

Agriculture Services Program Update

Program	Brief Description	Quarter	Program Start	Progress
Wild Boar at Large	With the announcement of the Wild Boar Program by AFRED, the M.D. of Bonnyville has entered into a 1 yr agreement and will provide \$75 for each eligible pair of ears	1st	01-Apr-22	The 1-year pilot project with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for the Wild Boar Ear program ended on March 31, 2023 - no ears were brought in and the pilot project will not be continued
Beaver Reduction/Blasting	The M.D. implemented a beaver reduction program in 2018. Landowners can bring in problem beaver tails and receive a \$20 payout to reduce the flooding with crop and dwellings on private land.	1st	2018	We have received 21 beaver tails for incentive payment in the 1st quarter
Rat/Rabies	We received a grant through Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation to inspect approx. 500 properties located in range 1 twice annually to ensure no rats have crossed into Alberta from Saskatchewan, 7-10 skunks are trapped and submitted per year for preventative rabies testing	1st	Annual	All 500- properties have had an initial rat inspection completed in range 1 - we will complete the second inspection of the 500 properties in late fall in compliance with our agreement- we received two calls for rat sighting with zero confirmed rats - the rabies program has been suspended for 3 years, the decision was based on the fact that there has been no skunk rabies identified since 1993 and Alberta is now considered low risk
Coyote/Wolf Reduction Program	The M.D. implemented a coyote and wolf reduction program that helps to reduce the risk of secondary poisoning on non-target animals with the use of 1080 tablets	1st	Annual	483 coyotes and 11 wolves were brought in during the first quarter

Richardson Ground Squirrels	The deregistration of 2% liquid strychnine is reaching its final stages - retailer sales ended Mar 4/22 and last date of use will be Mar 4/23	1st		Possession and use of 2% liquid strychnine by end user is prohibited as of March 4, 2023 - for new options for Richardson Ground Squirrel control please contact the Ag Department
Agricultural Rental Equipment	The Municipal District of Bonnyville provides a variety of rental farm equipment to ensure farming and ranching operations within the municipality remain sustainable and profitable - we maintain over 40 pieces	1st	Annual	During the winter months, we overhaul each piece of equipment for the upcoming spring season - 4 pieces of cattle handling equipment were rented in the first quarter - this year we have upgraded the 30 ft landroller and 1 post pounder
Shelterbelt Program	10,000 tree seedlings sold and planted annually	1st	Annual	The online purchases of our annual Shelterbelt program was successful - 8009 trees were purchased by our residents
Agricultural Service Board	Agricultural Service Board Townhall meetings are held twice per year allowing the Provincial ASB chairs to hear about upcoming agricultural programs and changes and to have the opportunity to ask questions to the ADM, John Conrad	1st	18-Mar	The ASB attended the annual conference in Grande Prairie and the Crossroads conference in Edmonton. Alberta announced \$3.5 billion, 5-year agreement for Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) to strengthen and grow Canada's agricultural sector, at the townhall meeting, the ADM (John Conrad) announced that a top-up to \$166,000 will go to each municipality for the Resource Stream funding meaning we will get an additional \$42,000 for year 2023 and 2024 with an ammended agreement coming next week - highlights included 60 Alberta premises were affected by the Avian Flu last year and 2023 is highrisk - African swine fever is on the agenda and Ottawa has put a team together as a precaution - the ministers are working with Alberta Utilities Commission to resolve policy

Outreach Programs	The Original Grazing School for Women is an annual event held in northeastern Alberta. The Grazing School for Women events attract women from Alberta and Saskatchewan and promotes sustainable agriculture, long-term livestock management strategies, environmental education and networking	1st	Bi-Annual	This year we hosted the winter workshop showcasing our local agricultural talent - more than 40 women from the Northeast region attended our seminar at Flat Lake hall - from the evaluations, the ladies who attended not only enjoyed the grazing school but learned something new to implement on their farming operations
Bonnyville Seed Cleaning Plant	Seed cleaning provides protection against diseases, boosts seed fertility, and helps prevent the infestation of weeds. The Seed Plant offers cleaning and processing of all grains including cereals and canola and also provides sales of feed and seed	1st		The Seed Cleaning Plant held its Annual General Meeting in February - two board members terms ended and Richard Collins and Randy Bellamy were elected as the new board members. The seed plant has implemented a new user fee for the use of the scale to increase profitability