

# Wheatland County

Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2014-2016

## Part A: Situation Statement

### Wheatland County Overview

Wheatland County has a diverse Agricultural Community. It is bounded by the Red Deer River and the County of Newell to the east; Kneehill County and the Town of Drumheller to the north; Siksika Nation and the Bow River on the South, Rocky View County to the west and is located 30km east of Calgary. The County lies in the mixed grassland and dark brown soil (Chernozemic) region of Alberta. There are 782 farms in the county, averaging 1294 acres in size. ~55% of producers are involved in cattle production, ~60% in field crops. According to Agriculture Intensity Index of Alberta map Wheatland County has the 2nd highest category of agriculture intensity.

2011 statistics show that a total of 782 farm units produce food on a total of 1,121,462 acres (453,840 ha) in the County. Wheat is grown on 290,107 acres (117,402 ha) barley on 146,258 acres (59,189 ha) and canola on 223,051 acres (90,266 ha). Crops such as mustard, peas, lentils, flax and triticale are also produced. Perennial tame forages used for grazing and livestock feed use an additional 81,398 acres (32,941 ha) of farmland, native pasture covers 178,707 (72,320 ha) acres. 573,009 acres (321,888 ha) are under a zero tillage regime and 103,950 acres (42,067 ha) are under a minimum tillage regime. Located within the County are 3 Cooperative Seed Cleaning Plants at Hussar, Rosebud and Strathmore.

The Western Irrigation District (WID) centered out of Strathmore, operates 1100 kilometers of irrigation canals and shares a similar boundary with the County. Distributing water for crop irrigation, stock watering, domestic, and municipal supplies. In 2011, there was 46,822 acres (18,948 ha) under irrigation in the County. Most of the spill water from the WID runs through natural water courses in the County, such as the Crowfoot Creek and the Rosebud River/ Serviceberry Creek.

Livestock production of beef, dairy, sheep, hogs and poultry are major industries within the County. The total number of cattle and calves in the County is 162,218. A variety of purebred cattle breeders, commercial cow-calf production enterprises, and several cattle feedlots, together with Calgary Stockyards Auction Market adds up to a very broad and integrated beef industry. Sheep production enterprises are comprised of pure bred ram & ewe breeders with the total number of sheep at 4,772. There are 26,765 pigs in the County comprised of hog feeder to finish enterprises are scattered across the County as well. A major production facility named Sunterra Farms is located east of Strathmore. Other livestock types found in the County are horses, goats, llamas and alpacas. 223 farms reported that rotational grazing practices are in place and 158 farms are using a nutrient management plan.

Parts of 18 Hutterian Brethren Colonies are located within in the County and are involved in many avenues of agricultural production. They are active in the production of poultry, hogs, sheep, beef, and dairy as well as many field and vegetable crops. The County has 8 farms producing Saskatoon berries, 5 producing Strawberries, 13 producing vegetables, 23 nurseries/greenhouses and 7 certified organic farms.

*\* These numbers have been extracted from the 2011 Stats Canada, Farm and Farm Operator Data for Wheatland County.*

There are many other industries that profit from the agricultural lands in Wheatland County, these industries include oil and gas and wind energy production.

### **History of Agricultural Service Board**

The Municipal District of Bow Valley No.40 held its first Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting in the Municipal Office of Strathmore on February 22, 1946. The Agricultural Service Board was active until the end of 1948 at which time it was discontinued due the labor shortage which existed. The Municipal District of Wheatland No.40 held its first Agricultural Service Board meeting in the Municipal office of Strathmore on April 27, 1956. In 1965 ASB membership went from 2 to 3 Councillors and from 2 to 3 farmer advisory members. The next change came in 1986 with the addition of 2 more Councillors to the ASB. The next major change came in 1995 when a motion was made to have all of council sit on the ASB with the farmer advisory positions to be phased out by Dec 31, 1997. This is still the current format of the Wheatland County ASB. In addition to the Agricultural Fieldman and Assistant Fieldman positions our current Staff includes the following; Sarah Schumacher, Agricultural Conservation Coordinator; Ron Bartholow, Weed Inspector along with 3 seasonal equipment laborer positions.

### **Break Down of Infrastructure**

#### **Roads**

Wheatland County maintains a total of 2725 km of roadway (road length is categorised by surface type):

**Dirt** 92.1 km

**Gravel** 1875.6 km

**Gravel Improved** 488.7 km

**Gravel Resource** 122.7

**Chip Seal** 48.7 km

**Paved** 98.1km

#### **Parks/ Reserves (located in or bordering Wheatland County)**

Severn Dam Park – Wheatland County

E-29-27-20W4 Nature Conservancy of Canada (Rosebud River)

Agrium Nodwell Nature Preserve (Bow River) - Western Sky Land Trust

Bruce Islands (Bow River) - Western Sky Land Trust

Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park

#### **Cemeteries**

Gleichen Catholic and Community Cemeteries: SW 18-22-26-W4

Rosebud Cemetery : SW 18-27-21-W4

#### **Gravel Pits**

NW 27-26-18 W4 (Chizik)

NW 34-27-26 (Irricana)

NE 3-22-25 W4 (Home Coulee)

NE 8-22-21 (Goldsmith)

#### **Waste Transfer Stations**

8

#### **Hamlets & Subdivisions**

14

The County is divided by the Red Deer River and the Bow River basins. The Serviceberry Creek and Rosebud River watersheds drain into the Red Deer River and the Crowfoot Creek drains into the Bow River. The County numerous pothole prairie wetlands which provide many ecological goods and services. Named bodies of water include Severn Dam, Eagle, Deadhorse, Dalemead, Mattoywkiu, Seui and Namaka Lake. Other sensitive areas include native pastureland, solonetzic and saline soils, and the Wintering Hills.

## **Overall agricultural and environmental conditions or challenges**

The Western Irrigation District has shared their most recent water quality monitoring reports with Wheatland County. "Overall, in 2011 compliance with water quality objectives was 40% for total phosphorus, 91% for fecal coliform bacteria and 67% for conductivity. Compliance with benchmark guidelines for dissolved phosphorus and total suspended solids was 52% and 79%, respectively." (Palliser Environmental Services Ltd., 2011, Western Irrigation District Water Quality Monitoring Program, Pg 10.) This is evidence that agricultural extension has a continued role to play in reducing the impact agriculture has on water quality.

Our most recent major studies were Riparian Health Inventories done on the entire reach of the Crowfoot Creek and the Rosebud River within the boundaries of Wheatland County. Both areas were graded as "healthy with problems". Cows and Fish provided recommendations to improve riparian health in these watersheds these include: maintaining native plant communities, especially existing shrub communities, in addition to monitoring and controlling invasive weed populations, improvements to livestock grazing and watering access (e.g. off-river watering systems) and maintaining limited recreational or agricultural use of downstream, healthy portions of the project area and maintaining or expanding existing buffers between cropland and the creek.

Data was analyzed from the following sources to give us direction for setting our goals and priorities; Wheatland County Water Quality Monitoring Program (1998-2009), AESA Stream Survey, Red-Bow Alliance - Water Quality Index scale, Red Deer River and Bow River State of the Basin Reports, Crowfoot Creek Agricultural Watershed Survey, Rockyford & Standard Water Survey, Survey of Public Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Water in Wheatland County (2009) as well an Evaluation of the Grazing Schools for Women and numerous workshop/ conference evaluations. Based on this information, surface water quality has been rated as fair to marginal in the Rosebud River, Serviceberry Creek and Crowfoot Creek. The contributors of surface water pollutants in these bodies of water are from agricultural runoff such as manure, fertilizer, nutrients, bacteria and agricultural chemicals and other major contributors such as municipal runoff, waste water, and effects from industry.

The primary concerns of producers surveyed are; water quantity, water quality and sustainable use of water resources (preventing contamination). The limitations to improvement of water quality have consistently been identified as cost, time, incentive and knowledge. Respondents of surveys considered themselves less knowledgeable about groundwater quality and was one of the main topics that respondents wanted to learn more about. Other areas of concern include ecosystem health concerns such as habitat loss (wetlands and riparian areas) and unhealthy wildlife populations.

Improving watershed health is of high importance in Wheatland County. We have identified the preservation and enhancement of riparian and wetland habitat as a top priority for meeting our goal. Best management practices in riparian areas will increase quality of surface water and in-turn increase biodiversity. The preferred method for learning, stated by survey respondents was demonstration sites, educational courses and newsletters and awareness.

## **Program History and Continuity**

Our mandate is to promote sustainability of our water resources through information, demonstration, and community participation. We will work with local producers and partners towards the adoption of practices that will improve watershed health in Wheatland County.

Wheatland County has had a permanent employee dedicated to working on agricultural environmental extension for 15 years and have developed programs for over 20 years. The current Agriculture Conservation Coordinator has been in this position since 2006 and has a Diploma of Land and Water Resources from Olds College, a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management and is working to complete a degree from Royal Roads University in Environmental Practice.

Programs began under the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI 1991-94), followed by the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (CAESA 1994-1997) Program, the Community Riparian Program, the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA 1997-2010) and the ASB Environmental Stream (2011 to present). The County has partnered with Alberta Agriculture to promote and fund sustainable agriculture for over 10 years and for the past 3 years has budgeted to match the dollars provided by the ASB Environmental stream funding program. Our focus has been soil conservation, watershed conservation and range and riparian health. We have been successful in developing programming which has increased producer awareness and interest and practice change.

Wheatland County has also been a strong supporter of Alberta Agriculture programs. We have been involved with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) since its initiation, and have provided technical assistance to producers for almost 10 years. Over 30% of farms in Wheatland county have been through the EFP process and since 2009. We have also promoted and assisted producers with Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 program applications and projects.

The County has a long history of producer initiated watershed groups, these include the Crowfoot Creek Watershed Partners, Rosebud River Watershed Group, and the Waters of Wheatland (WOW). These groups have done numerous surveys, studies and water quality monitoring over the past 18 years, which have contributed valuable information on the health of our watersheds. Although these groups are no longer active their work is carried on by our ASB agricultural environmental extension program.

### **Vision**

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board is committed to strengthening; promoting and supporting agriculture and the environment within our municipality with a view to continually improve how we operate in future years

### **Mission**

The ASB develops and implements programs and policies that focus on the areas of weeds, pests, soil and water conservation and environmental issues for the benefit of all rural residents. We will stay educated and current on new developments in agriculture. We work in partnership through good communication with other government agencies, the agriculture industry and rural residents on agricultural programs and issues.

### **Values**

- . Provide effective and responsible government
- . Responsive to customers' needs
- . Integrity and professionalism
- . Teamwork
- . Organizational development
- . Recruitment, promotion, retention

## Part A: Legislative Funding Stream

Goal #1 – To operate as an effective, viable, proactive Agricultural Service Board that fosters the growth and development of partnerships.

Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
			Activities	Measures
Secure funding from all possible sources	Work with Grant Writer/Co-ordinator to explore opportunities	Apply for 1 new grant		
Review ASB Policy	Review yearly			
Review ASB Business Plan	Review yearly			
Participation in Red Bow Agricultural Partnership	Partner with Rockyview County, Mountain View County, Kneehill County, Red Deer County, Clearwater County and MD of Bighorn.			
Fund organizations with common goals.	Financial support of the Foothills Forage Assoc., Red Deer Watershed Alliance, Bow River Basin Council, Alberta Farm Safety Council, Alberta Invasive Species Council.	Fund a total of \$10,000		
Partner with local 4-H clubs	Continue partnership of shelterbelt tree distribution if some form of program continues. Supply portable livestock scale and mats for local achievement days.	Supply scale and mats for two achievement days		
Addition of municipal weather stations.	Continue to explore potential for real time weather monitoring.			

Goal #2 – To promote Agriculture and the rural way of life

Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
			Activities	Measures
Rural Connector Newsletter sent to all County ratepayers	Submission of articles	2 Newsletters		
Local newspaper posting	Submission of timely information.	Minimum of 4 submissions		
Webpage	Keeping the ASB section of the County webpage up to date.			
Participation in the BMO Stampede Farm Family Awards	Yearly nomination of farm family.	One nomination per year		
Provide ASB Bursary's	Select Bursary recipients for students continuing their education in Agriculture	Provide a minimum of 2 bursaries		
Workshops/meetings	Host workshops or information meetings. Primarily through environmental stream funding			
Severn Dam park upgrades	Development of day use recreational area in centre of County	Plant 4 trees at entrance to the park		

Goal #3 – To be responsive to current issues and trends in agriculture and incorporate them into ongoing programs

Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
			Activities	Measures
Attendance at Conferences/meetings	Attendance at In-service training, South Region & Provincial ASB Conference, ASB Summer Tour or other related conferences.	Ag Fieldman/Assistant Ag Fieldman attendance at IST. All ASB members attend at least one Agriculture related conference.		
Staff Training	Encourage and facilitate training opportunities for staff to stay current and develop in their positions.	Provide opportunity for each staff member to attend at least one training opportunity.		

ASB meeting reports	Board members to report on issues in their divisions.			
Maintain membership in appropriate organizations.	Membership in the AAAF, NAWMA, AISC.			
Incorporation of computer technology.	Purchase of new GPS spray systems. Use of weed inspection software.			
Capital purchases	Investigate purchases to endeavour to stay on the leading edge of technology.			
Rental Equipment.	Provide equipment that is not readily available to ratepayers. Weed Wiper, Pasture sprayer, plastic grain bag roller, tree planter, tree sprayer, livestock scale and live animal traps.	10 rentals		
Agricultural Plastics Recycling	Research solution to agricultural plastic collection and recycling.			

**Goal #4 - To help prevent the spread and establishment of invasive weed species through an integrated vegetation management program**

Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
			Activities	Measures
Weed Inspection	Appoint weed inspectors for private and public land and seed cleaning plant inspections.	Appoint 4 weed inspectors 100% of municipal and portable seed cleaning plants inspected within the municipality. 100% of municipal right of ways traveled and spot sprayed. 5% of municipal right of way sprayed for control of regulated weed species. 5 prohibited noxious weed sites investigated		

		and controlled.		
Roadside Vegetation Management	Integrated vegetation management by simultaneously mowing and spraying at the same time with graders. Spot spraying with truck units as required. Mowing newly constructed roads.	3000 km of roadside mowed and spot sprayed. 600 acres of spraying.		
Municipal land vegetation management	Spraying of Municipal Hamlets, gravel stockpiles, Waste Transfer & yard sites on a rotational basis or as required.	4 hamlets sprayed. 4 waste transfer sites sprayed.		
Equipment Rental	Rental of equipment not widely available - pasture sprayer & weed wiper.	5 rentals		
Bow River Weed Inspection and Control	Participation in Purple Loosestrife inspection and control program.			
Biological Weed Control	Release of biological control agents in sensitive or inaccessible areas.	1 release		

Goal #5 - To help prevent the establishment and spread of declared pests and assist with the control of nuisance pests as described in the Agricultural Pests Act.

Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
			Activities	Measures
Pest Inspection duties	Appoint Inspectors	4 pest inspectors appointed # of fields inspected: - Clubroot - 40 - Fusarium Head Blight -40 - Virulent Blackleg - 10		
Participate in Alberta Agriculture surveys	Grasshopper and Bertha Armyworm survey. Other surveys considered as the	. 40 grasshopper survey locations . 2 Bertha Armyworm locations		

	need arises.			
Rental Equipment	Provide tree sprayer for insect pests and live animal traps for skunk & magpie control.	5 rentals		
Pest control on municipal land	Use of bait stations for Richardson ground squirrel control on municipal lands			
Strychnine Program	Sale of 2% liquid strychnine for the control of Richardson`s Ground Squirrel.			
Livestock Predation	Respond to livestock predation calls and issue predicides if required for confirmed kills.			

Goal #6 – To maintain the integrity of Agricultural soils through the delivery and support of the Soil Conservation Act.

Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
			Activities	Measures
Inspection duties	Appoint Inspectors	2 soil conservation officers appointed. 1 soil conservation inspections completed.		
Road construction reclamation program	Undertake soil erosion control measures on private land taken for borrow excavations. Grass seeding of road right of ways and private land forage borrows.	Seed 10 km of new construction.		
Shelterbelt Program	Participate with local 4-H clubs if some form of shelterbelt program continues			

Goal #7 – To assist in the control of animal diseases under the Animal Health Act

Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
			Activities	Measures

Support of the Animal Health Act	Report listed diseases or assist in the event of a disease outbreak if requested to by the Chief Provincial Vet.	Zero reportable or notifiable diseases reported to the Office of the Chief Provincial Vet		
Maintain a Livestock Carcass disposal plan	Update current plan in place.			

## Part B: Environmental Funding Stream BASIC (\$15,000 minimum)

Goal	Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures	Results	
				Activities	Measures
Watershed Health Enhancement	Host workshops, tours and conferences which promote sustainable land and water stewardship	Septic System Workshop (2)  Groundwater Well Workshop (1)  Grazing School (3)  Ranching Opportunities Conference (3)  Wetland Value Workshop (1)  Riparian health workshops (2)	<b>12 workshops planned</b>  <b># of extension events that occurred</b>		

## Part C: Environmental Funding Stream ENHANCED Funding

### Roles and Responsibilities of Participating Municipality Team

Wheatland County

#### Environmental Goal

Watershed Health Enhancement

#### Strategies

- . Maintain Partnerships
- . Support Alberta Agriculture Programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan and Growing Forward which promote the implementation of beneficial management practices (BMPs) that reduce the risk of agricultural contaminants entering water supplies.
- . Work in conjunction with the Alberta Land Use Framework, Alberta Water for Life, the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan and the Alberta Wetland Policy.
- . Work with the Bow River Basin Council and Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, Watershed and Planning Advisory Councils to promote management of water resources/watersheds in our region.
- . Provide technical support, educational programs, information, funding and other extension activities which promote watershed health and result in on the ground practice change.
- . Work towards conservation, restoration, protection of Wheatland County's wetlands to sustain the benefits they provide to the environment, society, and economy.
- . Implement strategies identified by the Bow River Phosphorus Management Plan Committee for rural nonpoint phosphorus reduction.
  - . Map critical source areas, wetlands, and riparian areas within the planning area.
  - . No further net loss of wetlands in the planning area.
  - . Work toward achieving wetland restoration objectives for the planning area.
  - . Maintain and improve riparian area function. Minimize erosion and sediment loss.
  - . Facilitate the adoption of livestock manure nutrient BMPs to reduce P build up and runoff loss potential in CSAs.
  - . Evaluate and align policies governing small acreage development and management.
  - . Reduce sediment loading from regional drainage channels.
  - . Develop and coordinate education programs within the planning area.

*Performance SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time specific) Measures*

Watershed health in Wheatland County is impacted by agriculture, our program aims to reduce this impact by promoting practices which protect, preserve and restore watershed health.

- . Performance will be evaluated with the use of
  - . Surveys,
  - . Water quality monitoring
  - . Conference/workshop evaluations and attendance
  - . One on one discussion and feedback from producers and
  - . By the number best management practices implemented on the ground

Activity & Objectives	Partners Involved	Timeline Actions		
		2014	2015	2016
<b>Wetland Inventory</b> The wetland inventory will provide baseline data on the location and class of wetlands in Wheatland County. This will allow us to monitor changes on the landscape, create policies	- Wheatland County Planning Department - Aquality Environmental Consulting	Completed	Incorporated into program	regular programing (ongoing)

for wetland management and for use as an education tool (ie EFP/ GF2).				
<b>Wetland Restoration Authority (WRA)</b> Wheatland County wants to become a Wetland Restoration Authority in order to create a wetland easement and restoration incentive program.  Attend certificate course in WESPAB (Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol for Southern Alberta)	- Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development	- Initial planning  - Training	Pilot	Regular Programing
<b>Environmentally Significant Areas study (ESA)</b>	Wheatland County Planning Department (funding, project management)	-	Completed	Incorporated into program
<b>Practice Change Survey</b> Completion of practice change survey started in 2013 to evaluate effectiveness of ASB Agricultural and Environmental programs. Completion of " <i>A Survey of Public Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Water in Wheatland County</i> " (RENAME) evaluate effectiveness of ASB Agricultural and Environmental programs.	- Miistakis Institute - Western Irrigation District	- 350 surveys completed  - Reporting	-	-
<b>Water Quality Monitoring Program</b> Hire consultant to compile water quality monitoring data and to develop a program for future monitoring.	- Western Irrigation District - Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development	Plan developed for Water Quality Monitoring partnership	Annual Monitoring	Annual Monitoring
<b>AESRD Bow River Phosphorus Management Plan</b> Continued work with the Bow River Phosphorus Management Plan – Implementation Steering Committee and Rural Non-	- Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development	Plan implementation started	Continued implementation	Continued implementation

point Task Team.				
⇒ <b>Blue Green Algae</b> Investigate projects which could reduce the occurrence of Blue Green Algae Blooms in Wheatland County, particularly in Severn Dam and Eagle Lake.	Strathmore Health Unit	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
⇒ <b>Riparian health workshops</b>	- Rocky View County - Western Irrigation District - Red Deer River Watershed Alliance - Bow River Basin Council - Cows and Fish	Host at least 1 workshop	Aim to Host at least 1 workshop	Aim to Host at least 1 workshop
⇒ <b>Wetland Value Workshop</b>	- Rocky View County - Western Irrigation District - Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development - Ducks Unlimited	Host at least 1 workshop	Aim to Host at least 1 workshop	Aim to Host at least 1 workshop
⇒ <b>WID Habitat Development Project</b> Wheatland County will provide technical support to the WID habitat development program to develop effective riparian and wetland habitat.	Western Irrigation District	Pilot  Aim to work with at least 2 landowners	Ongoing	Ongoing
⇒ <b>Crowfoot - Cumulative Effects Project</b>	- Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development  - Western Irrigation District			
⇒ <b>Innovative Stewardship Project on the Crowfoot Creek.</b> Riparian projects: fencing, off-site watering systems, crossings etc.	- Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development - Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development - Western Irrigation District - Siksika Nation - Cows and Fish	Initial planning: Work with landowners and look into riparian health improvement projects which would be eligible under this program	implemented	implemented
<b>Water For Life</b> Continued financial, in-kind support for local Watershed Planning and	- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance  - Bow River Watershed	Ongoing  Attend meetings	Ongoing  Attend meetings	Ongoing  Attend meetings

Advisory Councils.	Council			
<b>Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)</b> - Continued support for and promotion of the EFP program - providing technical assistance to producers completing an EFP	- Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development  - Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)	Year round  Aim for 5 completed EFP's	Year-round  Aim for 5 completed EFP's	Year-round  Aim for 5 completed EFP's
<b>Growing Forward 2 (GF2)</b> -Continued support and promotion of environmental Growing Forward funding programs  - Innovative stewardship project review committee	- Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development	Year-round  Aim to assist with 10 projects	Year-round  Aim to assist with 10 projects	Year-round  Unknown Program GF3?
<b>Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership (RAP)</b> Continued involvement in the Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership whose vision is leaders partnering to inspire on the ground practice change for our agricultural and rural communities.	<b>Principal Partners:</b> - Rocky View County - Kneehill County - Mountain View County - M.D. of Bighorn - Red Deer County - Wheatland County <b>Resource Partners:</b> - Foothills Forage & grazing Association - Cows and Fish - Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
⇒ <b>Conference (1 day)</b> The Ranching Opportunities Conference is for ranchers and Olds College students and hosts a wide variety of speakers and topics from climate change to marketing.	- Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership - Olds College	February  Aim to have 175 Producers attend	February  Aim to have 175 Producers attend	February  Aim to have 175 Producers attend
⇒ <b>Grazing School (2 day)</b> Ladies Livestock Lessons includes sessions on riparian health, range management.	- Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership  - Olds College	January  Aim to have 25-35 Producers attend	January  Aim to have 25-35 Producers attend	January  Aim to have 25-35 Producers attend
<b>Producer Funding Program</b> Continued financial support for Wheatland County landowners to implement	- Foothills Forage & grazing Association (promotion) - Cows and Fish (technical support)	Year-round  Aim to have 8 producers apply to the	Year-round  Aim to have 8 producers apply to the	Year-round  Aim to have 8 producers apply to the

best management practices under the <i>Wheatland Water Protection Initiative</i>	- Western Irrigation District (promotion)	program	program	program
<b>Groundwater Well Workshop</b>	Working Well Program (program development and presentation)		Fall Aim to have 20 Producers attend	
<b>Septic System Workshop</b> Private Wastewater System Operation and Maintenance Workshop – Prototype	Alberta Land Stewardship Centre	Fall  Aim to have 20 Producers attend		Fall  Aim to have 20 Producers attend
<b>Green Acreages Guide</b> Wheatland County acreage owners own and manage large portions of Wheatland County's agricultural land. The Green Acreages Guide is provided free of charge to any landowner.	Alberta Land Stewardship Centre	Ongoing  10 binders distributed	Ongoing  10 binders distributed	Ongoing  10 binders distributed
<b>Demonstration Site</b> Thurn Riparian Grazing Demonstration site is used for workshops, training and trials.	- Foothills Forage & Grazing Association - Cows and Fish - Rocky View County	Summer	Summer	Summer
<b>Alberta Invasive Weed ID Guide</b>	- Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development - Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
<b>Communications</b> - Newsletter (2/yr) - Articles - Digital Media (videos etc.) - Website	-	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
<b>Wheatland County Planning &amp; Development File Review</b> Provide input on Planning and Development files for the protection of Agricultural lands and surface water.	-	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
<b>Soil Conservation</b> Promotion of local shelterbelt programs	-	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing