

Agriculture Services Program Update

Program	Brief Description	Quarter	Program Start	Progress
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.	2nd	2018	We received a total of 203 beaver tails for the bounty program and 23 have been trapped internally for Infrastructure, 7 dams opened with backhoe and 43 dams opened by hand
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 - we trap and submit 7-10 skunks per year for preventative rabies testing	2nd	Annual	539 rat inspections were completed - we have met our requirements as per our annual Rat Agreement for the first half of the year
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	2nd	May/June	Created an info sheet for producers on the various control options. Zinc Phosphide, Rozol or Ground Force are poison control options and are available at local retailers.
Agricultural Rental Equipment	The M.D. provides a variety of rental farm equipment to ensure farming and ranching operations within the municipality remain sustainable and profitable - we maintain approx 40 pieces	2nd	Annual	Rental equipment has gone out 36 times at our rental depots and 106 different rentals from the shop.
Shelterbelt Program	10,000 tree seedlings sold and planted annually	2nd	Annual	2023 Shelterbelt sales sold out
Outreach Programs	The Ag Services Department recognized the changes to the Municipal Land Use Bylaw regarding backyard beekeeping and seen an increased interest in the hobby from local ratepayers.	2nd	Bi-Annual	In collaboration with the Communications team, the Planning and Development team, and the Lakeland Bee Club we hosted the ABC's of Bees workshop. The workshop was very successful with 32 residents registered. Our speaker was Dustin Bajer from Edmonton, AB delivered a high quality presentation. The event was well recieved and the feedback was great from those who attended
Weed Infestation Inspections	3 Weed Inspectors are hired annually to work with landowners to slow the spread of noxious weeds to protect our agriculture lands	2nd	15-May	The training was completed and the inspections began with the industrial areas and then moved on to private lands - 286 weed inspections have been completed with numerous infestations identified and cleaned up
Roadside Mowing	2600 km of roadside X 2 annually	2nd	15-Jun	Approx. 550 km of roadside was completed in June - These included the arterial and collector roads
Subdivision/Hamlet Mowing	90 subdivisions X 2 annually , 5 hamlets X 3, grader shops/tree farm X 3 annually, and airport/MD yard bi-weekly	2nd	15-Jun	All hamlets have been completed with the first mow of the season and 22 subdivisions including the shop yard, tree farm, and airport have also been done
Roadside Spraying	2600 km of roadside with 1/4 sprayed annually - 4 year rotation	2nd	21-May	682 km of roadsides have been sprayed, we will continue spraying for suckers on the roads that have been brushed in the previous 3 years
Fenceline Spraying	Assist farmers with headland spraying for noxious weeds	2nd	21-May	6.4 km of fenceline sprayed, this will help with reducing the noxious weeds growing back into our ditches
Fenceline Clearing Program	The M.D. will pay landowners who are building or repairing a fenceline \$500 - \$3500 per half mile for the removal of trees and debris that are in the roadside ditch adjacent to the property line.	2nd	April	1.25 miles signed up for the program so far this year, 0.5 miles of these have been completed and paid out

Bonnyville Seed Cleaning Plant	Bonnyville Municipal Seed Plant has been supporting local farmers since 1971	2nd		The Seed Plant reported that they had completed the cleaning of 166,033 bushels of grain to-date, the plant has been doing some maintenance repairs and upgrades within the facility
Agriculture Services Board	Our Agriculture Service Board provides direction and information to the M.D. on local agricultural practices and concerns	2nd		The ASB Board met in June, 12 resolutions and 3 emergent resolutions were graded and will be brought forward to the Conference in January which will be elevated to the Provincial Government
VSI	The purpose of the M.D.'s Veterinary Health Program is to administer, protect and recognize the importance of providing subsidies to maintain professional veterinarian services within and around the municipal district to bolster herd health.	2nd	Annual	257 claims were made for a total of \$54,219.33 for the second quarter