Agriculture Bursary Program

Wheatland County - Agricultural Service Board

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) invites students furthering their education in the field of agriculture or environmental science to apply.

ASB will provide up to $6000 in Bursaries annually with a minimum award of $500 and a maximum award of $1500 depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria. Bursaries are available to students who reside within the boundaries of Wheatland County including recent graduates (within 3 years). Funding is not available to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants or previous bursary recipients.

Application packages are available from the Wheatland County Administration Office or on the Wheatland County Website www.wheatlandcounty.ca

For additional information about the
Wheatland County ASB Bursary Program
contact Gay Mowat at 403-361-2166 or
gay.mowat@wheatlandcounty.ca

WHEATLAND COUNTY

Application deadline
August 31st

WHEATLAND COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Instructions & Information

Dear Applicant,

Bursaries are available to Wheatland County students furthering their education at a post-secondary institution in an agriculture or environmental science related field. Please read the following information and instructions carefully before completing the application form.

Information

1. Funding is not available to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants or previous bursary recipients.

2. Up to $6000 in Bursaries annually with a minimum award of $500 and a maximum award of $1500 depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria, will be awarded to residents who are currently enrolled at a recognized post-secondary institution.

3. Applications and the required documentation will be reviewed by the Agricultural Service Board Bursary Committee who will make a recommendation to the Agricultural Service Board.

4. Successful applicants will be selected on the grounds of academic merit, school and community activities and their mark on the application skill testing examination.

5. The cheque will be made payable to the students post-secondary institution with the conditions that funds be used for tuition, learning resources or room and board. Should the student leave the institution prior to the funds being expended, the balance will be returned to Wheatland County.

6. The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board Bursary application packages are available from the Wheatland County Administration Office or on the Wheatland County Website at www.wheatlandcounty.ca.

7. For further information contact Gay Mowat, Administrative Assistant to Agriculture & Environment, Wheatland County, 403-361-2166 or gay.mowat@wheatlandcounty.ca.

Instructions & Information

Instructions

1. Application packages can be submitted online or mail postmarked by August 31st.

2. Complete all parts of the application and include all required submissions.

3. Submit a short essay (100 word minimum—200 word maximum) introducing yourself, providing some background and outlining your career goals.

4. Supply a copy of your high school academic report and preceding post-secondary semester grades if applicable.

5. Include a copy of your letter of acceptance with the course of studies details from the post-secondary institute you are attending.

6. Complete and submit the Agriculture and Food Production Skill Testing Examination. **The required pass mark is 75%.** Answers can be found in the Agriculture & Food Production supplement, additional information can be found online.

7. You must include a photograph of yourself. Only head and shoulder shot accepted. Wallet sized graduation pictures are acceptable. If you are selected for a bursary this photograph will be used for a press release. Your photograph will not be returned if mailed.

8. You will be notified of the results by November 1st.

9. Application will not be returned. Please keep a copy of your application for your reference.

   Send application with all required information to:

   Wheatland County
   242006 Range Road 243
   Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4
   Attention: G. Mowat

   Online:

   https://wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/asb-bursary

Agriculture & Food Production in Wheatland County

Wheatland County has a diverse Agricultural Community. It is bounded by the Red Deer River and the County of Newell to the east; Highway 9 and the Town of Drumheller to the north; Siksika Nation and the Bow River on the South, and Rocky View County to the west. The County is located in the dark brown Chernozemic soil zone of the mixed grass lands eco region and is abundant in natural resources.

2011 statistics indicate 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 290,107acres (117,402 ha) barley on 146,258acres (59,189ha) and canola on 223,051acres (90,266ha). 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 (32,941ha) of farmland, native pasture covers 178,707 (72,320ha) acres. Located within the County are 3 Cooperative Seed Cleaning Plants at Hussar, Rosebud and Strathmore.

Minimum tillage or zero tillage is a practice which maintains a crop or crop residue cover on the soil surface year round, minimizing mechanical soil disturbance. This practice reduces soil compaction and the potential for soil erosion and increases organic matter in the soil and moisture conservation. 573,009acres (321,888ha) are under a zero tillage regime and 103,950 acres (42,067ha) are under a minimum tillage regime.

The Western Irrigation District (WID) centered out of Strathmore operates 1100 kilometers of irrigation canals. Distributing water for crop irrigation, stock watering, domestic, and municipal supplies. In 2011, there was 46,822 acres (18,948ha) under irrigation in the County.

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 purebred 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. There are many other industries who profit from the agricultural lands in Wheatland County, these industries include oil and gas and wind farms.

Agriculture & Food Production
Wheatland County Agriculture Service Board

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is established by County Council under the authority of the Agricultural Service Board Act.

Duties of the ASB are to:

1. Advise County Council and the Minister of Agriculture on matters of mutual concern
2. Advise, organize and direct weed and pest control, livestock disease control and soil and water conservation programs
3. Promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer
4. Promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the agricultural industry in the County.

Provincial statutes which are administered by the Board in addition to the ASB Act are the: Weed Control Act; Soil Conservation Act; and Agricultural Pests Act. Additional statutes worked with include the: Animal Health Act; Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act; and Land Stewardship Act.

The Agricultural Fieldman is appointed by County Council upon consultation with the ASB. The Agricultural Fieldman acts as a designated officer of the County in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the County under any legislation relating to agriculture. These duties respond to both needs of the County and the producer. The Agricultural Service Board has initiated a variety of programs.

Weed Control Programs include public and private land weed inspections, education and roadside spot spraying and mowing. The Weed Inspector is shared between Wheatland County and the communities of Standard, Hussar and Rockyford in order to carry out the requirements of the Alberta Weed Control Act in each Municipality. Noxious weeds found in the County include (but not limited to) Canada Thistle, Scentless Chamomile, Black Henbane and Downy Brome. Find out more information about invasive plants at our website.

The Agriculture & Environment Department operates 3 mowers for the purpose of roadside grass mowing, 2 of these mowers have multiple functions and can also grade the road and spray weeds. Mowing is done between the months of July to September.

Pest control programs include: livestock predation prevention & control; annual County wide surveys are conducted in order to monitor & forecast for: grasshoppers, clubroot, fusarium graminearum, bertha armyworms and wheat midge. The County also offers a strychnine program for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

The agricultural conservation program provides support for produces implementing best management practices for soil and water conservation, as well as assistance with federal and provincial grant applications. The County has been involved with the Environmental Farm Plan program (check out their website) and other watershed initiatives for many years. Producers can apply to the Wheatland Water Protection Initiative for funding for projects which protect surface and groundwater sources.

Other ASB programs include: rental equipment, Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP), and education activities such as workshops, conferences and newsletters, and the Severn Dam Park maintenance.

Bursary Application

Name	
Date	
Address	
School	
E-mail	

Declaration

I declare that the information I have provided is accurate, and if awarded the bursary I am prepared to spend it in this fiscal year. I agree to comply with all terms pertaining to this application.

Name _____ Date _____

** Applications must be post marked on or before August 31st. No late applications will be accepted.*

Send the application with all required information to:

Wheatland County
242006 Range Road 243
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4
Attention: G. Mowat

Online:

https://wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/asb-bursary

Skill Testing Examination

Answers can be found in the Agriculture and Food Production and ASB Supplement

1. County Council is given authority to establish an Agricultural Service Board under what Provincial Statute?

2. Farm Units produce food on acres within Wheatland County

3. acres of wheat; acres of barley; and acres of Canola are grown in Wheatland County.

4. Four duties of the Agricultural Service Board?

5. List three crops other than wheat, canola, barley and oats that are grown within the County.

6. What does the Agricultural Fieldman do?

7. What are the three distinct types of beef production enterprises in Wheatland County?

8. Name four components of the Agricultural Service Board Weed Control program.

9. What is the Wheatland Water Protection Initiative?

Skill Testing Examination

10. Two activities of the Pest Control program?

11. What are the benefits of minimum tillage or zero tillage farming practices?

12. Provide one reason for completing an Environmental Farm Plan?

13. Within the County are Cooperative Seed Cleaning plants.

14. There are parts of Hutterite Colonies located within the County.

15. The Western Irrigation District, centered out of Strathmore, has km's of irrigation canals which supplies water to 46,822 acres of farmland in the County.

16. What other areas does the Weed Inspector work in besides Wheatland County?

17. Name one Noxious weed legislated under the Alberta Weed Control Act found in Wheatland County.

18. What are three acts administered by the Board in addition to the ASB Act?

19. What type of soil does Wheatland County have?

20. In addition to the Provincial Statutes that the Agricultural Service Board administers, what other agricultural related programs have been developed to meet the needs of the producers of the County?

Skill Testing Examination

21. Submit a short essay (100 word minimum—200 word maximum) introducing yourself, providing some background for the selection committee to get to know you. Outlining your career goals and how you think your education will impact agriculture.

Application Check List

	Did you read the instructions carefully ?
	Have you completed and attached your essay?
	Have you attached your high school academic report and preceding post secondary grades if applicable?
	Have you included your letter of acceptance from your post-secondary institute and the course of studies information?
	Is the Skill Testing Examination complete and attached?
	Have you provided a picture of yourself?
	Is the Application Form complete?
	Have you made a copy of the application for your records?