

# Agriculture Bursary Program

## *Wheatland County - Agricultural Service Board*

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recognizes the importance of youth to the agricultural industry and rural communities in Wheatland County.

The Wheatland County ASB invites students furthering their education at a post-secondary institution in an agriculture or environmental science related field 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 high school graduates (within 3 years) residing within the boundaries of Wheatland County. Funding is not available to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants or previous bursary recipients.

Application packages are available online at [wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca)

For additional information contact  
Michelle Van Haarlem at 403-361-2000 or  
[agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca)



Application deadline  
**September 15th**



# Instructions & Information

Bursaries are available to Wheatland County students furthering their education at a recognized 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.
3. Applications and the required documentation will be reviewed by the Agricultural Service Board Bursary and Environmental Stewardship Awards 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. Funds awarded will be made payable to the student's 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 [wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca).
7. For further information contact Michelle Van Haarlem, Administrative Assistant to Transportation and Agriculture at 403-361-2000 or [agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca).

# Instructions & Information

## Instructions

1. Applications are accepted by email, online, mail, or delivery in person on or before September 15th.
2. Submit a short essay (100 word minimum—200 word maximum) introducing yourself and outlining your career goals. Include any contributions made to your local community or school through volunteering or extracurricular activities.
3. Supply a copy of your high school academic report and preceding post-secondary semester grades if applicable.
4. Submit a copy of your letter of acceptance stating the course of studies from the post-secondary institute you are attending.
5. Complete and submit the Agriculture & 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 on the Wheatland County Website.
6. Please submit a head and shoulder photograph of yourself. 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.
7. You will be notified of the results by November 1st.

Send completed application with the required supporting information to:

Wheatland County  
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4  
Attention: M. Van Haarlem, Administrative Assistant to Transportation and Agriculture



# 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.

Wheatland County ASB 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 residents, in partnership with other government agencies, the agriculture industry and residents on agricultural programs and issues.

The 2016 Census of Agriculture for Alberta statistics indicate there are a total of 810 farms producing food on a total of 1,130,220 acres (457,384 ha) in Wheatland County. Wheat is grown on 290,433 acres (117,534 ha) barley on 152,705 acres (61,798 ha) and canola on 217,644 acres (88,077 ha). Crops such as mustard, peas, lentils, flax and triticale are also produced. Located within the County are three Cooperative Seed Cleaning Plants, Hussar, Rosebud, and Strathmore.

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 150,167. 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 and ewe breeders with the total number of sheep and lambs at 2,741. There are 94,798 pigs in the County comprised of hog feeder to finish enterprises scattered across the County. Other livestock types found in the County are horses, goats, llamas and alpacas. 206 farms reported that rotational grazing practices are in place.

The [Western Irrigation District](#) (WID) centered out of Strathmore provides irrigation water to 96,000 acres of land. Distributing water for crop irrigation, stock watering, domestic, and municipal supplies. In 2016, there was 72,080 acres (29,170 ha) under irrigation in the County.

19 Hutterian Brethren Colonies are located or own land within 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 4 farms producing Saskatoon berries, 11 producing vegetables, 22 nurseries/greenhouses and 8 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 Agricultural Service Board

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

Agricultural Service Board Act Section 2: Agricultural Service Board Duties:

- a) to act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern,
- b) to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs,
- c) to assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*,
- d) to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
- e) to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

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 shall act as a designated officer of the County in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the County under any Act relating to agriculture and in implementing projects respecting agriculture agreed on between the council and the Minister. 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 Agricultural Services Officer 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 [wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca)

The Agriculture and Environment Department operates four mowers for the purpose of roadside grass mowing, two of these mowers have multiple functions and can spray weeds while mowing. Mowing is done between the months of June to October.

Pest control programs include: livestock predation prevention & control; annual County wide surveys are conducted in order to monitor and forecast for: [grasshoppers](#), [clubroot](#), [fusarium graminearum](#), [bertha armyworms](#) and [wheat midge](#).

The Agricultural Conservation Program provides support for producers 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 Wheatland County 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.

# Bursary Application

Name	
Address	
Phone	
E-mail	

## Declaration

I declare that the information I have provided is accurate or correct to the best of my knowledge, and if awarded a bursary, I agree to comply with all terms pertaining to this application.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Applications must be post marked on or before September 15th. No late applications will be accepted.*

**Send completed application with the required supporting information to:**

Wheatland County  
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4  
Attention: M. Van Haarlem

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) s.33 (c) personal information collected is necessary for the operation and activities of the Agricultural Service Board Program.

Questions regarding the collection of personal information can be directed to the FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321 or [admin@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:admin@wheatlandcounty.ca)

# Skill Testing Examination

*Answers can be found in the Agriculture & Food Production and ASB Supplement, and the County Website*

1. County Council is given authority to establish an Agricultural Service Board under what Provincial Statute?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ farms produce food on \_\_\_\_\_ acres within Wheatland County.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ acres of wheat; \_\_\_\_\_ acres of barley; and \_\_\_\_\_ acres of Canola are grown in Wheatland County.
4. Five 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 Agricultural Stewardship Program?



# Skill Testing Examination

10. Two activities of the Pest Control program?
11. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Hutterite Colonies located or own land within the County.
12. Provide one reason for completing an [Environmental Farm Plan](#)?
13. Within the County are \_\_\_\_\_ Cooperative Seed Cleaning plants.
14. Wheatland County Agriculture and Environment Policies has nine ASB Programs. Provide names of three of these programs.
15. The Western Irrigation District, centered out of Strathmore supplies irrigation to \_\_\_\_\_ acres of farmland in the County.
16. What other areas does the Agricultural Services Officer 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 and or the environment.

# Application Check List

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