

**TITLE: AGRICULTURAL PESTS POLICY**

Approved by Council

Date: May 23, 2017

Revised by Council

Date:

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**Related Provincial Legislation:**     *Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*  
  *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*  
  *Alberta Pest Control Products Act*

**Purpose:**

The Agricultural Service Board is committed to assisting residents with mitigating conflict with wildlife identified by the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act as *nuisance* or *pest* animals (conflict involving all other categories of wildlife will be assigned to Alberta Fish and Wildlife). Changes in management practices are favorable to discourage conflict with wildlife. When necessary and appropriate, other strategies for control will be implored. **Lethal toxins are a last resort and will be administered under the guidelines of the *Pest Control Products Act*.** AES Department Staff will acquire and maintain a Form 7 Certification.

**Coyote Management:**

AES Department staff, in cooperation with local Fish and Wildlife will investigate livestock losses or harassment.

AES Staff will:

- Provide information to residents on control of coyotes;
- When necessary, set or provide control devices, and document them as required by AAF;
- Implore Fish and Wildlife for all matters concerning large carnivores other than coyotes
- Assist residents with information and resources to mitigate large carnivore issues.
- Provide lethal toxicants only when deemed absolutely necessary.

**Pest Management:**

AES Staff will provide producers with information on minimizing the effects of Richardson's ground squirrels, pocket gophers, skunks, rats, beavers, badgers, certain nuisance birds, warbles, and other pests as outlined in the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*.

- Provide information for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels
  - When necessary, and under the guidelines of the *Pest Control Products Act*, provide 2% liquid strychnine to producers dealing with an infestation of Richardson's ground squirrel
  - Rental of skunk, raccoon, and pocket gopher traps;
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- Information given for problem wildlife control;
- Problem bird control strategies;
- Raccoon control methods;
- Spread awareness to watch for Norway rats;
- Monitor for warble infestations;
- Monitor land within the municipality for Fusarium Head Blight (*Fusarium graminearum*).

**Survey:**

AES Staff provide annual survey data to Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. These include Blackleg of Canola, clubroot, fusarium and insect pest inspections as well as grasshopper counts and others as they come up during the year.

**Awareness & Education:**

Accomplished through direct resident contact in the field, information meetings, the media, web site, newsletter, email distribution list, and by working with other community groups and stakeholders. The Agricultural and Environmental Services Department coordinates with AAF, Fish and Wildlife, Alberta Environment and Parks and other relevant stakeholders on problem wildlife education.