



ASB BURSARY PROGRAM

Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board

Deadline: September 15, 2024

Submit application forms to agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Are you a student studying Agricultural or Environmental studies and residing in Wheatland County?

Apply today for the ASB Bursary, offering support of up to \$2,500!

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

To aid students wishing to pursue a career in an agricultural or environmental related field, the ASB offers annual bursaries of up to \$10,000, with a minimum award of \$500 and a maximum award of \$2,500.

Application packages are available from the County office or www.wheatlandcounty.ca

For more information contact

Ph: 403-361-2000

agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Submit completed applications and required supporting information to:

agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca or in-person to
Wheatland County, ASB Bursary
242006 Range Road 243, Wheatland County, AB
T1P 2C4

Terms and Conditions

Please read the following information and instructions carefully before submitting an application.

1. Successful applicants will receive a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$2,500 depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria.
2. Bursaries are available to high school graduates (within 3 years) residing within the boundaries of Wheatland County.
3. Provide a copy of high school and post-secondary (if applicable) transcripts.
4. Provide a copy of your Letter of Acceptance stating the course of studies from the accredited post-secondary institute and that you are enrolled in an Program with a focus on agricultural and/or environmental studies.
5. Submit a brief essay (500 to 1000 words) that introduces yourself and highlights your involvement in volunteering or extracurricular activities within your local community or school. Additionally, outline your career aspirations and elaborate on the reasons behind your passion for agricultural and/or environmental fields.
6. Successful applicants will be selected on the grounds of academic merit, school and community activities, and a short essay.
7. Applications and required documentation will be reviewed by the ASB Bursary Committee who will make a recommendation to the Board regarding selections.
8. Funds awarded will be made payable to the student's accredited post-secondary institution with the condition that funds be used for tuition, learning resources, or accommodation. Should the student leave the institution prior to the funds being expended, the balance will be returned to Wheatland County.
9. Submit a head and shoulder photograph of yourself (digital or print) and photo consent form. Wallet sized graduation pictures are acceptable. If your application is successful the photo will be used in the ASB meeting package and County communications.
10. Paper documents and photographs will not be returned.
11. Funding is **not available** to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants, or previous bursary recipients.



ASB Bursary Application

Application Deadline: September 15, 2024

Applications must be post-marked on or before **September 15, 2024**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicant Information

Applicant Name (s):
Address (including Postal Code):
Email:
Phone Number:
Post-Secondary Program:
Post-Secondary Institution:

Essay

Submit a brief essay (500 to 1000 words) that introduces yourself and highlights your involvement in volunteering or extracurricular activities within your local community or school. Additionally, outline your career aspirations and elaborate on the reasons behind your passion for agricultural and/or environmental fields.

Application Checklist

- ☐ Completed application form and essay.
- ☐ Copy of high school and/or post-secondary (if applicable) transcripts.
- ☐ Letter of Acceptance stating the course of studies from the post-secondary institute.
- ☐ Head and shoulders photograph of the applicant and photo consent form.

Applicants will be notified of the results by November 1, 2024.

Personal Information and Confidentiality Statement

The personal information in this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) bursary application form is collected under the authority of s. 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Questions about collection of this information can be directed to the Wheatland County FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321 or admin@wheatlandcounty.ca.

In submitting this application, you authorize Wheatland County to disclose the information provided on this form and any supplementary information to the ASB for the purpose of determining award recipients, and for use in Wheatland County communications. Personal information such as phone number, address, and email address will not be made public.

Declaration

I declare that the information 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.

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Persons who are under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign and print his/her name.

Name:

Signature:

Bursary Submission

Send complete application with the required supporting information to:

Email: agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Mail to: Wheatland County, ASB Bursary

242006 Range Road 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4



Agriculture & Food Production in Wheatland County

Wheatland County, spanning 4,545 km² with 8,738 residents, thrives as an agricultural hub. Agriculture not only dominates its landscape but also serves as the cornerstone of its history, culture, and economy.

Wheatland County is the traditional homeland of the Plains Siksika–Blackfoot people, whose elders walked this land before us and with whom we respect and share this land and water today.

Proud of its farming and ranching heritage, Wheatland County showcases its legacy through century farms, agricultural events, and strong agricultural societies. The community's work ethic and devoted land stewardship fuel its strength for the future, with 825 farms producing food for local, Canadian, and global markets.

Twenty Hutterite colonies, constituting approximately 18% of the population, farm 14% of the County's land.

Wheatland County is situated in the dark brown and black Chernozemic soil zones, characteristic of the Mixedgrass (SE) and Foothills Fescue (W) subregions in the Grassland Natural Region. This landscape is abundant in natural resources, providing numerous ecosystem services.

The region ranges from 900m to 1000m in elevation and stands as the warmest and driest area in Alberta, experiencing warm summers and a longer growing season. Mild winters are a result of the warm Chinook winds. The majority of precipitation falls in June, with very little occurring in the latter part of the growing season.

The County hosts a variety of animal species, including hawks, owls, deer, moose, badgers, foxes, coyotes, and ground squirrels. Common plant species found here comprise plains rough fescue, needle-and-thread grass, various western wheat grasses, blue grama grass, buckbrush, wolf willow, wild rose, chokecherry, sandbar willow, and saskatoon.

Approximately half of the rare and endangered species are found in grasslands, while the other half inhabit various habitats, including wetlands, riparian areas, saline areas, sandy sites, and eroded slopes. Endangered and threatened species in the County include, but are not limited to, the swift fox, loggerhead shrike, piping plover, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, sprague's pipit, peregrine falcon, northern leopard frog, and prairie rattlesnake.

The County is intersected by the Red Deer River and Bow River watersheds, both of which converge into the South Saskatchewan River. The Serviceberry Creek and Rosebud River drain into the Red Deer River, while Crowfoot Creek

drains into the Bow River. Numerous pothole prairie wetlands in the County offer a range of ecological goods and services. Named bodies of water in the area include Severn Dam, Eagle, Deadhorse, Dalemead, Mattoywkiu, Seui, and Namaka Lakes. Other environmentally sensitive areas encompass native pastureland, riparian lands, solonchic and saline soils, as well as the Wintering Hills.

The Western Irrigation District, which originated before Alberta became a province, remains headquartered in Strathmore and provides irrigation water to 110,000 acres of land within Rocky View County and Wheatland County. Their network consists of 1200km of canals and pipelines that distribute water from the Bow River to over 500 farms for crop irrigation, stock watering, domestic use, and municipal supplies.

As of 2021, there are 911,364 acres of cropland within Wheatland County, indicating a 9.8% increase from 2016. Field crops cultivated in the County include wheat, barley, canola, field peas, flax, and oats.

Located within the County are three Cooperative Seed Cleaning Plants — Hussar, Rosebud, and Strathmore. Seed cleaning plants were first established in Alberta over 70 years ago to assist producers in planting optimal crops. Despite evolving changes, these facilities remain farmer-owned co-operatives, a rarity in the province.

Livestock production, including beef, dairy, hogs, sheep, and poultry, constitutes a major industry in the County. Diverse purebred cattle breeders, cow-calf operations, feedlots, and the Calgary Stockyards auction market all contribute to the local beef industry. With a cattle and calf population of 172,386 (2021), ranking 4th highest in the province, the County has witnessed a 14.8% increase over the past five years. Additionally, it boasts the largest pig population in the province at 208,307 (2021). Other livestock found in the County include horses, goats, llamas, and alpacas.

In Wheatland County, numerous farms specialize in producing and marketing niche products, offering diverse culinary experiences and agri-tourism opportunities. These products include, but are not limited to, berries, fruit wines, mushrooms, vegetables, organic crops, tree farms, and nurseries.

Lastly, the County hosts substantial oil and gas activities within its agricultural lands, alongside a growing presence of solar and wind energy operations.

Wheatland County Agricultural Service



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.*

Agricultural Service Board

Wheatland County's Agriculture and Environment department continues the legacy of the 78-year-old Agricultural Service Board (ASB). Established in 1946, the ASB has supported producers and spearheaded over 30 years of agricultural conservation efforts. The department's activities are guided by the directives of Alberta Agriculture, the Wheatland County ASB, and Wheatland County Council. It collaborates with other County staff to advance agricultural and environmental priorities and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Operating under the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act, the ASB directs the Agriculture and Environment department in weed control, pest management, soil conservation, and animal health as per provincial statutes. The department administers these services for the Board.

Aligned with federal and provincial priorities, Wheatland County has long championed agri-environmental initiatives supporting the agricultural industry, including soil and surface water management, on-farm environmental stewardship, and farm material recycling. The County has extended its support through workshops, public communications, one-on-one assistance, and funding programs, enhancing knowledge levels and encouraging the adoption of best practices among producers.

Goals

1. To operate as an effective, viable, proactive 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 to incorporate them into ongoing programs.
4. To help prevent the spread of declared pests and assist with the control of nuisance pests as described in the Agricultural Pests Act.
5. To help prevent the establishment and spread of declared pests and to 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 and/or agricultural practices and programs, emphasizing support for the agricultural industry.

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.*

Services

The Agriculture and Environment Department provides many services to residents and landowners in Wheatland County, as shown below:

Weed and pest inspections	Environmental Farm Plan delivery
Vegetation management (mowing and spraying roadsides and other County properties)	Financial support for agricultural organizations working in partnership with Wheatland County
Plant, weed, and pest identification support	Member of the Red Bow Agricultural Partnership (agricultural events)
Weed control program (weed control on private and public lands)	External grant programs (Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program)
Seed cleaning plant inspections and licensing	Technical assistance for producer grant applications (SCAP Programs)
Richardson's ground squirrel control on County land	ALUS Wheatland - agricultural ecosystem services payment program
Animal disease support, animal welfare inspection, and wildlife call response	Funding Programs (Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship Program, Safe Water Wells Action Program, Shelterbelt and Eco-buffer program)
Livestock predation response	ASB Bursary Program
Pest surveys (weeds, grasshopper, clubroot, fusarium, bertha army worm, etc.)	BMO Farm Family Award
Soil conservation inspection	External grant program coordination
Erosion control seeding and support	Agricultural extension event planning
Agricultural Plastic Recycling (chemical container collection)	Educational outreach
On-farm grain bag rolling and recycling program	Review of Planning & Development files
Rental equipment program and maintenance	Environmental Stewardship Award
Classroom Agricultural Program	BMP demonstration sites