

Wheatland County Agricultural Services Department

The Agricultural Service Board Act provides for the establishment of an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) by County Council.

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 residents. We work in partnership through good communication with other government agencies, the agriculture industry and residents on agricultural programs and issues.

Department Goals: Projects/Plans/Services: 2020 - 2022**2020/2021/2022**

1. To operate as an effective, viable, pro-active Agricultural Service Board that fosters the growth and development of partnerships.
2. To promote agriculture and the rural way of life.
3. To be responsive to current issues and trends in agriculture and incorporate them into ongoing programs.
4. To help prevent the spread and establishment of invasive weed species through an integrated vegetation management program.
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.
6. To maintain the integrity of agricultural soils through the delivery and support of the Soil Conservation Act.
7. To assist in the control of animal diseases under the Animal Health Act.
8. Increase awareness, understanding and implementation of environmental agricultural practices and programs with an emphasis on supporting the agriculture industry.
9. To implement Wheatland County's environmental Program.

2020 - STRATEGY/ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE GOALS

| GOAL 1 | Strategy | Action |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Secure funding from other sources.b. Participate in Red Bow Agriculture Partnership.c. Fund organizations with common goals. | <p>Work with Grant Coordinator to explore opportunities.</p> <p>Partner with Rocky View County, Mountain View County, Kneehill County, Red Deer County and the MD of Bighorn.</p> <p>Financial support of Alberta Farm Safety Council, Alberta Invasive species council.</p> |
| GOAL 2 | Strategy | Action |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Newsletterb. Webpage/social mediac. BMO Farm Family Awardd. Provide ASB Bursaries | <p>Submission of articles and advertisements</p> <p>Keep up to date to timely information</p> <p>Yearly nomination of Wheatland County Farm Family</p> <p>Select Bursary recipients for students continuing their education in Agriculture or Environmental related studies</p> |
| GOAL 3 | Strategy | Action |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Attendance at Conferences & Meetingsb. Staff Trainingc. Maintain memberships in appropriate organizations.d. Capital Purchasese. Rental Equipment | <p>Attendance at South Region Provincial Conference, Provincial ASB Conference, ASB Summer Tour, AAAF In-Service training and other related conferences.</p> <p>Encourage and facilitate training opportunities for staff to stay current.</p> <p>Memberships in AAAF, NAWMA, AISC, RCA, AFAC</p> <p>Investigate purchases to stay on the leading edge of technology</p> <p>Provide equipment that is not readily available to ratepayers</p> |

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| <p>GOAL 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <p>a. Execute weed control program duties.</p> <p>b. Municipal vegetation Management</p> <p>c. Rental Equipment</p> <p>d. Bow River Purple Loosestrife</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint Inspectors for private and public land & seed plant inspections</p> <p>Integrated vegetation management by simultaneously mowing and spraying at the same time. Spot spraying with trucks as required. Mowing of newly constructed roads.</p> <p>Spraying and or mowing of Municipal hamlets, gravel stockpiles, Waste transfer sites and County yards</p> <p>Rental of pasture sprayer and weed wiper.</p> <p>Participate in Purple Loosestrife inspection and control program.</p> |
| <p>GOAL 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <p>a. Execute pest inspection control program duties</p> <p>b. Participate in Alberta Agriculture Surveys.</p> <p>c. Rental Equipment</p> <p>d. Richardson's ground squirrel control</p> <p>e. Livestock Predation</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint inspectors to conduct surveys of regulated pest species</p> <p>Grasshopper & Bertha Armyworm - others as time permits</p> <p>Provide tree sprayer and live animal traps for skunk and magpie control</p> <p>Sale of 2% liquid strychnine to producers. Use of bait stations. Rocon on municipal lands.</p> <p>Respond to livestock predation calls and issue predacides if warranted for confirmed kills</p> |
| <p>GOAL 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <p>a. Execute soil conservation program duties</p> <p>b. Road Construction</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint inspectors.</p> <p>Forage seeding of road right of ways and private land borrow areas. Assist Public Works with soil erosion control measures.</p> |

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| <p>GOAL 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Report notifiable or reportable disease to the Chief Provincial Vet. b. Provide assistance to the Chief Provincial Vet if requested. | <p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> |
| <p>GOAL 8:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop extension activities b. Provide technical support to landowners c. Support Alberta Agriculture initiatives d. Develop and maintain partnerships | <p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Support and promotion of provincial funding programs for producers</p> <p>Implementation of an Alternative Land Use Services program</p> <p>Distribution of the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration program grant to landowners within the Crowfoot Creek. Explore grant funding for the Rosebud River.</p> <p>Management of the Riparian Grazing Demonstration site</p> <p>Distribution of funds from the Wheatland Water Protection Initiative grant for the management of surface and groundwater resources</p> <p>Technical assistance provided to producers completing an Environmental Farm Plan</p> <p>Technical assistance for producers completing provincial grant applications</p> <p>Support for and promotion of the Environmental Farm Plan program</p> <p>Continued involvement in the Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership and associated extension activities</p> <p>Develop and implement extension activities which increase awareness, understanding and implementation of environmental agricultural practices (a,b,c,d) Plastic Grain Bag Recycling Program.</p> |

| GOAL 9 Strategy | Action |
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| a. Assist with operational environmental compliance | Ongoing attention to aspects of County operation that require some form of compliance with legislation with a goal to proactively identify risks and manage activities |
| b. Raise awareness and promote successes through environmental communications | Incorporate environmental communications into general Wheatland County communications to raise awareness about environmental initiatives and current issues, topics and events |
| c. Coordinate environmental education for staff, council, and the public | Coordinate extension opportunities and develop materials to increase community knowledge of relevant environmental topics and issues |
| d. Provide technical support on environmental matters to staff, council, and the public | Provide a source of local or internal information and support for staff, council, and the public by responding to inquiries and requests for support |
| e. Advance environmental sustainability through programs, activities, and partnerships | Support, maintain, improve and coordinate programs, activities and partnerships that act to advance environmental sustainability locally or regionally and benefit Wheatland County and its residents |

| 2021 - STRATEGY/ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE GOALS | |
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GOAL 9

Strategy

- a. Assist with operational environmental compliance
- b. Raise awareness and promote successes through environmental communications
- c. Coordinate environmental education for staff, council, and the public
- d. Provide technical support on environmental matters to staff, council, and the public
- e. Advance environmental sustainability through programs, activities, and partnerships

Action

- Ongoing attention to aspects of County operation that require some form of compliance with legislation with a goal to proactively identify risks and manage activities
- Incorporate environmental communications into general Wheatland County communications to raise awareness about environmental initiatives and current issues, topics and events
- Coordinate extension opportunities and develop materials to increase community knowledge of relevant environmental topics and issues
- Provide a source of local or internal information and support for staff, council, and the public by responding to inquiries and requests for support
- Support, maintain, improve and coordinate programs, activities and partnerships that act to advance environmental sustainability locally or regionally and benefit Wheatland County and its residents

2022 - STRATEGY/ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE GOALS**GOAL 1****Strategy**

- a. Secure funding from other sources.
- b. Participate in Red Bow Agriculture Partnership.
- c. Fund organizations with common goals.

Action

Work with Grant Coordinator to explore opportunities.

Partner with Rocky View County, Mountain View County, Kneehill County, Red Deer County and the MD of Bighorn.

Financial support of Alberta Farm Safety Council, Alberta Invasive species council.

GOAL 2**Strategy**

- a. Newsletter
- b. Webpage/social media
- c. BMO Farm Family Award
- d. Provide ASB Bursaries
- e. Provincial ASB Tour

Action

Submission of articles and advertisements

Keep up to date to timely information

Yearly nomination of Wheatland County Farm Family

Select Bursary recipients for students continuing their education in Agriculture or Environmental related studies

Hosting of the Provincial ASB Tour

GOAL 3**Strategy**

- a. Attendance at Conferences & Meetings
- b. Staff Training
- c. Maintain memberships in appropriate organizations.
- d. Capital Purchases
- e. Rental Equipment

Action

Attendance at South Region Provincial Conference, Provincial ASB Conference, ASB Summer Tour, AAAF In-Service training and other related conferences.

Encourage and facilitate training opportunities for staff to stay current.

Memberships in AAAF, NAWMA, AISC, RCA, AFAC

Investigate purchases to stay on the leading edge of technology – Replacement of Graders for mowing and spraying

Provide equipment that is not readily available to ratepayers

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| Budget Requirements |
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| <p>2021</p> <p>Goal 3. (d) Capital Equipment purchases – explore moving transitioning out of using graders for mowing and spraying</p> |