

Municipal District of Peace No.135
Agricultural Service Board
Strategic Plan 2024
(Revised: November 15, 2023)

Vision:

A progressive, sustainable agricultural community that protects our environmental resources and rural lifestyle.

Mission:

The Agricultural Service Board provides services and programs to all residents of the Municipal District of Peace No.135 to promote, protect and diversify agricultural production, advocating for watershed and environmental stewardship.

Guiding Values:

1. Fair and effective enforcement of legislation delegated to the Agricultural Service Board.
2. Conserve natural resources within the mandate of the Municipal Development Plan.
3. Proactive planning for environmentally sustainable practices.
4. Find the balance of agricultural, residential and industrial uses of land and water for municipal residents.
5. Encourage early technological adoption.

Goals:

1. To enforce the *Weed Control Act*.
2. To enforce the *Agricultural Pest Act*.
3. To enforce the *Soil Conservation Act*.
4. To assist with the *Animal Health Act*.
5. To promote Agricultural Extension Services.
6. To develop and deliver collaborative environmental stewardship initiatives that result in sustainable and diverse growth.
7. To provide professional development for the Agricultural Service Board and staff.

GOAL 1: To enforce the *Weed Control Act*

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
<p>Weed control for priority weeds such as Scentless Chamomile, Yellow Toadflax, Canada Thistle, Sow Thistle, Tansy Ragwort and any other problem weed species.</p> <p>Increase awareness and control of priority and herbicide resistant weeds relative to previous years.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a cooperative weed program with the Town of Grimshaw and the Village of Berwyn for priority weeds. 2. Early consultation to educate property owners who had inadequately addressed weed infestations in previous years. 3. Offer control services for priority weeds at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board staff. 4. The priority for issuing weed notices for non-compliance will focus on Scentless Chamomile, Toadflax, Canada Thistle, Sow Thistle, Tansy Ragwort and other problem weed species. 5. Investigate biological control in areas where chemical control is not possible or desirable such as water runs and other sensitive areas. 	<p>Have an annual signed service agreement with the Town of Grimshaw, the Village of Berwyn and Alberta Transportation.</p> <p>Document the number of inspections and inform the respected Municipality of completed, infested properties found and progress made towards eradication of infestations.</p> <p>Report to ASB on biological control of weeds.</p>
<p>Have a proactive inspection program for prohibited noxious and noxious weeds.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the media to inform the public of agriculture related issues (newsletter, social media, newspaper and radio). 2. Organize trade fair, horticulture and extension events. 3. Visit the various plant and seed retailers, inform them of the noxious and prohibited noxious weeds and notify appropriate 	<p>Report number of informational articles or newsletters published and radio talks organized.</p> <p>Number of events organized.</p> <p>Number of various plant and seed retailers visited.</p>

	authorities for non-compliance.	Number of compliances.
Have a weed control program for municipal right of ways and other municipal properties.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a municipal and private property inspection program. 2. Have record of property inspected and what was done. 	Show demonstrated progress through point photo comparisons at 10 sites in the municipal right of ways and other municipal properties.
Have an enforcement program when land owners are not in compliance.	Issue weed notices when necessary.	Number of weed notices issued. Number of weed notices enforced or number of land owners who complied.

Goal 2: To enforce the *Agricultural Pest Act*

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
Develop strategy to reduce pests.	Identify the presence of pests through physical monitoring and testing.	Number of identified pests found and early detection.
Have inspections and surveys for club root, grasshoppers, fusarium head blight, black leg and others	Conduct inspections / surveys independently or with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.	Report results from inspection program to the survey organizers and public.
Monitor and provide services for nuisances and wildlife.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive and record complaints. 2. Coordinate necessary control activities. 	Number of coyote and ungulate investigations. Number of beaver incidents.
Goal 2 a: To prevent spread of the unregulated agricultural pests		
Strive to remain Fusarium free Peace Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote regionally Fusarium BMP and inspections 2. Promote marketing of Fusarium free product. 	1. No of negative or positive results.

Goal 3: To enforce the *Soil Conservation Act*

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
Reseeding ditches as necessary to achieve full vegetation cover.	Explore alternatives remediation methods for erosion control and full vegetation cover.	Full vegetation cover and no erosion.
Promote and facilitate the establishment, and preservation of shelterbelts and natural area retention. Seeding of ditches to a vegetative state.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the value of shelter forests for erosion control, moisture retention, habitat, carbon sink and other ecological goods and services. 2. Promote the demonstration plot. 3. Through education instill the value of retaining uncultivated natural areas for agricultural benefits. 	<p>Maintain an ongoing demonstration plot and record the number of visitors to the demonstration plot.</p> <p>Establishment of new shelterbelts. Advertise the availability of trees for shelterbelts. Number of conversations that pertain to agricultural benefits of retaining natural areas.</p>

Goal 4: To assist with the *Animal Health Act*

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
To assist and maintain veterinary services to all producers in the Municipal District through the VSI program.	Support VSI program.	Number of producers who benefit from the VSI program.
If there are emergent animal health issues, notify Provincial and Federal authorities as necessary.	Collaborate as required with Provincial and Federal authorities.	Control of emergent animal health issues.
Establish an Emergency Livestock Evacuation Plan.	To be maintained as a live document and to be reviewed annually.	Signed agreement with Alberta Environment and Parks. Maintain an producer list.

Goal 5: To promote Agricultural Extension Services

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
To provide Agricultural Extension Services in	To cooperate with the North Peace Applied Research Association, the Peace	Maintain a record of courses and seminars.

collaboration with other organizations. Develop a media and communication plan.	Country Beef and Forage Association, Northwestern Polytechnic Applied Research, and other entities in delivering courses and seminars to our agricultural producers and acreage owners. Advertising the various services through social media, newspapers and radio.	Number of Municipal District residents attending various events. Number of articles published, number of hits on the web page.
Appreciate our rural community for their hard work. Create positive public relations.	Host an appreciation night event for Municipal District producers and ratepayers every 2nd year.	Number of attendees.

Goal 6: To develop and deliver collaborative environmental stewardship initiatives that result in economic sustainability and a healthy environment within the Municipal District of Peace No.135.

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
To assist with development of baseline data about water quality and quantity. Ensure the presence of safe healthy ground and surface water in the Municipal District of Peace.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with GGAMAA and Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance. 2. Promote and support water quality workshops. 3. Following the Source Water Protection Plan pertaining to the MD. 	<p>Number of water samples analyzed.</p> <p>Number of people who attended the workshop and database development.</p> <p>Source Water Protection Plan outcomes which are achieved or influenced.</p>
To promote environmental stewardship and best management practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To work with other organizations including the North Peace Applied Research Association, NWP and the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association 	Number of agencies worked with to promote environmental stewardship initiatives.

	<p>on environmental stewardship initiatives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Encourage producers to develop an environmental farm plan. 3. Promote best management practices. 	Number of producers that have EFP.
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Goal 7: To provide professional development for the Agricultural Service Board members and staff.

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE OUTCOME
To encourage and require staff and board to participate in professional development.	Provide opportunities for professional development activities.	Number of professional development activities attended by staff and board.