 1**). Across the South Region, from the Mountains to the Saskatchewan border, rainfall ranged from 5 to 25 mm. The precipitation will be a welcome relief in parts of Forty Mile and Cypress Counties, which have been experiencing dry conditions. Rainfall was more sporadic along the southern portion of the South Region, including the municipalities of Pincher Creek, Carston and Warner and the south west portion of Forty Mile. This area received rainfall amounts more typical for this time of year, with totals under 5 mm (**Map 2**).

West of Red Deer County, municipalities received 5 to 50 mm of rainfall (**Map 1**). However, areas from Red Deer County eastward to the Saskatchewan border saw less than 5 mm, a marked decrease compared to previous weeks.

In contrast to previous weeks, parts of the North East, North West and the northern Peace Region (north of the M.D. of Peace River) received moisture. The North East and North West Regions received 5 to 20 mm of precipitation (**Map 1**). The northern Peace Region received 5 to 50 mm, more typical for this time of year (**Map 2**). The moisture will help sustain current crop growth and yield, offering much needed relief from the dry conditions experienced throughout much of the season.

A band across the southern Peace Region, through the North West and North East Regions received less than 5 mm rainfall, which is well below the normal 25 to 50 mm typically expected in late July (**Map 2**). Continued low rainfall is adding stress to crops across this area.

Temperature

Over the past seven days (July 24 to 30), average daily mean temperatures across most of the province were near normal to moderately cooler than the long-term normal (**Map 3**). Cooler conditions help reduce crop water demand, which in turn eases moisture stress in areas where rainfall has been limited.

Growing Season Trends

Growing season precipitation accumulations continue to trend near normal in parts of the South, Central and North West Regions (**Map 4**). Within these areas, some pockets have received moderately higher to higher precipitation accumulation relative to long-term normal.

Recent rainfall has improved the growing season precipitation accumulation relative to long-term normal in parts of Forty Mile and Cypress Counties. However, several areas, with in these Counties, continue to experience moderately low to low precipitation levels for the season, with cumulative precipitation ranging from 50% to 90% of the long-term average (**Map 5**).

Rainfall over the past week did not significantly alter the growing season precipitation accumulation trends across the North East, North West or Peace Regions. In the North East Region, growing season precipitation accumulation remains low to very low, with current totals at approximately 50% to 70% of the long-term normal (**Map 4 and 5**). Notably, Lac La Biche County and parts of the M.D. of Bonnyville are experiencing extremely low accumulations, with totals just 30% to 50% of long-term normal.

In the northern half of the North West Region precipitation accumulation remain moderately low to low relative to long-term normal (**Map 4**). Further north and west, into the Peace Region, the growing season precipitation accumulation ranges from low to extremely low, equivalent to 30 to 70% of the long-term normal.

These ongoing dry conditions continue to strain crop development. Additional moisture will be needed to support crop growth and maintain yield potential through the remainder of the season.

Soil Moisture Reserves

Historically, by this point in the growing season, soil moisture reserves have typically passed their peak as crop water use reaches its highest levels. As crop demand begins to exceed rainfall, soil moisture enters a depletion phase.

However, this year marks a departure from historical trends. Due to above-normal July rainfall and cooler-than-average temperatures, soil moisture reserves in the Central and South Regions are estimated to be normal to very high relative to the long-term normal, to a depth of 120 cm (**Map 6**). Notably, localized areas in the municipalities of Ranchland, Foothills, Rocky View and Wheatland, show extremely high soil moisture reserves relative to long-term normal. In these regions, plant-available water is estimated to range from 60 to 180 mm to a depth of 120 cm (**Map 7**).

In contrast, areas north of a line running from the M.D. of Provost westward to Red Deer County and northward to Parkland and Yellowhead Counties are estimated to have moderately low to extremely low soil moisture reserves relative to long-term normal (**Map 6**). This includes large portions of the North East, North West and Peace Regions, which are currently experiencing the lowest soil moisture levels relative to long-term normal. In these areas, plant-available water, to a depth of 120 cm, is estimated to be below 60 mm (**Map 7**). Timely rainfall across these areas will be essential to meet crop moisture needs and mitigate further stress as the season progresses.

Perspective

Most of the South Region and parts of the Central Region continue to experience normal to above-normal precipitation, coupled with normal to cooler than average temperatures. These conditions are expected to have a very positive impact on crop growth and yield potential. However, exception remain in portions of Cypress and Forty Mile Counties, where growing season precipitation accumulations are still moderately lower to lower than normal.

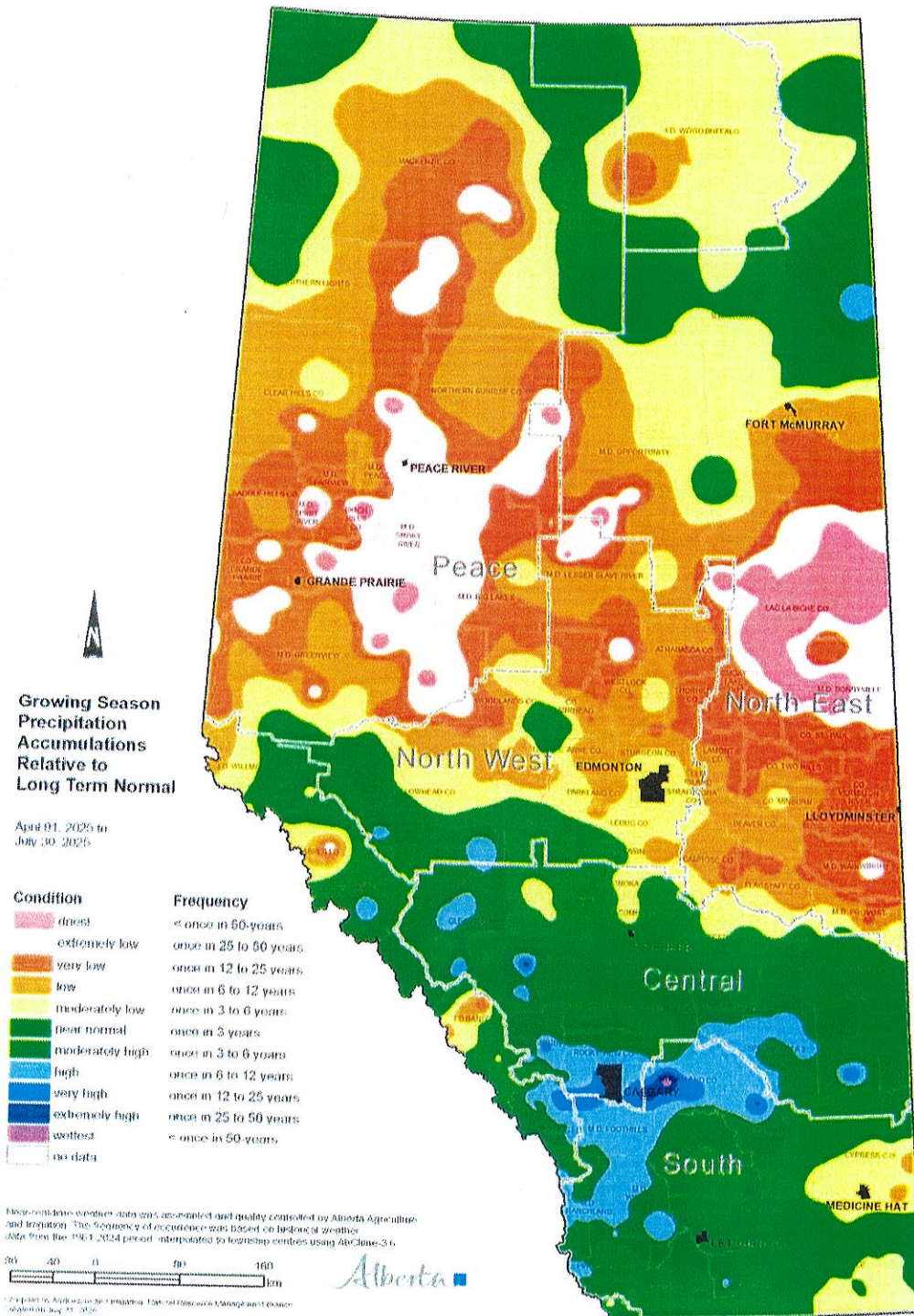
Although delayed compared to typical patterns, rainfall did occur across areas north of the Trans-Canada Highway. However, the recent moisture did not change the overall growing season precipitation accumulations to date.

As of July 30, areas south of a line between the M.D.s of Provost through Brazeau County and into Yellowhead County have received near-normal to above-normal growing season precipitation. In contrast, municipalities north of this line are experiencing moderately to extremely low seasonal

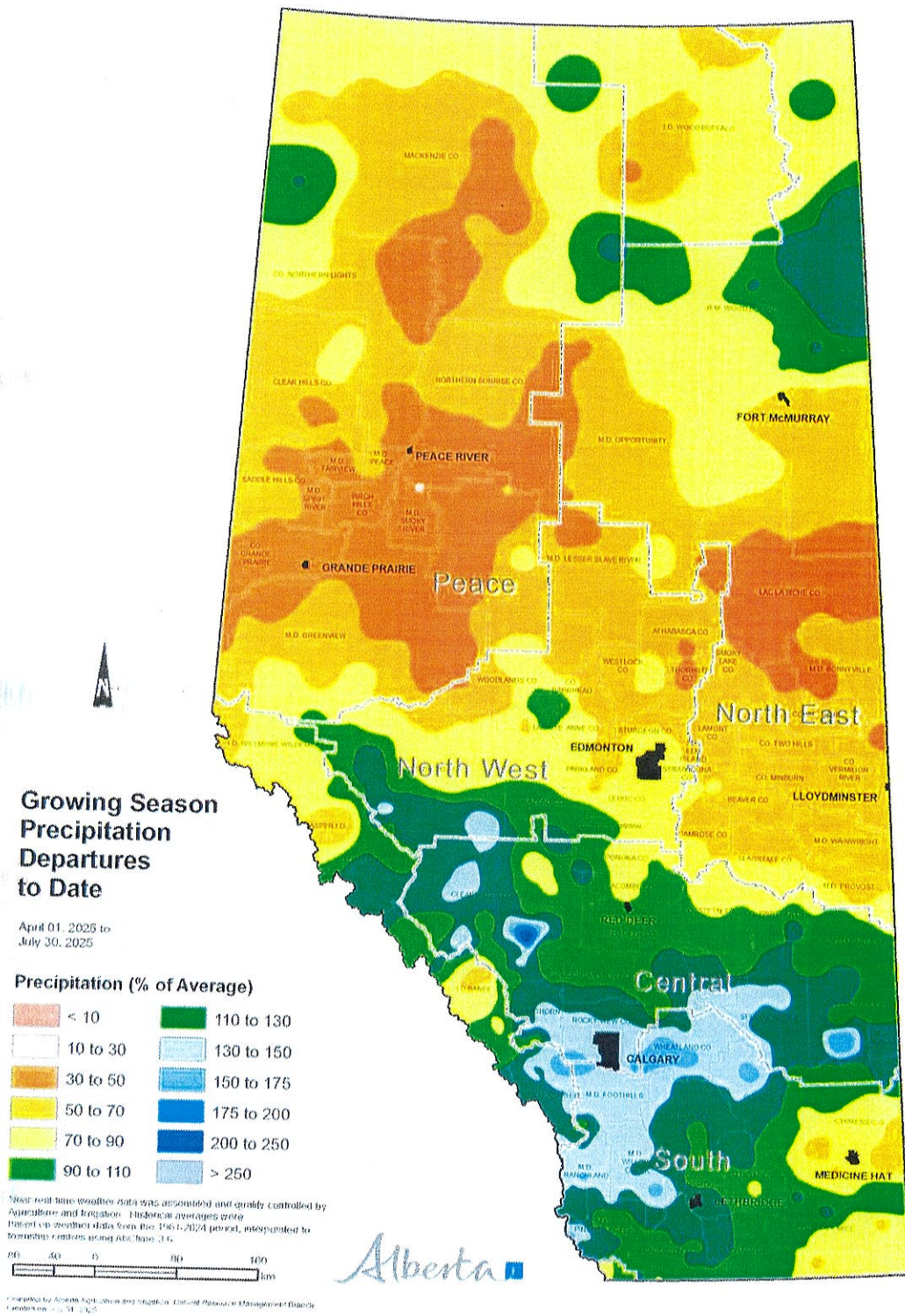
precipitation accumulations relative to the long-term normal.

While this past week's precipitation provided some relieve across the Peace, North West and North East Regions, continued and timely precipitation will be essential to support crops through to harvest.

Map 4



Map 5





P.O. Box 34
5240 - 52nd Ave
BERWYN, AB
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Phone: (780) 338-3845
Fax: (780) 338-2222
Email: info@mdpeace.com

May 13, 2025

To: Hon. RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Hon. Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Hon. Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks

Subject: Urgent Need for a Multi-Faceted Strategy to Address Alberta's Rural Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage

Dear Minister Sigurdson, Minister Williams, and Minister Loewen,

On behalf of the Municipal District of Peace, I am writing to address the urgent and critical shortage of **large animal veterinarians** in rural Alberta. Veterinarians are essential to rural life, not only for the health and welfare of animals but also for our agri-food economy, public safety, and the viability of our communities. Unfortunately, access to large animal care has reached a crisis point in rural Alberta.

We strongly urge the Government of Alberta to adopt a multi-faceted approach that includes the following measures:

1. Establish Rural-Focused Seats at UCVM

- There is **no rural admission stream** at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), despite clear evidence that rural-origin students are more likely to return home to practice.
- Dedicated rural seats or targeted admission preferences must be created for large animal veterinary students.

2. Incentivize Rural Large Animal Practice

- Provide loan forgiveness, relocation grants, and tax incentives for large animal veterinarians who choose to practice in rural or remote regions.
- Explore operational supports such as subsidized housing or mobile practice assistance to reduce barriers to rural entry.

3. Fast-Track Internationally Trained Veterinarians

- Streamline certification pathways for qualified international veterinarians and explore supervised licensing models focused on large animal care.

4. Expand Veterinary Education with a Rural Large Animal Focus

- Increase placements in rural clinics and ensure veterinary students receive hands-on large animal training in remote regions.



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- Offer scholarships and mentorship programs for students committed to rural large animal practice.

5. Support and Expand Tele-Veterinary Services

- Strengthen producer tele-veterinary services by supporting digital infrastructure and allowing Registered Veterinary Technologists (RVTs) to assist under virtual supervision.

6. Launch a Rural Recruitment and Awareness Campaign

- Promote large animal veterinary opportunities in rural Alberta, highlighting the lifestyle, importance, and rewards of rural practice.
- Connect students early with rural communities and veterinary mentors.

7. Establish a Provincial Veterinary Task Force

- A government-led task force should be created to tackle Alberta's rural veterinary crisis, focusing on large animal care.
- It must include veterinarians, agricultural leaders, educators, and municipal representatives.

8. Create a Rural Animal Health Emergency Fund

- Establish funding to assist municipalities during vet shortages or animal health emergencies, especially for large animals.

We also encourage the province to look to the past for successful solutions. Fifty years ago, Alberta invested in rural veterinary clinics and paid salaries to attract large animal vets to underserved areas, while also allowing them to generate private income. This program worked, and it's time we consider a modern version of this approach for today's rural reality.

We are prepared to work alongside your offices to support these initiatives. The shortage of large animal vets in Alberta's rural municipalities is no longer a looming concern—it is a **current crisis**. Without immediate and strategic intervention, Alberta's future livestock production, food security, and animal welfare will remain at serious risk.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to rural Alberta. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss next steps.

Sincerely,
Sandra Eastman

Chairperson, Agriculture Service Board
Municipal District of Peace No. 135

Nasar Iqbal

From: AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Admin Assistant; Nasar Iqbal
Cc: JETI Minister; AE Minister; FP Minister; Peace River
Subject: RE: Urgent Need for a Multi-Faceted Strategy to Address Alberta's Rural Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage

Dear Sandra Eastman:

Thank you for your letter to my Government of Alberta colleagues and me, regarding the shortage of large animal veterinarians in rural Alberta. As Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, I am pleased to respond.

Our government has taken a comprehensive, whole of government approach to addressing the issue of veterinary capacity, involving multiple ministries and a wide range of strategies and tactics. Budget 2022 committed \$67.4 million over three years to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). This funding expanded student enrolment and supported the construction of new infrastructure, allowing the program to double its class size from 50 to 100 students. The first class of 100 students will be starting this fall.

My ministry is actively involved in strategic guidance at the UCVM. Our Chief Provincial Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Lehman, serves on UCVM's Strategic Advisory Committee, which is composed of veterinarians, livestock industry representatives and the UCVM. Through this committee, we have provided input on issues that affect veterinary capacity, particularly in rural and remote areas. Revisions to the faculty's admissions process are one key outcome of this committee.

The revised admissions process places greater emphasis on the candidate's interests, hobbies, background and other subjective factors, whereas the previous approach emphasized academic performance. It is interesting to note that since the UCVM opened, acceptance rates for students who are considered "rural applicants" have always been proportionately high. This reinforces that designated seats are not the easy solution.

The UCVM continually explores ways to enhance its curriculum, including consideration to move to more streamlined training focused on specific areas of practice, sometimes referred to as micro-credentialing rather than training across all species. Additionally, the UCVM has also developed a proposal for a bridging program to assist foreign trained graduates adapt to local production practices and standards.

To assist future veterinarians build their careers in northern Alberta, the Government of Alberta's [Northern Alberta Development Bursary Program](#) includes a veterinary student bursary. This program provides \$7,000 to \$14,000 per student per year in exchange for returning to work in northern Alberta after graduation.

Additionally, in 2023, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) received \$223,000 from the Government of Alberta to initiate a project to attract internationally trained veterinarians. The ABVMA continues to make amendments to licensing options for foreign trained veterinarians, allowing those veterinarians to better fit into Alberta practices while working through their certification process. The ABVMA is also advocating for additional capacity in and amendments to the national examination.

Dr. Lehman represents government through an ex-officio position on the ABVMA Council where regulatory and policy decisions affecting the practice of veterinary medicine are made. Through this work, the ABVMA has taken several steps toward allowing the greater use of registered veterinary technologists and tele-medicine.

It is also important to note that Alberta's government is investing in the UCV's diagnostic services, too, to support our rural, food animal veterinary practitioners. Our commitment started in 2019 and continues with the May 2025 announcement of \$9.5 million over the next three years. This diagnostic service will allow veterinarians to make confident decisions on diagnosis and treatment plans for the producers they serve.

I appreciate the suggestions you provided in your letter. My ministry is investigating program options under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to further address or support some of these ideas. It is important we work together on this issue and recognize municipalities have an important role to play in attracting veterinary professionals to their regions, supporting them to improve retention, and ensuring that the industry in their region supports their local veterinary practice to maximize its viability.

Thank you again for writing to advocate for the livestock industry and rural communities.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR87647

Classification: Protected A

From: Nasar Iqbal <agfieldman@mdpeace.com>

Sent: May 13, 2025 11:07 AM

To: AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>; Minister of Mental Health and Addiction <MHA.Minister@gov.ab.ca>; FP Minister <FP.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Subject: Urgent Need for a Multi-Faceted Strategy to Address Alberta's Rural Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage

CAUTION: This email has been sent from an external source. Treat hyperlinks and attachments in this email with care.

Dear Minister Sigurdson, Minister Williams, and Minister Loewen,
I am forwarding a letter from the Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board for the Municipal District of Peace No. 135, highlighting the pressing need for a comprehensive strategy to address Alberta's rural large animal veterinarian shortage. Given the significant impact on agricultural operations and animal welfare, your prompt attention is greatly appreciated.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Nasar Iqbal, Ph.D., P.Ag.
Manager of Ag Services
Municipal District of Peace No. 135
P.O Box 34, 5240 – 52 Avenue
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Tree Canada

Supporting community planting for long-term benefits

Since 1992, Tree Canada has greened more than 730 municipalities, Indigenous communities and business improvement areas.

Eligible projects receive funding up to \$10,000 to cover the cost of purchasing and planting trees and shrubs, site preparation, tree maintenance, planting materials and developing education materials.

We accept a wide range of project proposals such as heat island mitigation projects, biodiversity corridors, stormwater retention, invasive species control, riparian planting, park and street tree plantings, and more.

Benefits of Green Communities Urban forests help address the challenges brought on by climate change. For more benefits of urban forests, visit our [Compendium of Best Urban](#)

Forest Management Practices.



Improved Health

Promotes mental well-being and reduces stress, heart rate and blood pressure.



Cooler Cities

Reduces the urban heat island effect by lowering temperatures in cities.



Economic Benefits

Helps create attractive business districts and improve visitors' perceptions of them.



How It Works

After a project is selected to receive funding, Tree Canada is in touch to confirm details and pair you with a technical expert located nearby. This Forestry Specialists provide guidance, support and recommendations to help ensure the success of our projects.

All grant applicants are also invited to participate in a series of free webinars in April to guide them in selecting and preparing their planting site, choosing the appropriate species, and how to think about long-term care and maintenance.

Application Period

Grant applications are accepted from October to early December the year before project implementation. We inform applicants by the following March if their project has received a grant or not, and most projects are expected to be completed that same year.

Eligibility

Tree Canada supports greening projects wherever people live, work or play. Tremendous Communities funding is available to Canadian municipalities, Indigenous communities, business improvement associations, non-profit organisations and community groups.

Amount

Up to \$10,000 per project



Applications

Applications for the *Treemendous Communities* program is currently closed.

For further questions about the grant, please email the [Treemendous Communities Program Manager](#)

4.14 GENERAL PROVISIONS – MUNICIPALLY CONTROLLED ROADS (RURAL ROADS)

- (1) On a parcel of land located at the intersection of two rural roads, no Development shall be permitted within the area illustrated in Explanation Notes: *Intersection and Setbacks for Rural Roads*.
- (2) On a parcel of land located in the inside curve of a rural road, no Development shall be permitted within the areas illustrated in Explanation Notes: *Setbacks for Road Curves and Corners for Rural Roads*.

4.15 GENERAL PROVISIONS – PROVINCIALY CONTROLLED HIGHWAYS

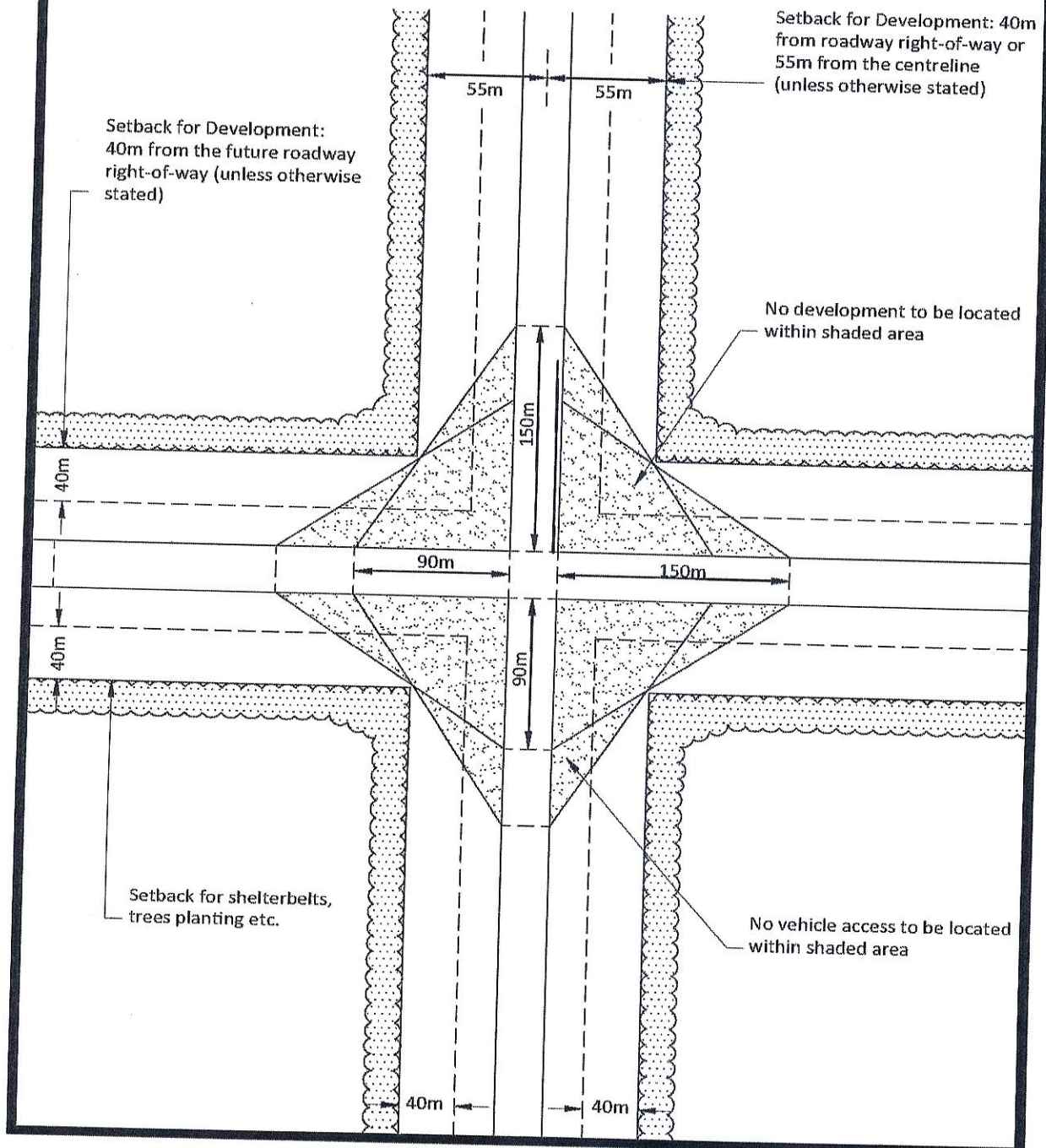
- (1) All development and all planting of trees along provincially controlled highways are subject to the approval of Alberta Transportation. Therefore, all proponents of a development or a tree planting project along a provincially controlled highway are required to discuss their proposed project with Alberta Transportation at the very early stages of the project design process.
 - (a) The Development Officer may prescribe or approve the screening of uses which involve the outdoor storage of goods, machinery, vehicles, building materials, "waste" materials or other similar uses;
 - (b) Notwithstanding Highway Development Control Regulations, which apply to provincially controlled highways, this Bylaw may establish a higher standard than Alberta Transportation for development adjacent to highways and intersections.

4.16 GENERAL PROVISIONS – RECREATIONAL USES

- (1) When deciding upon a Development Permit Application for a recreational use in any land use district, the Development Officer shall consider the following:
 - (a) Special Requirements:
 - (i) The recreational development shall be architecturally designed to be compatible with the surrounding area, and
 - (ii) A recreation centre or lodge may have accessory buildings available for the lodging of its patrons. In no way shall a recreation centre or lodge be organized to provide any form of permanent habitation of the rooms by its patrons;
 - (b) Noise Attenuation:
 - (i) Where the development will generate significant noise, the developer shall take steps to reduce the level of noise and its impact on existing and/or future development in the area to the satisfaction of the Development Officer; and

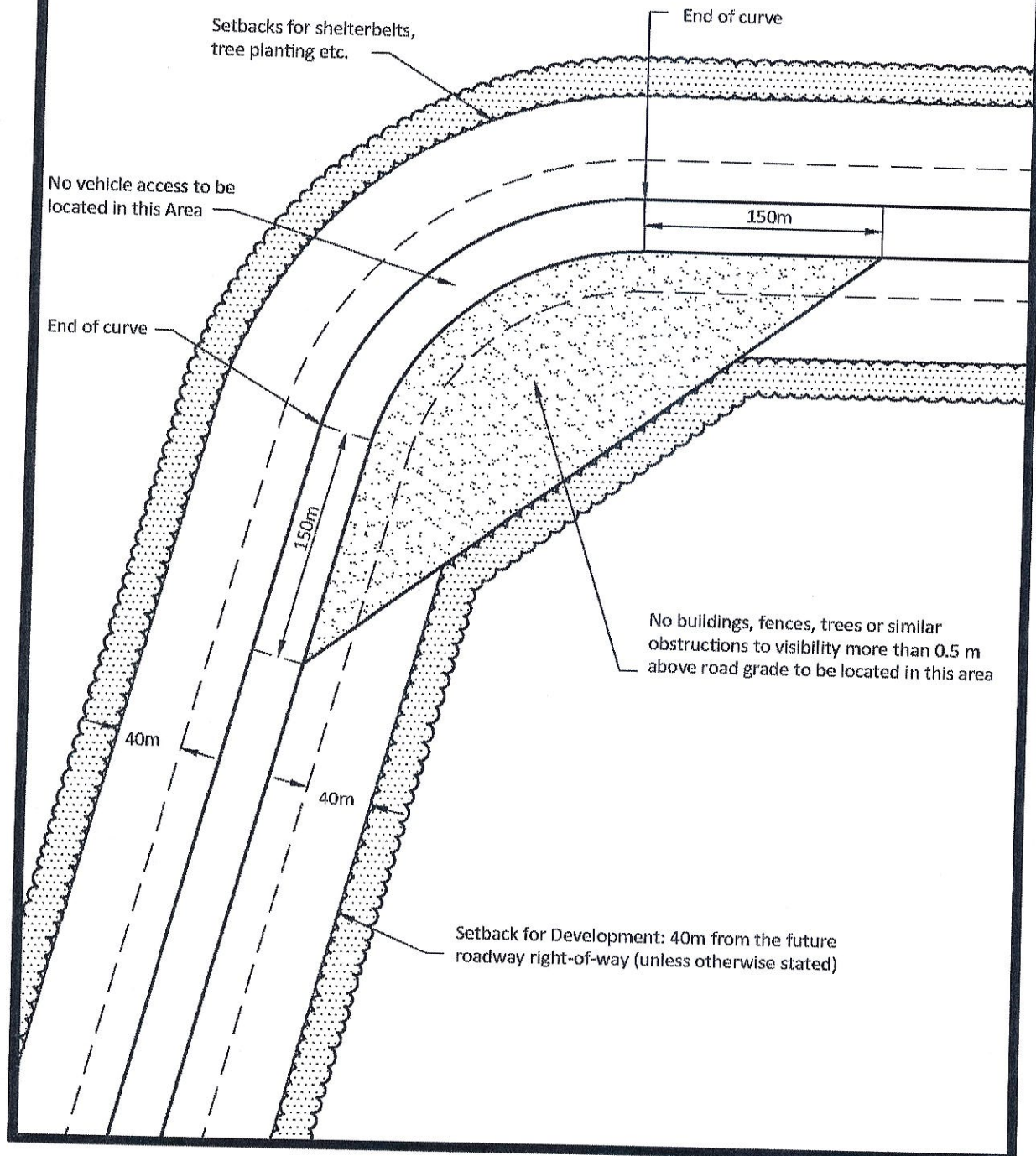
EXPLANATION NOTES

Intersection and Setbacks for Rural Roads



EXPLANATION NOTES

Setbacks for Road Curves and Corners for Rural Roads



While some timely rains and good farming practices have made our Wheat and Barley crop just slightly below average relative to normal, high temperatures and overall lack of moisture from the beginning of May have made these crops much less than what they could be. While it's still early in the season, a significant percentage of our (early seeded) barley crop has headed out, with the possibility of just an average amount of silage shrinking every day for these crops, even with rain. They might still produce an average amount of bushels but with noticeably uneven growth stages within fields this is increasingly unlikely. A looming lack of local feed makes this important.

What has been consistently poor and getting worse in ratings has been hay, pasture and range conditions. With a very low snowpack, early thaw, low spring rainfall overall, the result has been poor quality and quantity of vegetation on these areas. The MD operates dams from the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PRFA) era. The water levels in these dams are far below normal due to a very limited snowpack and run-off. Feed availability will be low, and some will either sell animals or pull animals off summer pasture and start feeding on what are limited supplies of hay earlier than usual. Low moisture has also impacted availability of livestock watering options for many, with hauled water being the only option in some cases.

We realize that while this declaration does not trigger increased access to funding, it is meant to provide an indication of the severity of the situation facing the MD cattle producers.

We appreciate your attention to this situation and the impact it has on our local agricultural community and the greater agricultural economy of Alberta.

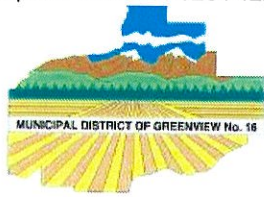
Yours truly,



Rick Lemire
Reeve, MD of Pincher Creek No.9

cc:

Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Hon. Chelsae Petrovic, MLA Livingstone-McLeod
Hon. John Barlow, MP Foothills
Kara Westerland, RMA President
Agricultural Financial Services Corporation
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen



Municipal District of **GREENVIEW**

July 8, 2025

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Attention: Honourable RJ Sigurdson

RE: GREENVIEW DECLARES A MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER FOR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

The Municipal District of Greenview has declared an Agricultural Disaster specific to the livestock sector in response to worsening drought conditions. The ongoing lack of precipitation over the past year, compounded by minimal spring runoff, has left pastures and hay lands severely depleted. These lands have shown no significant recovery due to continued drought conditions. In addition, grasshopper infestations have exceeded action thresholds across the region, further damaging what limited forage had managed to grow.

While annual crop failure has not occurred and Greenview is not declaring a disaster for annual cropping at this time, the sustained moisture deficiency during critical stages such as stem elongation is expected to impact grain yield and quality. Many producers are anticipating below-average outcomes. Council remains cautiously optimistic, but a final determination on annual crop conditions will be made later in the season.

These challenges come at a particularly vulnerable time for the livestock industry. Council is increasingly concerned about the mental health impacts on producers as they navigate difficult decisions regarding their operations. Some have begun tilling under hay land in the hope of producing green feed later in the season, while others are considering early herd liquidation and have begun contacting auction markets in anticipation.

According to the July 4, 2025, Provincial Crop Report (reflecting conditions as of June 30, 2025), only 21% of hay and pasture land in the Peace Region is rated as "good" to "excellent," with 79.1% rated as "poor" to "fair"—a 39% increase over the five-year average. While provincial assessments noted no pests exceeding thresholds in the region, both our producers and

I.(2)

36

municipal staff have reported significant grasshopper pressures, as reflected in Greenview's submissions to Agriculture and Irrigation for recent crop reporting periods.

Given these conditions, we strongly urge the Ministry to include Greenview in the regions eligible for the federal Livestock Tax Deferral program. We also respectfully request that the Ministry advocate to the federal government on behalf of impacted livestock producers to ensure they receive the necessary support during this critical time.

Respectfully,



Tyler Olsen, Reeve

Municipal District of Greenview No. 16

cc: Honourable Premier Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks
Honourable Martin Long, Minister of Infrastructure
Mr. Nolan Dyck, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Grande Prairie
Mr. Ron Weibe, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Grande Prairie - Wapiti
Mr. Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament, Grande Prairie - Mackenzie
Mr. William Stevenson, Member of Parliament, Yellowhead
Mr. Arnold Viersen, Member of Parliament, Peace - Westlock
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation



COUNTY OF Northern Lights

#600, 7th Ave NW, PO Box 10, Manning AB T0H 2M0
Phone 780-836-3348 Fax 780-836-3663
Toll Free 1-888-525-3481

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

July 24, 2025

Attention: Honourable RJ Sigurdson

Re: County of Northern Lights Declares an Agricultural Disaster

The County of Northern Lights is experiencing worsening drought conditions starting last summer resulting in increasing pest pressure and poor pasture, hay, and silage yields. The resulting drought stress will lead to feed shortages and destocking. The sporadic and lack of rainfall has severely limited yield potential of all crops in most areas; the forecast moving forward will not offer any relief.

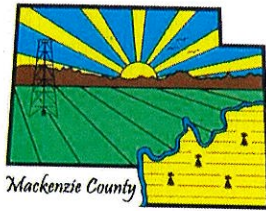
Drought conditions and pest pressure have weakened uneven crops; yield and quality reductions will be the norm for most crops. Hot and dry conditions have been persistent through the flowering, filling and podding stages. The Provincial Crop Report for the Peace Region has Tame Hay and Pasture Conditions rated at 80.6% as poor to fair. Current Crop Condition aren't much better, being rated at 72.4% poor to fair for all major crops. These conditions will contribute to the lack of feed and destocking we are bringing awareness too. Low yields, limited gains on livestock and rising costs will put most producers in an out-of-pocket loss this year, even with insurance programs.

At this time, the County of Northern Lights would request the Minister work with the Federal Government to release the prescribed regions early and be added to the 2025 Livestock Tax Deferral Provision as a prescribed region. We believe being added to the list early will help producers plan for winter and possibly offer some mental relief. We would humbly request the Minister engage with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to retroactively increase the Low Yield Allowance in affected areas to allow more crops to be converted to feed. Lastly, if the drought affected areas continue to grow, we would hope AgriRecovery will be initiated and a disaster package developed.

We look forward to updates on further programing and understand we aren't alone in facing these challenging circumstances.

Sincerely,

Terry Ungarian
Reeve
County of Northern Lights



Mackenzie County

P.O. Box 640, 4511-46 Avenue, Fort Vermilion, AB T0H 1N0
P: (780) 927-3718 Toll Free: 1-877-927-0677 F: (780) 927-4266
www.mackenziecounty.com
office@mackenziecounty.com

July 25, 2025

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson, M.L.A.
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Members of Executive Council
Executive Branch
131 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Email: AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister:

RE: MUNICIPAL DECLARATION OF AGRICULTURAL DISASTER

This letter is to officially inform you that Mackenzie County has declared an Agricultural Disaster following the motion carried at the July 24, 2025 Special Council Meeting.

Mackenzie County has experienced extended periods of dry weather and insufficient rainfall over the past several years and the situation has further deteriorated in 2025. As of July 23, 2025, data from Alberta Climate Information Service (ACIS) indicates that Mackenzie County has an accumulated an average of 30 mm precipitation, which is 120 mm below the 30-year average.

As a result, all cereal crops, canola, legumes and hay fields are far below adequate production levels. Pastures are being depleted as there is very little forage regrowth and cattle are estimated to be pulled from the Provincial Grazing Reserve 40 days earlier than expected due to lack of forage. In addition to drought, an influx of grasshoppers is further destroying fields. Livestock producers will be forced to source feed from outside the region at an unprecedented price per bale excluding the added cost of trucking.

In response to this disaster, Mackenzie County respectfully requests that the Government of Alberta aid agricultural producers by granting the opportunity to access Crown lands for additional feed/grazing that would give some relief to our local producers as their grazing season has being cut short. Tax deferrals,

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson, M.L.A
Page 2
July 25, 2025

payment deferrals and freight subsidies would also alleviate the devastating financial effects that this drought has caused.

Mackenzie County agricultural producers are experiencing severe difficulties with their ability to maintain crops, and any assistance that the province can provide will be greatly appreciated.

We would be pleased to meet with you or your staff to further discuss this issue. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 780-926-7405 or our Chief Administrative Officer, Darrell Derksen at 780-927-3718 or by email cao@mackenziecounty.com.

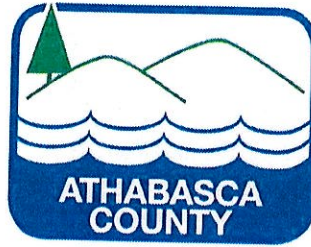
Yours truly,



Joshua Knelsen
Reeve
Mackenzie County

- c: Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Hon. Todd Lowen, Minister of Forestry and Parks
Hon. Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Hon. Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Hon. Martin Long, Minister of Infrastructure
Hon. Dan Williams, MLA Peace River
Kara Westerland, RMA President
Agricultural Financial Services Corporation
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman
Mackenzie County Council

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3602-48 Avenue
ATHABASCA, ALBERTA
T9S 1M8

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

August 6, 2025

Attention: Honourable RJ Sigurdson

RE: Athabasca County Declares a Municipal Agricultural Disaster

Athabasca County is declaring a Municipal Agricultural Disaster due to drought conditions that are affecting our region.

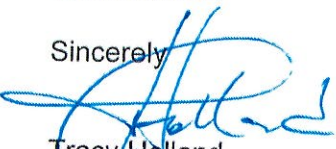
Our growing season precipitation accumulation relative to long term normal is rated as low (6-12 years) to driest (once in 50 years) in portions of the County. Most of the rain we have received was earlier in the growing season, with sporadic rain events in July. Our soil moisture reserves are heavily depleted at very low (12 to 25 years) to driest (once in 50 years) causing hayfields and pasture production to decline which may cause producers to need to start feeding sooner in the year. Field crops are in the filling and podding stage and with little to no rain, that will harm this critical stage of growth. There are also pest level concentrations of grasshoppers found throughout the County which are consuming whatever forage is available.

There is a concern for the livestock industry, primarily for feed availability throughout the fall and winter months. Hay crops have been low yielding and second cuts are not likely due to poor condition. Additionally pastures are decreasing in quality which will require producers to feed earlier. These compounding factors along with the increased grasshopper pressure could lead to herd dispersals and increased feed costs for producers.

We encourage the Minister to include Athabasca County in the federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program eligibility and to advocate for support during this stressful time. Mental health programming is important and we are going to be encouraging producers to seek help through the Agknow program if they require it. We join other municipalities in the area in declaring an Agricultural Disaster, and hope the provincial and federal governments can make coordinated approach to support the ag industry in the County.

We appreciate your attention and thank you for your support of Albertas Agricultural Communities.

Sincerely,


Tracy Holland
Reeve, Athabasca County

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Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2221

Fax: (780) 837-2453

August 6, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6
AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Honourable Minister Sigurdson;
RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – Drought

The MD of Smoky River No.130 has declared the MD as an Agricultural Disaster area due to drought conditions. The primary impact is to ranchers who have seen losses of up to 80% of their hay crops and severe deterioration of pasture lands. Drought coupled with grasshopper numbers nearing or at economic thresholds have had additional challenges for our producers. Annual crops are also suffering and anticipated losses to Cereal crops being estimated at 30% less than normal and Canola around 20% less than normal. If we get some rains these crops may improve somewhat but the hay and pasture lands will not recover in 2025.

We request that if there are any additional provincial/federal programs where a municipality is required to be included in an "affected area" drought impact map we request that the MD of Smoky River be included in that map. Adding to the challenge, most of our ratepayers are still on dugout water and without rain recharging dugouts we fear that the situation will only get worse heading into the winter months. Water storage and transfer are still large issues in the MD of Smoky River.

Sincerely,



Robert Brochu
Reeve

C.C.
Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Heath MacDonald Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Honourable Todd Loewen Minister of Forestry and Parks
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee ASBPC
Rural Municipalities of Alberta RMA

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