



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting
June 11, 2025
Immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Changes to Agenda and Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes**
 - 3.1 April 16, 2025 Agricultural Service Board
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Reports for Discussion**
 - 5.1 ASB Strategic Plan
Administration Presenter:
Quentin Bochar, Agriculture and Municipal Services Manager
 - 5.2 Draft Agenda NE Region ASB Regional Conference
Administration Presenter:
Quentin Bochar, Agriculture and Municipal Services Manager
 - 5.3 2025 ASB Resolutions Grading Packages
- 6. Reports**
 - 6.1 Agricultural Fieldman
- 7. Correspondence and Information Items**
 - 7.1 Agri-Moisture Situation update April 30, 2025
 - 7.2 Agri-Moisture Situation update May 21, 2025
- 8. Closed Session**
 - 8.1 Weed Notice over 20 Acres
FOIP Section 17, Disclosure harmful to personal privacy
- 9. Open Session**
- 10. Motions Arising out of the Closed Session**
 - 10.1 Weed Notice over 20 Acres
- 11. Adjournment**



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2025

Members Present: Member Joey Nafziger
Member Eric Anderson
Member Roger Konieczny
Member Cliff Wowdzia
Member Tara Kuzio
Member Carl Ogrodnick
Member Kevin Bentley

Administration Present: Pat Podoborzny, Chief Administrative Officer
Norm De Wet, Director of Operations
Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and
Municipal Services

1 CALL TO ORDER

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Member Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2025-ASB017

Moved by: Member Wowdzia

THAT the April 16, 2025, Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 March 12, 2025 Agricultural Service Board

2025-ASB018

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the March 12, 2025, Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

4 DELEGATIONS - NIL

5 REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 ASB Strategic Plan

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB019

Moved by: Member Bentley

THAT the Agricultural Services Board approve the goals and strategies as presented, and further that these be incorporated into a draft ASB Strategic Business Plan to be brought forward for approval at the June ASB meeting.

Carried

5.2 NE Region ASB Conference

2025-ASB020

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agricultural Services Board accepts this report as information and further requests that Administration provide a draft agenda for the June ASB meeting.

Carried

5.3 ALUS Program Budget

2025-ASB021

Moved by: Member Kuzio

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council the allocation of \$10,000.00 as a line item in the 2025 budget to support the proposed initiative.

Carried

2025-ASB022

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agricultural Service Board direct Administration to prepare Terms of Reference for a Project Advisory Committee to support the initiative.

Carried

2025-ASB023

Moved by: Member Wowdzia

THAT the Agricultural Service Board direct Administration to contact the County of Two Hills for sharing an ALUS coordinator with the County of Two Hills and bring all related information to the June 2025 ASB meeting for discussion.

Carried

6 REPORTS

6.1 Agricultural Fieldman

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bocher, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2025-ASB024

Moved by: Member Nafziger

THAT the Agricultural Fieldman report be accepted as presented.

Carried

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Kneehill County Letter on Farmers Pesticide Course

7.2 MD of Greenview Letter on Farmers Pesticide Course and Coyote Toxicants

7.3 Kneehill County Letter on Richardson Ground Squirrel Control

7.4 Environmental Farm Plan Completions Chart

7.5 Government of Alberta Moisture Maps

2025-ASB025

Moved by: Member Wowdzia

THAT the correspondence and information items be accepted as presented.

Carried

8 NEW BUSINESS

2025-ASB026

Moved by: Member Ogradnick

THAT the next Agricultural Service Board meeting be held June 11, 2025 immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

9 ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Member Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Administrative Officer



AGRICULTURE SERVICES BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Strategic Plan for Agricultural Services Board

Date: June 11, 2025

Background

At the January 23 ASB meeting the vision, mission, values and priorities were approved, the draft strategic plan was finalized, graphically designed and prepared for public consultation and circulation at the February 18 & 19 public open houses in Lavoy and Minburn. There was no extra feedback from key community stakeholders on the draft plan given at the open houses.

At the March 23 Council meeting, the County of Minburn ASB Strategic Plan was approved by Council.

At the April 16, 2025 ASB Meeting, the Goals and Objectives to complete the business plan were presented and approved to be brought forward at the June meeting, graphically designed.

Information for the Committee

The Strategic plan is set for the years 2025-2029, which mirrors the ASB Grant cycle from the Government of Alberta.

The Strategic plan as approved by ASB includes vision, mission, values, priorities goals, and objectives and has been graphically designed.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Agricultural Services Board recommend to County Council to approve the County of Minburn ASB Strategic Business Plan 2025-2029 as presented

Attachment:

ASB Executive Summary Strategic Business Plan

STRATEGIC AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD PLAN PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



VISION

To cultivate a resilient, sustainable agricultural sector that drives economic growth, preserves environmental health, and fosters community engagement.



MISSION

To provide leadership, education, and resources that support sustainable farming practices, promote economic vitality, and ensure environmental stewardship.



VALUES

Sustainability, Collaboration, Integrity, Innovation, and Education.

SUSTAINABILITY: Committing to environmentally responsible practices that ensure the long-term health of agricultural ecosystems and resources.

COLLABORATION: Building strong partnerships with farmers, community stakeholders, and other organizations to address agricultural challenges and opportunities.


INTEGRITY: Operating with honesty, transparency, and fairness in decision-making and interactions with stakeholders.

INNOVATION: Encouraging the adoption of new technologies and farming practices that improve efficiency, productivity, and environmental stewardship.

EDUCATION: Promoting continuous learning and knowledge sharing to empower

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

 Agricultural Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship

 Pest & Weed Management

 Education & Outreach



GOAL AREA 1:

DELIVERY AND SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB) ACT

Objectives:

- Establish and maintain ASB governance.
- Support ASB functions, advocacy, and policy development.

Key Actions:

- Appoint ASB members and Agricultural Fieldman annually.
- Hold regular ASB meetings and submit annual reports.
- Advocate via ASB resolutions and maintain policy alignment with legislation.
- Provide training and access to agricultural equipment.



GOAL AREA 2: DELIVERY AND SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT

Objectives:

- Maintain effective pest policies and bylaws.
- Monitor and control crop, environmental, and vertebrate pests.

Key Actions:

- Appoint pest inspectors.
- Monitor, document, and respond to pest issues.
- Maintain records and reports (e.g. toxicant use, sightings, enforcement)



GOAL AREA 3: DELIVERY AND SUPPORT FOR SOIL CONVERSION ACT

Objectives:

- Prevent and manage soil erosion.

Key Actions:

- Develop policies and procedures for erosion control.
- Appoint Soil Conservation Officers.
- Monitor erosion-prone areas and enforce compliance.



GOAL AREA 4: DELIVERY AND SUPPORT FOR WEED CONTROL ACT

Objectives:

- Control regulated weeds on private and public land.
- Oversee seed cleaning facilities.

Key Actions:

- Maintain weed bylaws, elevate local weed concerns.
- Appoint weed inspectors and respond to complaints.
- Spray/mow roadsides and issue notices as needed.
- License stationary and mobile seed cleaning facilities.



GOAL AREA 5: DELIVERY AND SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL HEALTH ACT

Objectives:

- Support animal health and livestock emergencies.

Key Actions:

- Develop animal health and livestock response plans.
- Maintain disease lists and biosecurity protocols.
- Provide support during outbreaks and emergencies.



GOAL AREA 6: OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Objectives:

- Inform ratepayers about legislation, programs, and best practices.

Key Actions:

- Maintain website, social media, and newsletters with ASB and legislation info.
- Shared pest and weed management resources.
- Promote soil conservation, animal health, and emergency planning.



GOAL AREA 7: EXTENSION SERVICES

Objectives:

- Support producer viability and rural quality of life.

Key Actions:

- Offer equipment rentals (e.g., sprayers, plastic bag rollers)
- Partner with agencies to deliver beneficial programs.
- Host producer events and workshops.
- Deliver environmental and rural living workshops.



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: County of Minburn Hosting ASB NE Region Conference Draft Agenda

Date: June 11, 2025

Background

Every year the ASB NE Region Conference is hosted by one of the eleven County's and Municipal Districts in the region. This year (2025) it is County of Minburn's turn to host.

Following the April ASB meeting, a save-the-date notice was sent to the other municipalities in the Northeast Region.

Information for the Committee

The Regional ASB Conference is scheduled for November 3, 2025

Planned Agenda Items:

- Approval of 2024 Regional Conference Minutes
- ASB Program Updates
- AB Invasive Aquatic Species Update
- Pre-ASB Orientation
- Election of NE Region ASB Member and Alternate
- NE Regional ASB Representative Report
- *Resilient Rurals* – Recognizing the power and potential of small and rural communities to foster resilience and advance climate initiatives
- Alberta Innovates Innotech Reclamation Research – Invitation sent
- *Value of Agriculture* – NE AB Information HUB

Next Steps (led by Administration):

1. **Immediate:** An approved agenda, will be finalized and adjusted as necessary
2. **July 2025:** The final registration package and agenda will be sent to the Municipal Districts to allow for early registration and catering planning.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Service Board accepts the agenda for the 2025 NE ASB Regional Conference as presented.

Attachment:

Draft 2025 NE ASB Regional Conference Agenda

**2025 NORTHEAST REGIONAL
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CONFERENCE**

“Agriculture: Resilient, Resourceful & Renewable”

**November 3rd, 2025
Vegreville Social Centre
4802-47A Street, Vegreville, AB**

9:00 – 9:30 am Registration & Coffee

9:30 – 9:45 am Welcome – County of Minburn ASB Chair

**Call Meeting to Order – County of Minburn ASB Chair
Nominations for Recording Secretary
Opening Remarks**

Introduction of County of Minburn Council & Staff

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented

**Motion to approve the 2024 Regional Conference Minutes as
Presented**

9:45 – 10:15 am Agricultural Service Board Update – Kerianne Koehler-Munro – Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation

10:15 – 10:45 am Aquatic Invasive Species Update – Nicole Kimmel – AB Environment & Protected Areas

10:45 – 11:00 am Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 am The Resilient Rurals Model – Jill Yanch – Resilient Rurals

11:45 – 12:30 pm Lunch Break

**12:30 – 2:00 pm Provincial ASB Update
Provincial ASB member & Alternate Election
Resolution Session
ASB Member Orientation**

2:00 – 2:45 pm Innotech Reclamation Research – Alberta Innovates

2:45 - 3:00 pm Coffee Break

3:00 – 3:45 pm Value of Agriculture – NE AB Information Hub – Bob Bezpalko

**3:45 – 4:00 pm Closing Remarks
Invitation to 2026 Regional Conference – Lamont County**

4:00 pm Safe Trip Home



Agriculture Service Board DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: 2025 ASB Resolutions Grading Packages

Date: June 11, 2025

Background

Annually the Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) completes an initial grading of the Resolutions from that years ASB Provincial Conference, and then sends the resolution grading package to the ASB's for their grading and comments.

Information for the Committee

This package was received late in the afternoon on Wednesday June 3, 2025. The documents need to be reviewed by the ASB, and comments and suggestions are to be included. This package must be received by the ASBPC by June 30, 2025.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Service Board review and provide comments on the grading sheet, to be returned to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee before June 30, 2025.

Attachment:

2025 ASB Resolution Grading Sheet
2025 Resolution Grading Package
2025 Resolution Response Summary
GOA Invasive Plant Triage Document

2025 Resolution Grading

How to Use:

1. Use dropdown menu to insert name of municipality in Box A24 (highlighted) - Regions are at the bottom of the list
2. Use dropdown menu in column D to grade each resolution
3. Use the dropdown menu in column E if you would like to suggest a specific action be taken
3. Add comments that can assist the Committee in assigning final grade can be added to Column F
4. Submit completed EXCEL spreadsheet by **June 30** to Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant to the ASB Provincial Committee at: asbpc_ea@agriculturalserviceboards.com

Definitions:

Responded

The response addresses the request in the resolution. ASBs are encouraged to comment with their opinion about the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Responded in Part

The response addresses some of the resolution, but does not address the full request. ASBs are encouraged to comment about their opinion on the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Did Not Address the Resolution

The response does not address the request, and requires further engagement to clarify the request.

Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

No Response

Municipality Name	Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade	Suggested Actions	Comments
Minburn	1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY			
Minburn	4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)			
Minburn	5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS			
Minburn	6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT			
Minburn	7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL			
Minburn	9-25	NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW			
Minburn	11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING			
Minburn	12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK			
Minburn	PC1-25	INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS			



RESOLUTION RESPONSE GRADING PACKAGE

May 29, 2025

Linda Hunt
ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com

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RESOLUTION 1-25: DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRI-STABILITY

WHEREAS in the last decade, Alberta has seen four of Canada's top ten extreme and costly weather-related disasters, and federal modeling for Western Canada predicts more extreme weather;

WHEREAS the current federal drought monitoring system aggregates weather data, including precipitation on forested crown land. This data is not available to privately held agricultural lands in its assessment, and it was the deciding criteria for the Canada- Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program and the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral;

WHEREAS the Canadian government has forecast continued extreme weather impacts on the agricultural industry. Programs like AgriStability are in place to safeguard producers' financial resilience; and

WHEREAS the Office of Audit and Evaluation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) evaluated AgriStability and found that while it helps protect Canada's agriculture sector from income losses due to various risks, it is not fully effective.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

AAFC re-evaluate the current weather mapping program and the Drought Monitoring System to include and more heavily weigh data from weather stations and available soil moisture mapping within agricultural lands, better acknowledging municipalities straddling the transition from agricultural white zone into forested Crown green zone, coupled with making efforts to capture in these maps the extreme weather events that are now a reality.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

AAFC report back to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that the recommended improvements to AgriStability as identified and released October 22, 2022, by the Office of Audit and Evaluation of AAFC were put in place, by April of 2024:

1. Identify ways to simplify AgriStability to reduce producer administrative burden;
2. Find ways to make interim and final payments more predictable and to improve the timeliness of final payments; and
3. Develop and implement a means to increase access to AgriStability by underrepresented populations.

SPONSORED BY: Yellowhead County & MD of Greenview No. 16

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

INITIAL GRADE 1-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART:

The Committee felt that the AAFC response did indicate that they were working on changes that would address the concerns in the resolution, but the Committee was unable to discern from AAFC's response if the changes would adequately address the concerns in the resolution. A second letter was sent asking AAFC for specific details on how the farms that were on the boundaries with forested land would be considered in the future. A further response from AAFC was not yet obtained.

RESPONSE 1-25: AAFC MARCH 11



Quote: 288208

Brenda Knight
Provincial Committee Chair
Alberta Agricultural Service Board
Woodlands County, c/o Dawn Fortin
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0

Dear Brenda Knight:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, regarding the resolution on drought and livestock AgriStability recently passed by the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee. Please be assured that your correspondence has been brought to the Minister's attention. I appreciate the opportunity to reply.

Thank you for sharing the Board's concerns over the accuracy of moisture collection data and its applicability to on-farm drought conditions. The National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS) utilizes the Canadian Drought Monitor and several additional layers of information (such as soil moisture, provincial condition reports, remotely sensed vegetation analysis and weather station data) that become available at different times of the growing season. The NAIS continues to examine ways to improve its tools, including the use of new datasets.

In addition, the process for designating Livestock Tax Deferral (LTD) areas underwent changes in 2024. The Government of Canada streamlined the process to identify regions earlier in the growing season and also instituted a buffer zone to adjacent regions to capture impacted producers on the edges of affected regions. These changes aim to minimize the underdesignation of areas included in the LTD program.


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Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories committed to concrete measures to make the AgriStability program simpler and timelier as well as more predictable. As of the 2024 program year, producers in certain provinces and territories were offered the option of participating under a new model that calculates reference margins based on the same method producers use to file their taxes, offers them a new coverage notice, advances deadlines and makes timelier payments to producers. These benefits could also be extended to provide greater certainty for in-year interim payments. In Alberta, AgriStability is administered by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, which began offering this new streamlined approach as of program year 2025.

I appreciate your sentiments on expanding AgriStability access to underrepresented populations. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials are working hard with our provincial and territorial counterparts to do so. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are actively engaging with the sector, including through discussions with industry associations as well as a diverse group of producer representatives on the National Program Advisory Committee, to better understand how to improve the program. Based on these discussions, continuous work is underway to identify changes to business risk management programs that will benefit producers, both in the short and long term.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



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Liz Foster

Assistant Deputy Minister

Programs Branch

RESOLUTION 4-25: WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)

WHEREAS under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, Municipalities are tasked to Monitor and Enforce control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds;

WHEREAS the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides severely restricts the application of herbicides within 30 metres of a "drainage canal" and the amount of area that can be treated in a calendar year;

WHEREAS under a Special Use Approval to apply herbicides within 30 metres of an open body of water, the area allowed to be treated is still restricted; and

WHEREAS a Notice to Remedy Weed Problem in a "drainage canal" cannot be fully acted upon due to the limitations of the area allowed to be treated under the Code of Practice allowing for the proliferation of the weeds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Government of Alberta - Environment and Protected Areas remove "drainage canal" from the definition of "open body of water" under the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application Regulation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

To allow municipalities that have control over maintenance of drainage canals to treat invasive species listed in the Weed Control Act or those species elevated in the respective municipality, as they would control the same species in roadside ditches or under Notice to Remedy Weed Problem.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Smoky River #130

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Department of Environment and Protected Areas

INITIAL GRADE 4-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED:

The Committee felt that the response contained clear rules and reasons for the regulations and stated that there was allowances for exceptions on a case by case basis.

RESPONSE 4-25: EPA



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

126455

Office of the Minister

March 31, 2025

Ms. Brenda Knight,
Chair c/o Ms. Dawn
Fortin, Secretary
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Woodlands County
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for sharing the Agricultural Service Boards' (ASB's) concerns and resolutions 4-24, 5-25, and 7-25. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information. I consulted the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, and he has provided input on Resolution 4-24. I understand Minister Sigurdson will be also providing a response on Resolution 5-25.

RESOLUTION 4-24: Weed Control In Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)

Alberta's *Weed Control Act* (WCA) regulates weeds as noxious and prohibited noxious. Municipalities appoint inspectors to monitor compliance and enforce the WCA. When a landowner/occupant is not in compliance with the WCA, a weed notice can be issued. If the owner/occupant does not comply with the notice, the municipality is faced with the weed control. The landowner/occupant is then sent a debt recovery bill.

When weeds are located below the low water mark or on bed and shore, municipalities are faced with a dilemma for weed control. For example, a prohibited noxious weed such as purple loosestrife is found on bed and shore and in water bodies. Municipalities need special permission from Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) for special use permits to apply chemicals or for

other weed control (for example, hand pulling) methods when controlling or destroying weeds in or around water bodies.

EPA appreciates the ASB's support for municipalities controlling prohibited noxious weeds and noxious weeds, particularly near drainage canals. The Government of Alberta is mindful of balancing weed control priorities, while restricting pesticide use near open water bodies. Pesticide use regulation – in or near water – protects water, wildlife, and surrounding riparian vegetation from pesticide exposure and contamination.

To achieve this balance, Alberta recognizes certain site-specific cases may require a pesticide special use approval to use a pesticide to effectively control prohibited noxious weeds. This process allows for a thorough assessment, which considers factors such as location, pesticide chemistry, and infestation severity. Treatment areas under a special use approval are restricted; however, these approvals provide a way to regain control of weed infestations.

To apply for a pesticide special use approval, please visit alberta.ca and search for “pesticides application process.” For more information about municipal drainage canals, please contact Ms. Erin Stonelake, Pesticide Policy Specialist, EPA, at erin.stonelake@gov.ab.ca.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

204 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-2391

Background Info

RESOLUTION 4-24: Weed Control In Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)

Background

- Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides restricts pesticide/herbicide use near open bodies of water.
- Drainage Canals are included in the definition of an open body of water, Roadside Ditches are not
- ASB is arguing that drainage canals have the same function as roadside ditches and should be removed from the definition of an open body of water.
- Drainage canals are included in this definition as they can be connected to other open bodies of water and they help protect against pesticide contamination

Rationale

- This resolution could not be accepted because excluding drainage canals from the definition of an open body of water would compromise drainage canals
- In cases where drainage ditches function much like roadside ditches, these situations can be managed through special use approvals. These approvals allow the landowner to control their weeds with pesticides while ensuring the protection of open bodies of water.

RESOLUTION 5-25: CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS

- WHEREAS** the lack of centralized point of contact can lead to delays in addressing weed and pest issues, resulting in possible environmental and economic impacts;
- WHEREAS** there are thousands of oil and gas wells, including abandoned wells, across Alberta where site maintenance following the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* must be followed;
- WHEREAS** challenges often stem from incorrect contact information and changes in leaseholders that are not consistently updated, hindering communication and compliance;
- WHEREAS** government agencies have multiple offices throughout the province, and ministry changes cause difficulties providing the information to the appropriate contact; and
- WHEREAS** municipalities face significant challenges in enforcing the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* due to difficulties in establishing and maintaining contact with landholders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministers of Energy, Environment and Ag work collaboratively to establish a central point of contact for identifying landholder to send communication to industry and government agencies for matters related to agriculture legislation. This would involve municipalities sending notices and other communications regarding the Acts to a central government contact, who would then distribute the information to the respective landholders.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Energy and Minerals
Environment and Protected Areas
Agriculture and Irrigation
Transportation and Economic Corridors

INITIAL GRADE 5-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: This resolution caused the various ministries and impacted departments to evaluate how they work together and how accessible they are to people outside of the ministry. While they are unable to completely change the way they are structured and work to accommodate this ask, they did work together to produce a Triage document that can be used to determine who to contact with weed or invasive pest notices in public land, and the links to a publicly available system for looking up landowners. There is still ongoing discussions around who will own and maintain the Triage document to ensure it remains updated and available. The ASBPC has distributed it through the blog post in May and will host this year's version on the ASB website.

RESPONSE 5-25: EPA

RESOLUTION 5-25: Central Contact for the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts

EPA recognizes the ASB's recommendation to establish a central contact point for landholders to send communication to industry and government agencies for agricultural legislation matters.

Due to the specialized nature and management of public lands, the Government of Alberta's cross-ministry invasive species group created a process document, which I have attached for your reference. The document outlines who to contact when encountering regulated pests listed under the *Weed Control Act*, the *Agricultural Pests Act*, or the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*. It also includes leaseholder/disposition tools and Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) and Alberta Energy Regulator contacts.

For more information, please contact Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, Manager, Agriculture Service Boards, Crop Assurance and Rural Programming Branch, Agriculture and Irrigation, in Edmonton, at 780-938-4149 or at kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

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Classification: Protected A

RESOLUTION 5-25: Central Contact for the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts

- AGI leads on the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts and have determined that a central point of contact is not feasible due to the broad range of requests

- Instead, a triage document was provided by AGI to identify who to contact when encountering invasive species and regulated weeds.
- EPA is in support of the assessment and agrees that the triage document provides a good option/solution for addressing this resolution.

RESPONSE 5-25: AGI

Response:

Because of the specialized nature and management of public lands, it is not feasible to have one point of contact. However, the attached Triage document is an approach that was endorsed by the Government of Alberta's Cross Ministry Invasive Species Group to assist with the identification of the appropriate landowners and contacts.

Key contacts for the Government of Alberta ministries are provided in the attached document:

Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water. This document outlines the process and whom to contact when encountering regulated pests listed on the *Weed Control Act / Regulations*, *Agricultural Pest Act / Regulations* or the *Alberta Fisheries Act*. The document also includes leaseholder/disposition tools as well as Alberta Transportation and Alberta Energy Regulator contacts.



GoA Triage
Document.pdf

FURTHER RESPONSE 5-25: AGI

From AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Date Thu 5/15/2025 10:10 AM

To ASBPC Executive <ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com>

Cc Kerriane Koehler-Munro <kerriane.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca>

Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for your May 8, 2025, email requesting further clarification to Agriculture and Irrigation's (AGI) response to Resolution 5-25: Central Contact for Weed Control and *Agricultural Pests Act*.

The document titled, Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water, which we provided in response to this resolution, will be maintained and updated by AGI staff. For greater accessibility the intent is for this document to be posted on the ASB website as well as emailed to the fieldmen.

An updated version of the document has been attached to address the concern of an annual fee to access disposition information. The Additional Resources section that referenced a fee was removed from the document to reduce any confusion. There is an online resource reference on page two of the document called, [OneStop Public Viewer](#), that can assist in determining disposition number and disposition holder of all oil and gas dispositions. This resource is available at no cost.

Please contact Kerriane Koehler-Munro, ASB Program Manager, at kerriane.koehlermunro@gov.ab.ca or 780-938-4149, if you require additional clarification.

Sincerely,

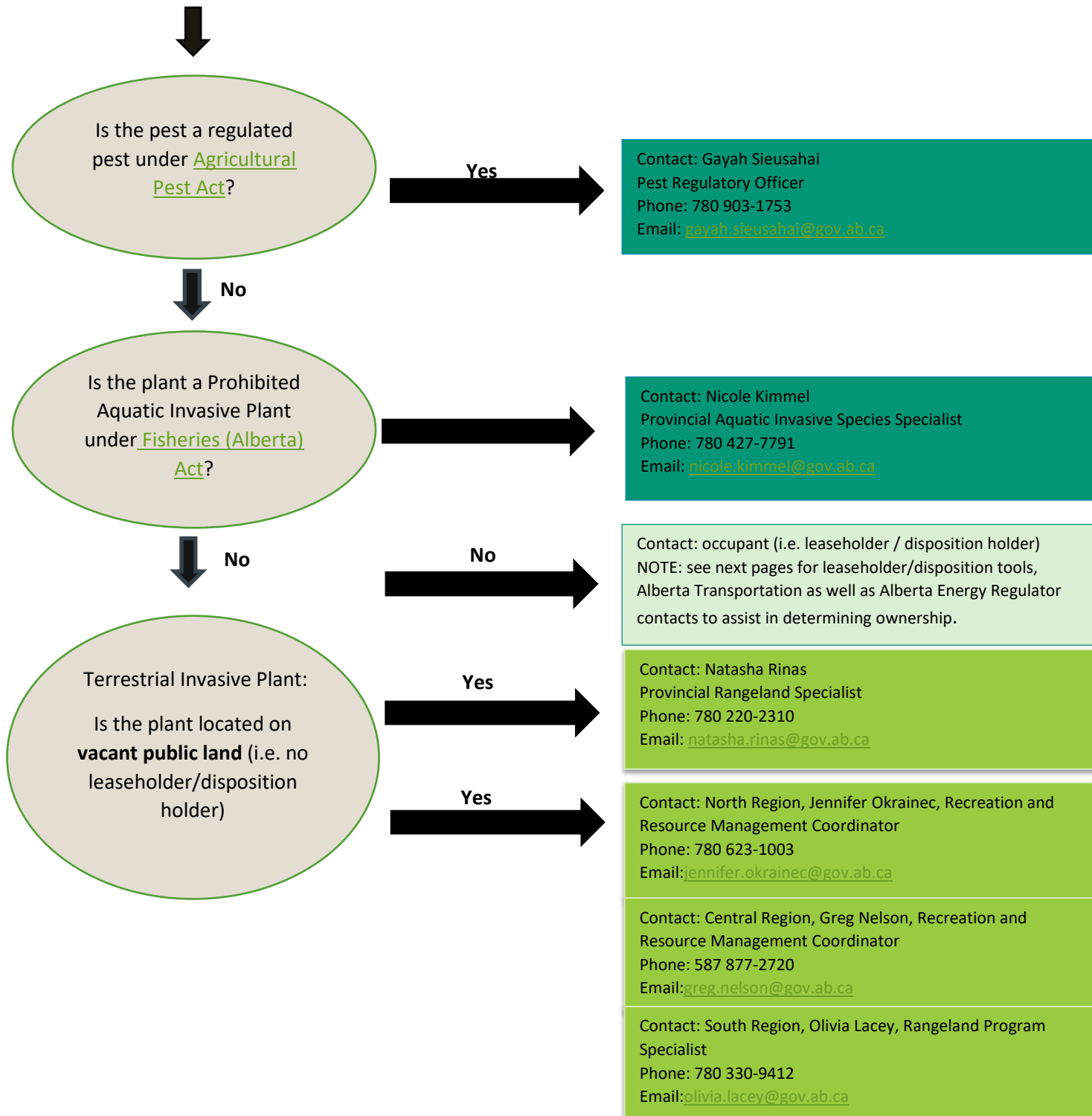
Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR87628

<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox/id/AAMkADIOZjM2MTY0LTg4YmMtNDUzNi1iZTlzLTU1YTk5MDNIZTFiYQBGA AAAAABiO4LwKGgkSKT6dgpuhw...>

2/2

Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water

Prohibited Noxious Weed or Noxious Weed (Under the [Weed Control Act/Regulations](#)) or a Prohibited Species (under the [Alberta Fisheries Act](#)) Identified on Public Land/Water or a Regulated Agricultural Pest ([Agricultural Pest Act](#))



Alberta Energy Regulator (AER):

Phone number: 1-855-297-8311 (this is the AER customer contact line)

On line resource: OneStop Public Viewer can assist in determining disposition number and disposition holder of all Oil and Gas dispositions. There is no cost to this public viewer

<https://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/project-application/onestop/onestop-help>

Alberta Transportation Weed Management:

Contact: Allan Bartman, Director Highway Operations (780) 422-6431, allan.bartman@gov.ab.ca

Invasive Species Contacts

Expertise	Name & Title	Contact Info
Aquatic Invasives	Nicole Kimmel Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist	(780) 427- 7791 nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca
Vacant Public Land Weeds	Natasha Rinas Rangeland Program Specialist	(780) 220-2310 natasha.rinas@gov.ab.ca
North Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Jennifer Okrainec Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(780) 623-1003 jennifer.okrainec@gov.ab.ca
Central Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Greg Nelson Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(587) 877-2720 greg.nelson@gov.ab.ca
South Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Olivia Lacey Vegetation Management Coordinator	(780) 330-9412 olivia.lacey@gov.ab.ca
Kananaskis Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Patrick Waring Parks Land Use Officer	patrick.nelson@gov.ab.ca

Weed and Pest Act / Regulations	Gayah Sieusahai Pest Regulatory Officer	(780) 903-1753 gayah.sieusahai@gov.ab.ca
Rat & related Agricultural Pests	Karen Wickerson Rat & Pest Program Specialist	(780) 427-7791 karen.wickerson@gov.ab.ca
Wild Boar & related Agricultural Pests	Hannah McKenzie Inspection Officer	(780) 996-3373 hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca
Agriculture Entomologist	Amanda Jorgensen Provincial Entomologist	(780) 264-6708 amanda.jorgensen@gov.ab.ca
Plant Health (weed, disease and insect)	Doug Macaulay Acting Chief Plant Health Officer	(780) 717-2315 doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca
ASB Programs	Kerriane Koehler-Munro Provincial ASB Manage	(780) 938-4149 kerriane.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca
ASB Programs	Alan Efetha Provincial ASB Specialist	(403) 315-5121 alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca
Pesticide Use	Tanya Rushcall Provincial Pesticide Approvals Registration Specialist	(780) 644-4647 Tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca
Forest Entomologist	Mike Undershultz Senior Forest Entomologist	(780) 422-1508 mike.undershultz@gov.ab.ca
Wildlife Diseases	Mark Ball Wildlife Disease Specialist	(780) 644-8012 mark.ball@gov.ab.ca
Fish Diseases	Emmanuel Pila Fish Disease Lab & Molecular Biologist	(780) 446 0687 emmanuel.pila@gov.ab.ca

RESOLUTION 6-25: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT

- WHEREAS** veterinary services are a critical component of rural sustainability through the industry's contributions to agriculture, food safety and animal welfare;
- WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta currently provides a Veterinary Student Bursary to veterinary students living and working in Northern Alberta via the Northern Alberta Development Bursary Program;
- WHEREAS** veterinary student temporary employment subsidies exist in other jurisdictions struggling to attract and retain rural veterinarians;
- WHEREAS** costs associated with completing the necessary educational requirements to become a veterinarian continue to increase; and
- WHEREAS** rural Alberta is experiencing a continued decline in veterinarian availability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade and Ministry of Advanced Education create a complimentary program to the Northern Alberta Development Program Veterinary Student Bursary, to make bursary funds accessible to veterinary students working in mixed and large animal veterinary clinics throughout rural Alberta.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade institute a veterinarian student temporary employment program for rural mixed and large animal veterinary clinics to support the attraction and retention of veterinary students throughout rural Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Lacombe County
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade
Ministry of Advanced Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

INITIAL GRADE 6-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART: There are some inaccuracies in the response from Alberta Advanced Education: “Administration of these initiatives was proposed to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, but they did not pursue the opportunity.”. The Committee did meet with the Chief Provincial Vet and was in agreement with the creation of a program in the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, but was not asked, nor are they legally able to administer a program. The RMA does not have a mandate to administer initiatives like this. The response clearly re-states the situation and work that has been done and is in progress, but does not talk about expanding the bursary program to be across the province so is not a complete response.

The Committee sent letters in April to Advanced Education and Jobs Economy and Trade reiterating the request for a bursary program expansion to the whole province and has not yet received a further response.

REPOSE 6-25: ADVANCED EDUCATION



ALBERTA
ADVANCED EDUCATION

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-North West

AR 71406

Ms. Brenda Knight Chair

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Matt Jones, Minister of Jobs, Economy and

Trade, regarding the Agricultural Service Board Resolution 6-25 — Rural Veterinary Student Support. As I am the Minister of Advanced Education, Minister Jones has asked me to respond, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.

I agree with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that veterinary services are a critical component of the economic health and vitality of Alberta's rural communities. The Government of Alberta takes the needs of rural Albertans seriously, and I recognize that rural communities in Alberta especially rely on veterinary medicine with a focus on livestock and larger animals.

Through the Northern Alberta Development Council, Alberta provides non-repayable financial supports for students in select medical programs of study, including veterinary medicine. These non-repayable supports involve a return of service component, where recipients who graduate agree to live and practice in a Northern Alberta community for a duration of time dependent on the amount of funding received. The Northern Alberta Development Bursary program offers a veterinary student bursary of \$7,000 per year (for a maximum of four years) for students in Large Animal or Large and Small Animal

Veterinary Programs. For more information, please visit the Northern Alberta

Development Council Veterinarian Bursary webpage at alberta.ca/veterinary-studentbursary.

Additional funding for veterinary students may be available in partnership with a

veterinary sponsor who is willing to match funding. For more information on bursary partnerships, please visit the Bursary Partnership Program webpage at alberta.ca/bursary-partnership-program.

The University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) program was established, in part, to meet Alberta's need for veterinarians to support rural Alberta. Prior to 2017, Alberta's government had a funding agreement with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatchewan to provide veterinary medicine education to Alberta students.

Page 1 of 3

In 2017, Alberta's government opted not to renew this agreement with Saskatchewan and instead redirected funds to support the UCVM and train veterinarians right here in Alberta. As part of the UCVM program, students participate in community-based practicums across Alberta, connecting veterinary students with rural practices to help meet labour market demand. Students who have the opportunity to participate in a practicum in a rural community are more likely to work in rural communities after graduation. The UCVM has also changed its admissions process to place more emphasis on factors such as a rural background and farm work experience.

In order to further build Alberta's capacity to train veterinarians, Advanced Education has invested over \$68 million in capital funding as part of the Veterinary Medicine Expansion Project, effectively doubling the number of students who can be accommodated in the UCVM program beginning with the fall 2025 admission cohort. Advanced Education is also supporting the UCVM with a \$13.6-million investment over four years through the Targeted Enrolment Expansion initiative, which will create 65 new classroom seats.

The Government of Alberta has been working closely with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) to address the unique challenges of attracting and retaining veterinarians in rural and remote communities. Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian has commenced work on a program within the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to provide funding for summer student hiring, housing assistance, community appreciation programs, and other similar initiatives in order to draw students to rural communities early in their education. Administration of these initiatives was proposed to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, but they did not pursue the opportunity. As a result, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is building a program internally for individual practices and communities to apply.

In addition to the Northern Albert Development Bursary and other initiatives mentioned above, students have many other financial supports available to them while they study. Alberta Student Aid offers student loans, grants, and a variety of scholarships and awards, each of which has its own unique eligibility criteria and application process. If students exhaust the Government of Alberta's funding sources, the ALIS website provides information on applying for scholarships and awards from other organizations. Scholarships Canada is another helpful resource; it is a free online database that matches eligible students with available scholarships. We also recommend that students reach out to their institution's financial aid office, as they may have local resources available.

Thank you again for taking the time share the Agricultural Service Board Resolution 6-25 — Rural Veterinary Student Support. The issue of attracting and retaining veterinary professionals in rural areas, as with other health professions, is a complex and multifaceted concern that Alberta's government is working to address.

I hope this information is helpful, and I encourage you to share the resources described above with rural veterinary students.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, ECA Minister of
Advanced Education

RESPONSE 6-25: AGI

Response:

- Government of Alberta ministries, including Agriculture and Irrigation, Advanced Education, and Jobs, Economy and Trade, are working in partnership with stakeholders to address the vet and vet technologist shortage in rural Alberta.
- Since 2022, Government of Alberta committed \$68.5 million over three years for the UCVM's capital expansion. The government has also committed to invest about \$13.6 million over four years to support the creation of over 65 new seats in the veterinary medicine program.
 - The funding will create 50 new seats for veterinary students, doubling the class size to 100 starting in the fall of 2025. It will also cover the infrastructure costs of enrolment expansion.
 - Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian sits on the faculty's Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
 - Several scientific articles indicate the issues that affect recruitment to different types of practice and different locations are complex and not always addressed with cash incentives.
- In 2023, the Alberta government committed \$1.2 million in capital funding to UCVM for renovations and lab equipment to further expand veterinary diagnostics.

- Between 2020 and 2023, Alberta and the federal government provided \$3.44 million in Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding to UCVM to start a veterinary diagnostics pilot to build access to more affordable and accessible diagnostic services for Alberta livestock producers and rural veterinarians. ○ In 2024, Alberta partnered with the federal government for a \$2.26 million Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) grant to continue the expanded pilot. The program targets education, extension, and training, as well as rural practice enhancement. ○ Previously, Alberta's livestock industry had no access to local diagnostic capacity, as samples were sent out of the province.
- Government of Alberta continues to work in partnership with stakeholders on promoting the veterinary profession at home and abroad. The current focus is on exploring incentives to attract, recruit, train and retain vet professionals in rural and remote regions.

RESOLUTION 7-25: ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL

WHEREAS the Alberta Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors stated in a letter received on September 12, 2024, that Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Alberta Forestry and Parks (FP), the administrators of the Wildlife Act, do not currently “have formal guidance for the disposal of wildlife animal carcasses. However, both departments strongly recommend minimizing handling and transport of carcasses due to... disease transmission,” further stating that any departure from these current disposal methods would require EPA and FP to issue permits under the Act for each carcass transported;

WHEREAS Highway Maintenance Contractors frequently transport carcasses to disposal and stockpiling sites that are easily accessible to the public and become utilized for the disposal of dead livestock and roadkill, through scavenger disposal;

WHEREAS the proximity of these disposal sites to active livestock production increases the impact of predators on livestock by providing a plentiful and easily accessible food source during winter scarcity; and

WHEREAS this disposal method comes with a high probability of disease spread through the landscape, including but not limited to foot-and-mouth disease, which infects deer and would cost billions of dollars in lost markets to the province and the country, and chronic wasting disease, a prion disease that is resistant to environmental degradation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and Alberta Forestry and Parks to develop formal guidance on the disposal of wildlife carcasses hit by vehicles to minimize disease transmission vectors that may pose a serious economic threat to the livestock industry, such as foot-and-mouth disease.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Transportation amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, the composting of roadkill carcasses.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Greenview #16

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Alberta Forestry and Parks

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

INITIAL GRADE 7-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART: The responses from all parties indicate that the current policy/regulations/guidelines that are being used for roadkill are designed specifically for agriculture producers disposing of owned and managed animals. However, the Committee is concerned that these guidelines may not adequately address a situation where wildlife killed in accidents since there is no “owner” to know if the animals are or are at risk of carrying diseases. Diseased animals are not able to be disposed of by scavenging and have to be specific distances from livestock premises.

There is no indication in the responses received that the staff handling road kill are testing carcasses for diseases, or managing the disposal in a way to prevent spread to neighboring livestock or wildlife populations. Chronic Wasting Disease, Tuberculosis, Avian Influenza (now spread to dairy cows and cats) and Hoof and Mouth disease are ongoing concerns. A further response letter was sent to Transportation and Economic Corridors which they did respond to. While they are not interested in creating a new guideline for wildlife and have suggested that would be a role for Environment and Protected Areas, they are asking ASBs to report incidents of concern.

The Committee felt that this was a first step in addressing the concern and will continue to bring this concern to follow the progress.

RESPONSE 7-25: AGI

- The resolution states that the disposal of livestock and wildlife may be occurring through stockpiling sites, where scavenging is subsequently occurring.
- Scavenging, or natural disposal as it is termed in the Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation (DDAR), is not an approved method of disposal for dead livestock in a situation like this.
- Natural disposal can only be used by an animal owner with animals they own, or that are in their care and control prior to death and on land that they own. The dead livestock would most likely need to go to an approved landfill or to rendering for disposal.
- There may be a disease risk if dead livestock or wildlife are disposed of by natural disposal near other livestock operations. The cause of death is unknown for these animals dropped off at the stockpiling sites.
- In addition, if livestock were euthanized using drugs or other chemical substances, natural disposal could not be used because of the risk that residues could pose to scavengers.
- Natural disposal, if approved, would have to meet the setback requirements in the DDAR.
- Wildlife disposal does not fall under the DDAR so Agriculture and Irrigation has no mandate with respect to wildlife carcass disposal, although we may work collaboratively with wildlife departments should disease become a concern.

RESPONSE 7-25: EPA

RESOLUTION 7-25: Roadkill Carcass Disposal

I understand the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of TEC, will be responding to this resolution as it falls under the purview of his ministry.

I appreciate your input and remain committed to working with the ASB to ensure effective weed management while upholding environmental protections.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE 7-25: TEC



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

March 26, 2025

AR 101520

Ms. Brenda Knight, Chair Provincial ASB Committee
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary Provincial ASB Committee
Box 33 Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0

asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Knight:

I am writing to you in response to the Agricultural Service Board (ASB)

Resolution 7-25 regarding wildlife carcass disposal. As Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

The Ministries of Environment and Protected Areas and Forestry and Parks administer the *Alberta Wildlife Act*. Within the Act, there is no formal guidance for disposal of wildlife carcasses.

Transportation and Economic Corridors follows the guidance published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for disposal of deceased livestock in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission and mitigate predator conflicts. This is achieved by limiting the distance the carcass is moved, avoiding the reuse of natural disposal sites, and not centralizing disposal at single locations such as gravel pits. If nearby natural disposal sites are unavailable, the carcass must be disposed of at authorized sites.

Thank you for taking the time to write and I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devin Dreeshen".

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

FURTHER RESPONSE 7-25: TEC



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

Office of the Minister

MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your follow-up regarding Agricultural Services Board (ASB) Resolution 7-25 on wildlife carcass disposal. The ASB is a significant stakeholder for Transportation and Economic Corridors, and I appreciate you bringing transportation-related matters important to your members to my attention.

Transportation and Economic Corridors' highway maintenance contracts follow the principles outlined in the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Livestock Mortality Management (Disposal) guidance document. By adhering to these principles, the department helps reduce the risk of disease transmission and mitigate predator conflicts during the disposal of animal carcasses. To further reduce risks, Transportation and Economic Corridors does not permit the use of stockpile sites for the disposal of wildlife carcasses.

If there are site-specific concerns, your members are encouraged to contact the department's applicable local district office to discuss it further. While I understand your request for the development of formal guidelines on wildlife carcass disposal, I recommend pursuing this matter with my colleague, the Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Regarding the ASB Provincial Committee's Resolution 1-24: Agricultural Equipment Highway Signs, I asked department staff to contact you directly to discuss potential options for addressing the safety of farm equipment on provincial highways. The discussion can also include actions the department could take to increase driver awareness and improve safety for both operators and motorists.

Thank you again for writing. I value the established working relationship between the ASB and Transportation and Economic Corridors. I look forward to continuing our collaboration on transportation matters which are important to your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devin Dreeshen".

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

RESPONSE 7-25: FORESTRY AND PARKS

ALBERTA
Forestry and Parks

Office of the Minister
MLA, Central Peace - Notley

22743

MAY 15 2025

Brenda Knight, Chair
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary,
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
PO Box 33 Fort Assiniboine, AB TOG IAO
Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for following up regarding the development of formal guidelines on the safe disposal of roadkill wildlife carcasses, as requested in resolution 7-25 by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee.

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors leads policy and guideline development regarding the disposal of roadkill. Roadkill of severely damaged or decomposed animals and those of non-iconic species are disposed of by Transportation and Economic Corridor. As such, Minister Dreeshen's March 26, 2025, letter is a fulsome response on the issue of safe disposal.

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services under the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services may attend to road kills of iconic species (grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, and caribou) when reported.

My ministry will continue to work with staff from Transportation and Economic Corridors and Public Safety and Emergency Services to identify and collect valuable roadkill with due consideration to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

I hope this information provides clarity to the response you received from Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Sincerely,



Honourable Todd Loewen
Minister
Forestry and Parks

RESOLUTION 9-25: NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW

- WHEREAS** the farming population is at a high risk of mental illness when compared to the general population;
- WHEREAS** studies and surveys have shown that farmers are less likely to seek mental health care due to associated costs, lack of time during the day, and counselors lacking an understanding of agriculture;
- WHEREAS** the AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Initiative was established in 2022 with the intent to provide Alberta’s farming population with agriculturally-informed mental health supports;
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network has received grants for project-based services through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which has 50% matching funds requirement; and
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network faces funding gaps and restricted operating funds, leading to jeopardization of high-demand mental health programming and support services currently being delivered to Alberta’s farming population.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation waive the matching funding requirement through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to ensure that the Farm-Informed Therapy Program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Fairview No.136
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

INITIAL GRADE: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The response shows that the mandate of farm informed therapy program is with the ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and that AGI has aided AgKnow in achieving engagement with MHA to create an agriculture counselling program for the province and that MHA does not require matching funds for their grant programs. AGI is unwilling to wave the matching funds required for the SCAP grant programs for AgKnow.

RESPONSE 9-25: AGI

Response:

The mental health of farmers is an important topic.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction (MHA) leads the Government of Alberta's mental health response. MHA is mandated to manage Alberta's recovery-oriented system of mental health and addiction care, focused on prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. More specifically, they are directed to work with stakeholders across Alberta to help Albertans improve their mental wellness while creating healthy and vibrant communities.

Alberta's government, through MHA, provides funding to Counselling Alberta to provide mental health counselling services across Alberta. Counselling Alberta will also partner with local organizations across the province to provide affordable in-person mental health counselling options.

Additionally:

- Alberta Health provides funding to Primary Care Networks (PCN) across Alberta. PCNs offer a variety of supports, including mental health services such as individual counselling, social work navigation, group therapy, and workshops. Albertans can locate their local PCN by visiting <https://albertapcns.ca/pcn>.
- Alberta Health Services (AHS) is responsible for delivering health care in the province and has mental health supports available.
- AHS Addiction and Mental Health Clinics provide programs and services in communities across the province. Albertans can find clinic locations on the AHS webpage.
- The Community Services program is available in select Addiction and Mental Health Clinics across Alberta. This service includes screening, assessment, consultation, and treatment for people with mental health concerns that affect their ability to cope with everyday life. Clients work with a counsellor to identify treatment goals and options, which may include counselling.

Although Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) has no direct mandate to support mental health services, AGI does respect the impact of farmer mental health on our industry. AGI has facilitated a connection between the Applied Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) and MHA for ARECA to seek funding support to ensure that the farm-informed therapy program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta. MHA does not require matching for their grant programming.

AGI has supported farmer-focused projects that complement and enhance MHA's programming over the past several years. The Resiliency and Public Trust Program, through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), provides grants on a cost-shared basis of 60 per cent grant and 40 per cent applicant for non-capital expenses. One of the main outcomes for minimum eligibility is

that the projects are industry driven, with the intention of industry contributing funds to move projects forward and leverage government funding even further. AGI provided grant funding to ARECA for the development of AgKnow. Since 2021, the Government of Alberta has invested over \$1.6 million in the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network through various funding opportunities to support the development, initial delivery of the program and subsequent projects. Although Sustainable CAP funding cannot be used for ongoing operations of an organization or program, it can support project-based deliverables and outcomes, which AGI continues to work on with ARECA staff.

RESOLUTION 11-25: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING

- WHEREAS** agricultural production in Alberta has historically been, and remains, a significant economic driver and source of employment;
- WHEREAS** generations ago, many Albertans were raised on family farms, gaining firsthand knowledge of livestock, crops, and other agricultural practices;
- WHEREAS** today, most Albertans reside in urban areas and lack the same level of understanding about how livestock, crops, and agricultural products are cultivated;
- WHEREAS** the public has traditionally held agriculture and farmers in high esteem for their role in providing food for Albertans, Canadians, and people worldwide, leading to an increasing consumer interest in agricultural production and food sourcing;
- WHEREAS** misunderstandings regarding agricultural practices and food production are becoming more common, and without proper education, these misconceptions are likely to grow within the expanding population;
- WHEREAS** educating our children and youth about agriculture is crucial for fostering a deeper understanding of food production, sustainability, and the vital role agriculture plays in our economy and environment; and
- WHEREAS** stable funding would empower educators and childcare providers to access essential agricultural education materials and programs, allowing ASBs across Alberta to effectively enhance agricultural knowledge among the younger generation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with the Agricultural Services Boards, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream aimed for agriculture education.

SPONSORED BY: Lac La Biche County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Rural Municipalities of Alberta

INITIAL GRADE 11-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The response indicates that a funding stream already exists and the ASBPC will help to promote the use of the program for agriculture education opportunities.

RESPONSE 11-25: AGI

- Agriculture education is an important part of building capacity and resiliency in the agriculture industry.
- To support agriculture education, funding is available through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal-provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector.
- Alberta's Sustainable CAP Resiliency and Public Trust Program includes a youth agriculture education priority area which provides funding for a variety of activities, including K-12 agriculture education field trips, learning activities and teacher training.
 - Alberta Education develops curriculum that is the foundation on which these supplementary programs can be delivered.
 - For example, Alberta's core curriculum includes topics like globalization, Alberta's history and soils.
 - Agriculture can be used as an example to bring these topics to life and not-for profit organizations, industry groups, municipalities, school authorities and post-secondary institutions can apply for funding to develop and deliver resources and teacher training that support curricular outcomes.
 - Government encourages industry organizations, post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and school authorities to apply for agriculture education funding to increase the agriculture literacy of Alberta's K-12 students. Information on the funding can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/resiliency-and-public-trust-program>
- Agriculture and Irrigation, in collaboration with Alberta Education, delivers the Green Certificate program. The program is unique in Canada and is an industry-supported, apprenticeship-style agriculture youth training program.
 - The Green Certificate program is offered in high schools throughout rural Alberta.
 - High school students select one of the 11 training specializations (field crop, irrigated field crop, cow-calf, feedlot, sheep, swine, poultry (broiler, broiler hatching egg, turkey, table egg), dairy, equine, beekeeping and greenhouse production) and work towards mastering all the skills within their training program.
 - Upon completion, students receive sixteen Grade 12 credits and a credential that could lead to a career in agriculture or agri-business.
 - For students and teachers interested in the Green Certificate Program, they can get information at <https://www.alberta.ca/green-certificate-program>
- The Green Certificate Program and the Sustainable CAP Resiliency and Public Trust Program both provide Alberta's students with opportunities to learn about Alberta's agriculture industry, a key component of Alberta's economy.

RESPONSE 11-25: AE (ADVANCED EDUCATION)



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

AR128857 April 11, 2025

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, and me regarding Resolution 11-25. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I share your view on the importance of agriculture in our province. The Alberta Dual Credit Framework allows students to personalize their high school experience and build on or discover career interests and aspirations, including opportunities in agriculture. Alberta's government is providing \$4.8 million to school boards for dual credit programs this school year and to bring collegiate schools online. We are providing \$43 million to support the costs of new collegiate schools opening in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school years.

In addition, Alberta's [Green Certificate Program](#), a collaboration between Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, is designed for students interested in agricultural careers.

More than 98 per cent of Education's budget flows to school boards, with the expectation that they will prioritize the educational experience of students and support local needs. The boards have the autonomy and accountability for the operation of their schools, as locally elected trustees are best placed to make decisions in the best interest of the communities they serve.

Alberta Education continues to work closely with our education and industry partners to ensure that Alberta students have every opportunity to pursue their career interests and succeed in Alberta's dynamic job market.

Brenda, thank you for writing and for your dedication to Alberta's agricultural sector.
Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaidis".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education

RESPONSE 11-25: RMA

April 14, 2025

Brenda Knight
Chair, Provincial ASB Committee
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary, Provincial ASB Committee
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0

Dear Brenda,

RE: ASB Resolution 11-25: Agricultural Education Funding

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) represents Alberta's sixty-nine rural municipalities, who collectively provide municipal governance to approximately 85% of Alberta's geographic area and are home to Alberta's agricultural producers, processors, innovators, and Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs).

On behalf of the RMA, I am writing to express our support for Resolution 11-25, requesting that the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with ASBs, RMA, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream to support agricultural education in Alberta.

Agricultural production has long been a cornerstone of rural Alberta's economy and way of life. However, as the province continues to urbanize, fewer Albertans have direct ties to agriculture or an understanding of where their food comes from. This disconnect poses growing challenges for the agriculture sector and rural municipalities, including the spread of misinformation, reduced public trust, and an increasing number of regulatory and market pressures disconnected from the practical realities of agriculture.

RMA's member municipalities have also highlighted the importance of bridging this knowledge gap, passing Resolution 23-19F in Fall 2019, which called for the inclusion of mandatory agriculture education in the Alberta K-12 curriculum. While the government's response at that time acknowledged the value of agricultural learning through elective programs and grants, there was no coordinated or consistent effort to embed agricultural education broadly or equitably into the curriculum across the province.

Now, in 2025, Resolution 11-25 presents a meaningful opportunity to take a pragmatic step toward actioning the requests of Resolution 23-19F. RMA appreciates the provincial government's past efforts to encourage agriculture education through initiatives like the Green Certificate Program and the Classroom Agriculture Program. However, without stable and accessible funding, these efforts risk remaining piecemeal and unable to achieve the broader goal of agricultural literacy for all Alberta youth.

2510 Sparrow Dr, Nisku, AB T9E 8N5
Office: 780.955.3639 | Fax: 780.955.3615
rmaalberta.com

A dedicated funding stream would provide educators and childcare providers with the support necessary to access curriculum-linked agricultural resources to introduce students to the foundational concepts of food production, sustainability, and rural economic contribution. Such a program would also strengthen public trust in the agriculture industry and highlight career opportunities in one of Alberta's most essential sectors.

We support Resolution 11-25 and urges the Ministry of Education to partner with ASBs, RMA, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the development of a sustainable approach to agricultural education in classrooms across the province. Together, we can ensure that future generations of Albertans - regardless of their geographic or cultural background - understand and value the importance of agriculture to Alberta's economy, environment, and identity.

Sincerely,



Kara Westerlund
President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

RESOLUTION 12-25: CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK

WHEREAS rural municipalities have been encouraging non-profit organizations to increase activities that generates revenue and build reserve funds for future projects and capital replacements to use as matching funds when applying for provincial and federal grants;

WHEREAS the 2020 Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook (CGPH) section 4.4 indicated clear use of proceeds was consistent to the supportive intent of gaming funds as earned revenue;

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 now states charitable programs expenses for that generate or receive revenue must be managed on a cost recovery;

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 also states the purchase of any equipment, supplies, or services used in any activity or operation intended to generate profit is forbidden; and

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4. states that only when program revenues are not sufficient to cover program expenses, gaming proceeds may be used to pay the shortfall for approved expenses and therefore forcing the depletion of the organizational reserves.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission to amend the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook so rural non profit organizations are allowed to build reserves and generate revenues once again without affecting the ability to use the gaming proceeds.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission suspend any audits until stakeholder engagements are completed and the amendments to the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook are adopted.

SPONSORED BY: County of Two Hills

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission

INITIAL GRADE 12-25: ASBPC

NO RESPONSE: Shortly after the resolution request for response was delivered, the Province released the following press release that addressed the concerns in the resolution, however no response was received from Red Tape Reduction or Service Alberta. Since it was clear that the Province was clearly already working on the concern prior to the ASB Resolution, and in the spirit of red tape reduction, it was felt that there was no need to follow up to get a specific response when the media release was sufficient.

RESPONSE 12-25: GOA March 10 press release

Mar 10, 2025

Less red tape, more freedoms for Alberta's charities

Charities in Alberta will now have more flexibility on how they can spend the money they earn from licensed gaming activities.

[Link to press release](#)

Bigger thresholds for approvals, wider discretion for expenses
AGLC has added a wide range of proceeds categories, and raised thresholds for spending before approvals are required, giving charities wide discretion in determining eligible expenses.

Examples include:

- Groups can retain proceeds up to \$50,000 without AGLC approval (previously \$10,000).
- Charitable groups can now use \$100,000 of gaming proceeds to conduct community events without AGLC approval.
- The limit for administrative expenses has increased to 30 per cent from 20 per cent.
- Approvals for all travel have been eliminated.
- The limit for facility renovations and leasehold improvements without approval has been increased to \$100,000 from \$50,000. Quick facts
- Alberta is the only province that licenses charities to conduct and manage casino events that support charitable organizations.
- Alberta's charitable gaming model gives eligible charitable and religious groups the opportunity to directly benefit from the proceeds (revenue less expense) of casino, bingo, pull-tickets, and raffle events.
- In 2023-24, charitable organizations earned more than \$409 million in proceeds through charitable gaming events, with \$79 million raised by Host First Nation charities.
- In 2023-24, AGLC provided 3,462 charity licenses for casino events with charities earning \$276.9 million.

- In 2023-24, more than \$1.5 billion in net gaming revenue was allocated to the province's General Revenue Fund.

RESOLUTION PC 01-25: INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS

WHEREAS the province of Alberta has included inflationary increases in multi year grants made to ASB stakeholders;

WHEREAS the ASBs continue to be important partners with the province on food and agriculture products assurance systems providing 1:7 return on investment with the ASB grant program;

WHEREAS the ASB grants have not received an increase beyond 2014 levels so grant amounts have not kept up with inflation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve a 3%/year inflationary increase for the ASBs grant program.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation

INITIAL GRADE PC 01-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The Committee was pleased that the Province indicated that inflationary increases were reasonable and encouraged a letter of request during the 2025 fall budget process.

RESPONSE PC 01-25: AGI

Response:

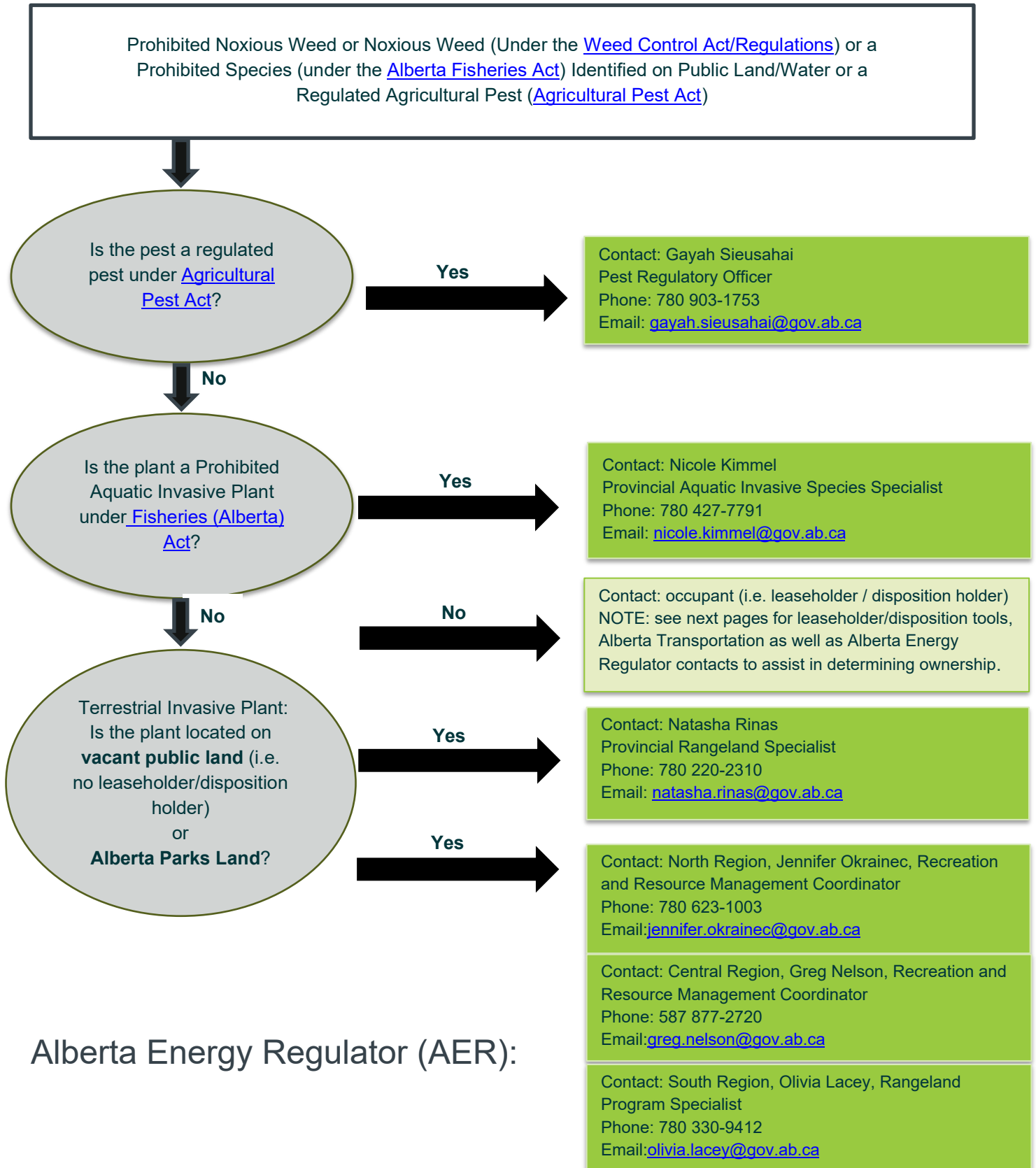
Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) are critical partners with the Government of Alberta. Government remains committed to supporting the important work ASBs do each year to administer and implement the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act* and *Soil Conservation Act*, and assist in the control of animal diseases under the *Animal Health Act*. Government recognizes the vital role of ASBs in protecting Alberta's access to markets through the surveillance and control of pests and the continued strong relationship with municipalities.

The budget planning process for 2025-26 was complete at the time Resolution PC-01-25 was received. However, it will be discussed for the 2026-27 budget.

Thank you again for this important resolution. A strong agriculture industry remains at the heart of Alberta's economic strategy, and ASBs will continue to be an important partner in this success.

	RESOLUTION	Response request	Response Received	Sponsoring ASB	April 17 follow up actions
1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY	AAFC	March 12	Yellowhead	Further response -not yet received.
4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)	AB Env	March 31	Smoky River	
5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS	AB Eng AB Env AGI AB Trans	(defer to AB Env) March 31 March 25 (defer to AGI)	Northern Sunrise	Further response requested from AGI – received
6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT	AB Jobs AB A Ed AGI	April 17 March 25	Lacombe County	Further response requested – not yet received.
7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL	AB Trans AGI Forestry AB Env	March 26 March 25 May 15 Defer to Trans.	MD Greenview	Further response sent and received.
9-25	NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW	AGI	March 25	Fairview	
11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING	AB Ed AGI RMA	April 11 March 25 April 14	Lac La Biche	
12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK	Service AB Red tape AB gam		Two Hills County	Reminder email/letter
PC1-25	INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS	AGI	March 25		

Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water



Alberta Energy Regulator (AER):

Phone number: 1-855-297-8311 (this is the AER customer contact line)

On line resource: OneStop Public Viewer can assist in determining disposition number and disposition holder of all Oil and Gas dispositions. There is no cost to this public viewer

<https://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/project-application/onestop/onestop-help>

Alberta Transportation Weed Management:

Contact: Allan Bartman, Director Highway Operations (780) 422-6431, allan.bartman@gov.ab.ca

Invasive Species Contacts

Expertise	Name & Title	Contact Info
Aquatic Invasives	Nicole Kimmel Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist	(780) 427- 7791 nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca
Vacant Public Land Weeds	Natasha Rinas Rangeland Program Specialist	(780) 220-2310 natasha.rinas@gov.ab.ca
North Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Jennifer Okrainec Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(780) 623-1003 jennifer.okrainec@gov.ab.ca
Central Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Greg Nelson Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(587) 877-2720 greg.nelson@gov.ab.ca
South Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Olivia Lacey Vegetation Management Coordinator	(780) 330-9412 olivia.lacey@gov.ab.ca
Kananaskis Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	Patrick Waring Parks Land Use Officer	patrick.nelson@gov.ab.ca
Weed and Pest Act / Regulations	Gayah Sieusahai Pest Regulatory Officer	(780) 903-1753 gayah.sieusahai@gov.ab.ca
Rat & related Agricultural Pests	Karen Wickerson Rat & Pest Program Specialist	(780) 427-7791 karen.wickerson@gov.ab.ca

Wild Boar & related Agricultural Pests	Hannah McKenzie Inspection Officer	(780) 996-3373 hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca
Agriculture Entomologist	Amanda Jorgensen Provincial Entomologist	(780) 264-6708 amanda.jorgensen@gov.ab.ca
Plant Health (weed, disease and insect)	Doug Macaulay Acting Chief Plant Health Officer	(780) 717-2315 doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca
ASB Programs	Kerriane Koehler-Munro Provincial ASB Manage	(780) 938-4149 kerriane.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca
ASB Programs	Alan Efetha Provincial ASB Specialist	(403) 315-5121 alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca
Pesticide Use	Tanya Rushcall Provincial Pesticide Approvals Registration Specialist	(780) 644-4647 Tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca
Forest Entomologist	Mike Undershultz Senior Forest Entomologist	(780) 422-1508 mike.undershultz@gov.ab.ca
Wildlife Diseases	Mark Ball Wildlife Disease Specialist	(780) 644-8012 mark.ball@gov.ab.ca
Fish Diseases	Emmanuel Pila Fish Disease Lab & Molecular Biologist	(780) 446 0687 emmanuel.pila@gov.ab.ca

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

Agriculture Service Board Update:

- Seasonal staff started on May 1, 2025.
- Checking various beaver and drainage complaints and issues.
- Diamond Back Moth traps are up and monitoring, one site in the west end of the county, and one site in the East end of the county.
- Attended NE AAAF Weed inspection Training in County of Vermillion River May 20, 2025.
- Attended NE AAAF Product Stewardship Training in Lamont County May 21, 2025.
- Facilitated (Trainer/Presenter) for the NE AAAF Pesticide Authorized Assistant Training in Two Hills County May 28, 2025.
- Contracted mower has started the seasonal mowing cycle for the hamlets and park.
- Rotary Peace Park, Lavoy Cemetery, and Campground area in Lavoy have been sprayed for Dandelions.

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

April 30, 2025

30-Day Synopsis (Maps 1 to 3)

Typically, April is the transition from winter to spring and we see a shift toward wetter conditions in Alberta (**MAP 1**).

Although there are notable regional differences in precipitation between March 25th and April 30th. A significant portion of the province received more than 15 mm of precipitation in April (**Map 2**). Southern Alberta, from the Cypress County west, and most of the Central Region received 20 to 25 mm. An area north-west of Calgary up through the County of Wetaskiwin received anywhere between 30 and 40 mm of precipitation. The mountains received more than 40 mm of precipitation.

Lower levels of precipitation were received in the North East Region and parts of the north-east Central Region. An area stretching from the County of Stettler and north to Athabasca County and to the Saskatchewan border received between 5 and 15 mm of precipitation. Pockets within the area only received 2 to 5 mm of precipitation.

The area around Peace River received 5 to 10 mm of precipitation. The northern Peace Region, around High Level and Fort Vermillion, received higher precipitation, 15 to 25 mm. The area east and west of Grand Prairie received very little precipitation, reporting less than 3 mm.

This pattern indicates a typical seasonal transition, with moisture beginning to build—especially in the South, Central and Mountainous Regions, while northern areas remain drier.

Comparing recent precipitation levels to long-term normals across Alberta over the past 30 days, revealed significant spatial variability. Relative to normal, the last 30-day precipitation accumulations trended near normal to higher than normal for most of the Central and South Regions, as well as an area north and east of Edmonton and the very northern Peace Region (**Map 3**).

The area running from Lacombe County south and east to Wheatland County experienced moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) precipitation accumulation relative to long term normal. There are a few areas within the Central and South Regions reporting low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

The North East Region plus the north-east portion of the Central Region are reporting moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) to very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) precipitation compared to normal. The North West Region as

well as most of the Peach Region is also reporting moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) to very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long term normal. A pocket west of Grand Prairie is reporting extremely low (once in 25 to 50-years) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

Winter Precipitation Trends (Maps 4)

The winter season, from November through April, precipitation accumulations varied spatially across the province, with areas experiencing both near-normal and below-normal conditions. The east half of the Central and South Region, the North West Region as well as the south Peace Region had near normal winter season precipitation accumulation (**Map 4**). Pockets of moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation relative to normal are scattered through this area.

A large area along the foothills running from Cardston County to north-east of Red Deer, across to the County of Paintearth and north through Beaver County into Lamont County reported moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) winter season accumulation relative or normal. The central Peace Region from Saddle Hills County to the M.D of Opportunity and north into Mackenzie County also reported moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation relative to long term normal. Pockets across this area report low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) precipitation relative to long term normal.

About half of Alberta had a reasonably typical winter in terms of precipitation, although key agricultural and foothill areas saw drier-than-usual conditions.

365-Day Precipitation Trends (Map 5 and 6)

Looking back over the past 365 days, precipitation accumulations relative to normal (**Map 5**) have not changed much since the last report. A large portion of the agricultural area continues to report moderately low (once in 3 to 6 years) to low (once in 6 to 12 years) precipitation accumulations relative to normal. This includes areas through Cardston County and the M.D. of Pincher Creek in the South Region, the west half of the Central Region, the North West Region, parts of the North East Region and the south-west and northern parts of the Peace Region. These areas are reporting a 365-day precipitation accumulation of 70 to 90% of average (**Map 6**).

Once in 12 to 25-year lows continue to persist in and around Red Deer and Mountain View Counties. A small area

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

©2025 Government of Alberta | [June 4, 2025](#) ~~May 2, 2025~~ | Agriculture and Irrigation

Classification: Public



southwest of Red Deer is reporting a once in 25 to 50-year low in precipitation accumulations relative to the long term normal. This area is reporting 365-day precipitation accumulations of 50 to 70% of average.

Conversely, the central part of the North East Region, eastern half of the Central Region and most of the South Region are reporting near normal (once in 3 years) to moderately higher than normal (once in 3 to 6 years highs) precipitation accumulations relative to long term normal. Here, areas are reporting precipitation accumulations of 90 to 130% of average), which is positive news for those farming in these areas.

Soil Moisture Reserves (Maps 7 to 9)

It is estimated that many fields in the South and Central Regions are experiencing near-normal soil moisture levels (**Map 7**). A large area from the M.D. of Taber north to Starland County and east into the Special Areas is estimated to have moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) soil moisture reserves. It is estimated this area has between 60 to 80 mm of water in 120cm depth of soil ready to support early growth (**Map 8**). This is estimated to be 15 to 25 mm above normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

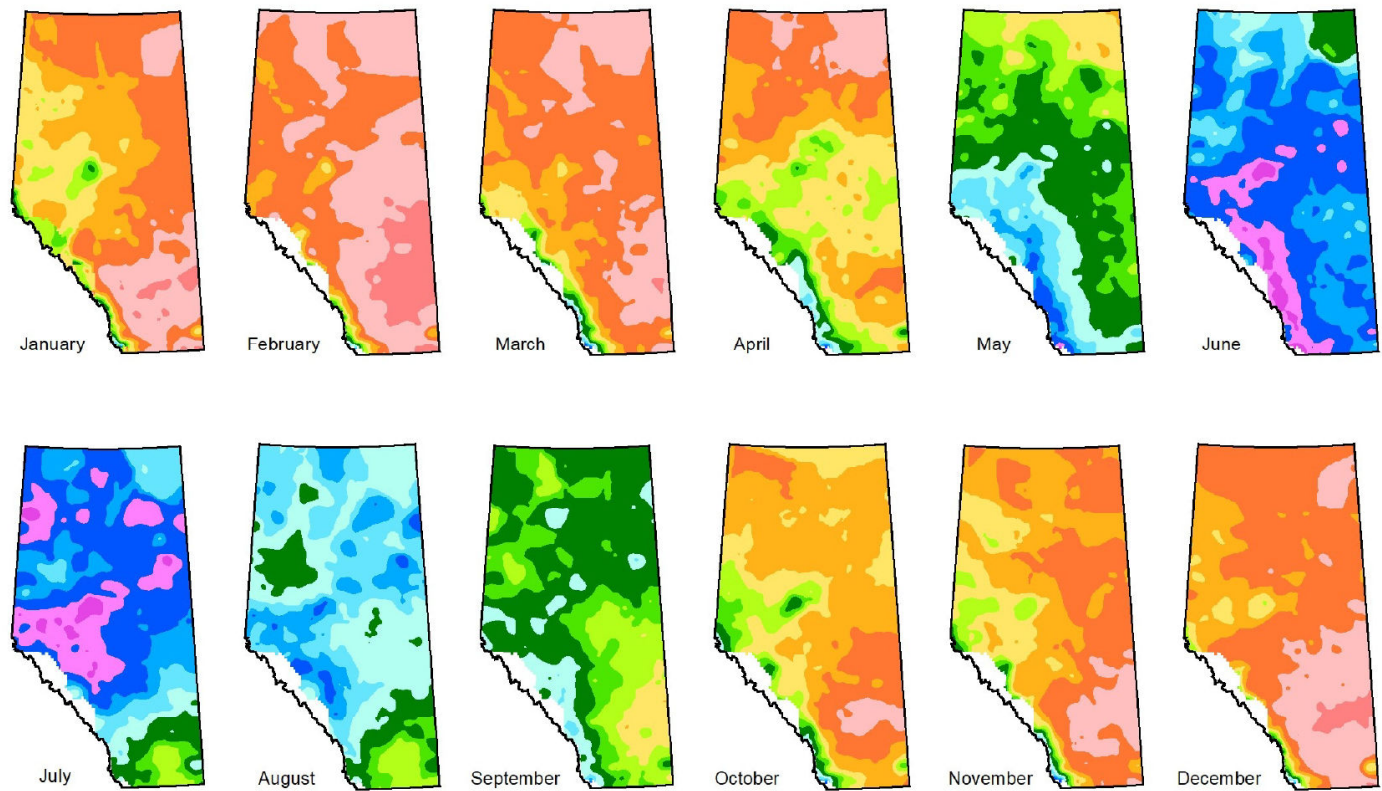
In contrast, soil moisture in the County of Warner, east to the M.D. of Pincher Creek, and north to the M.D. of Foothills is estimated to be moderately low to very low, equating to once-in-3-to-25-year lows (**Map 7**). Similarly dry conditions extend across the west Central Region, North West, Peace, and parts of the North East Region, with less than 80 mm of available moisture in the top 120 cm of soil (**Map 8**). This represents a 15% to 50% deficit from normal levels (**Map 9**).

Perspective

Even with above-average winter precipitation, it rarely replenishes deep soil moisture or reverses long-term deficits. Winter is inherently the driest season, so its influence on soil moisture and agricultural productivity is minimal.

The months of May through July are pivotal. They contribute the bulk of moisture needed for crop germination, vegetative growth, and yield formation. What happens in these months will be the true determinant of the 2025 cropping season's outcome.

Alberta is now entering its historically wetter period. There remains ample opportunity to improve moisture conditions, provided rainfall arrives in a timely and sufficient manner.



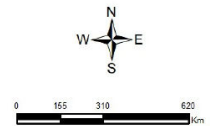
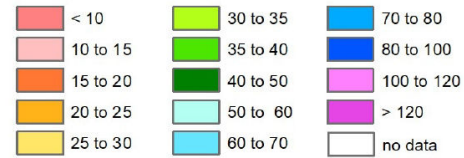
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

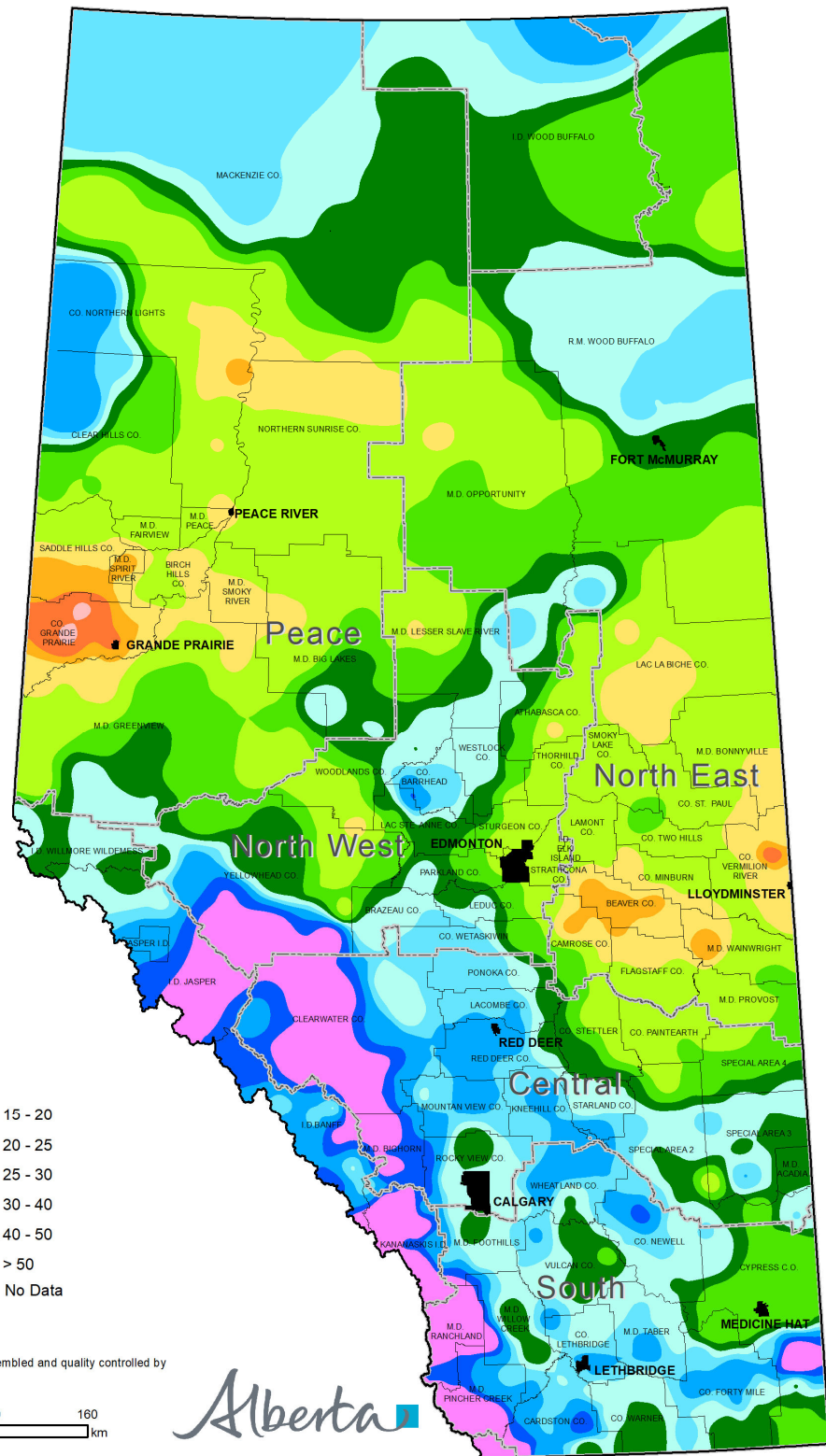
Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by
Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development
then interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)



Alberta 



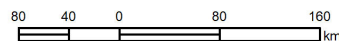
Precipitation Received During the Past 30-days

April 01, 2025 to April 30, 2025

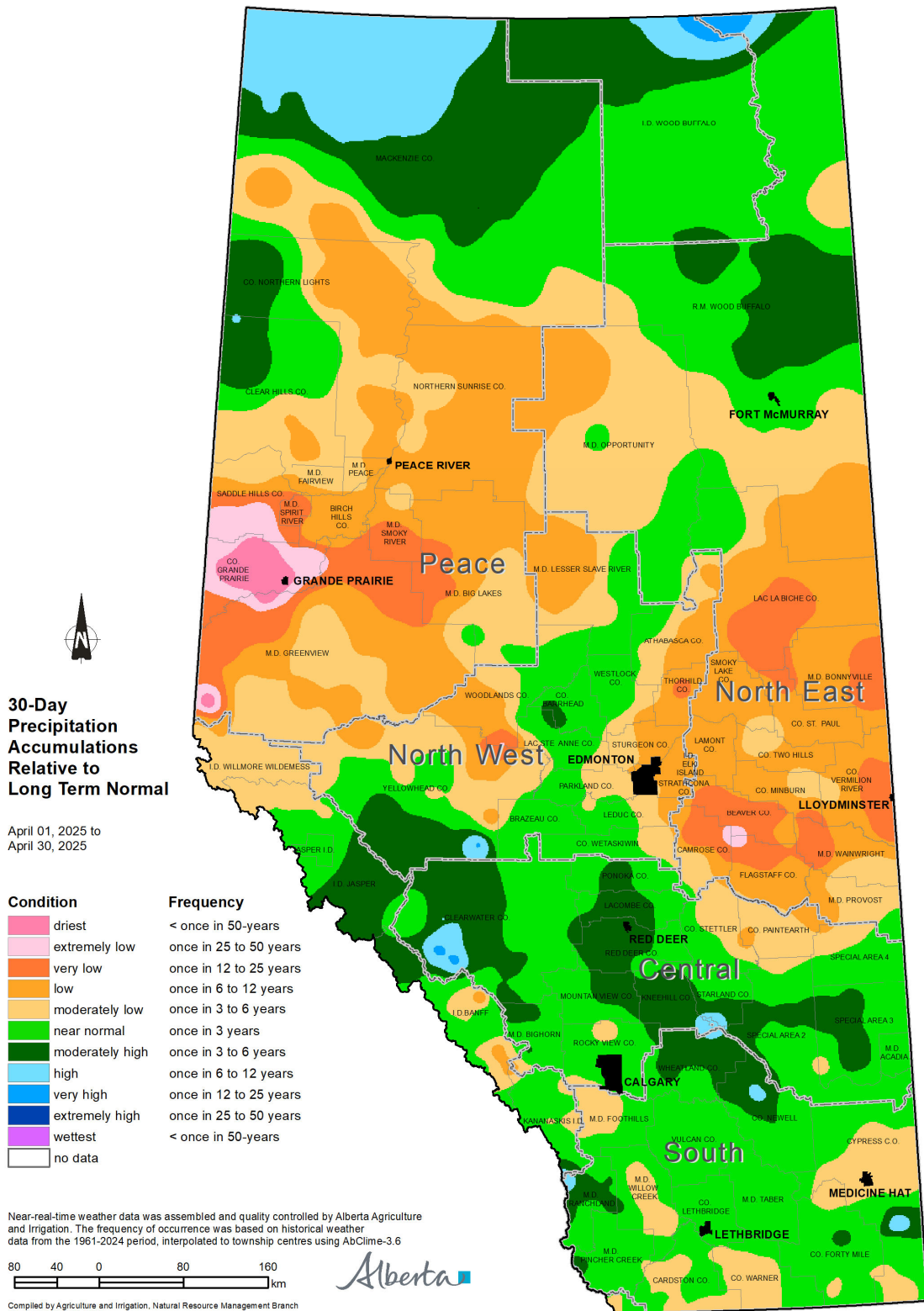
Precipitation (mm)

	< 0.5		15 - 20
	0.5 - 1.0		20 - 25
	1 - 2		25 - 30
	2 - 3		30 - 40
	3 - 5		40 - 50
	5 - 10		> 50
	10 - 15		No Data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.















Alberta

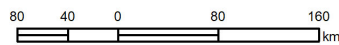


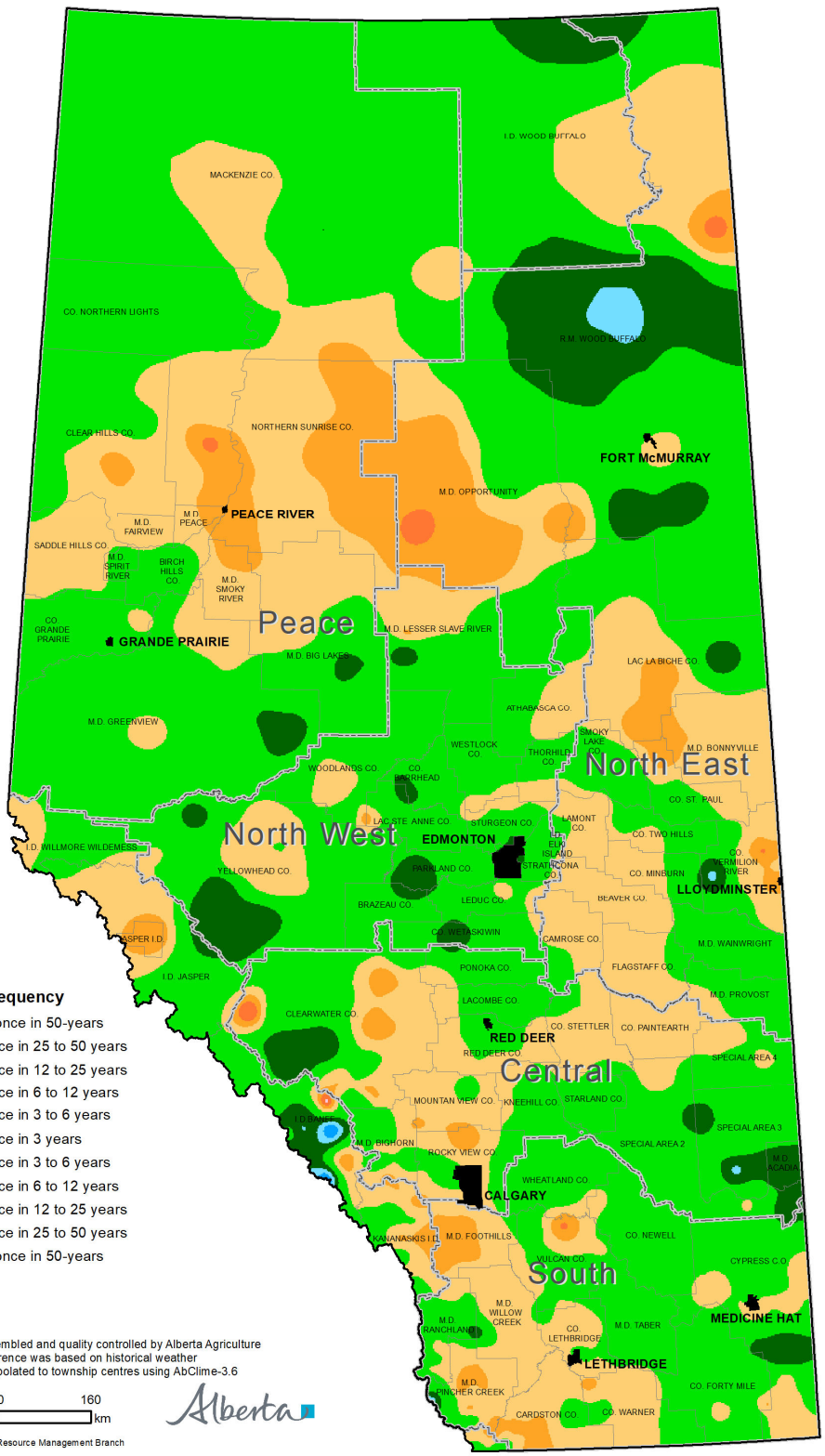
**30-Day
Precipitation
Accumulations
Relative to
Long Term Normal**

April 01, 2025 to
April 30, 2025

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	













Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6



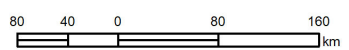


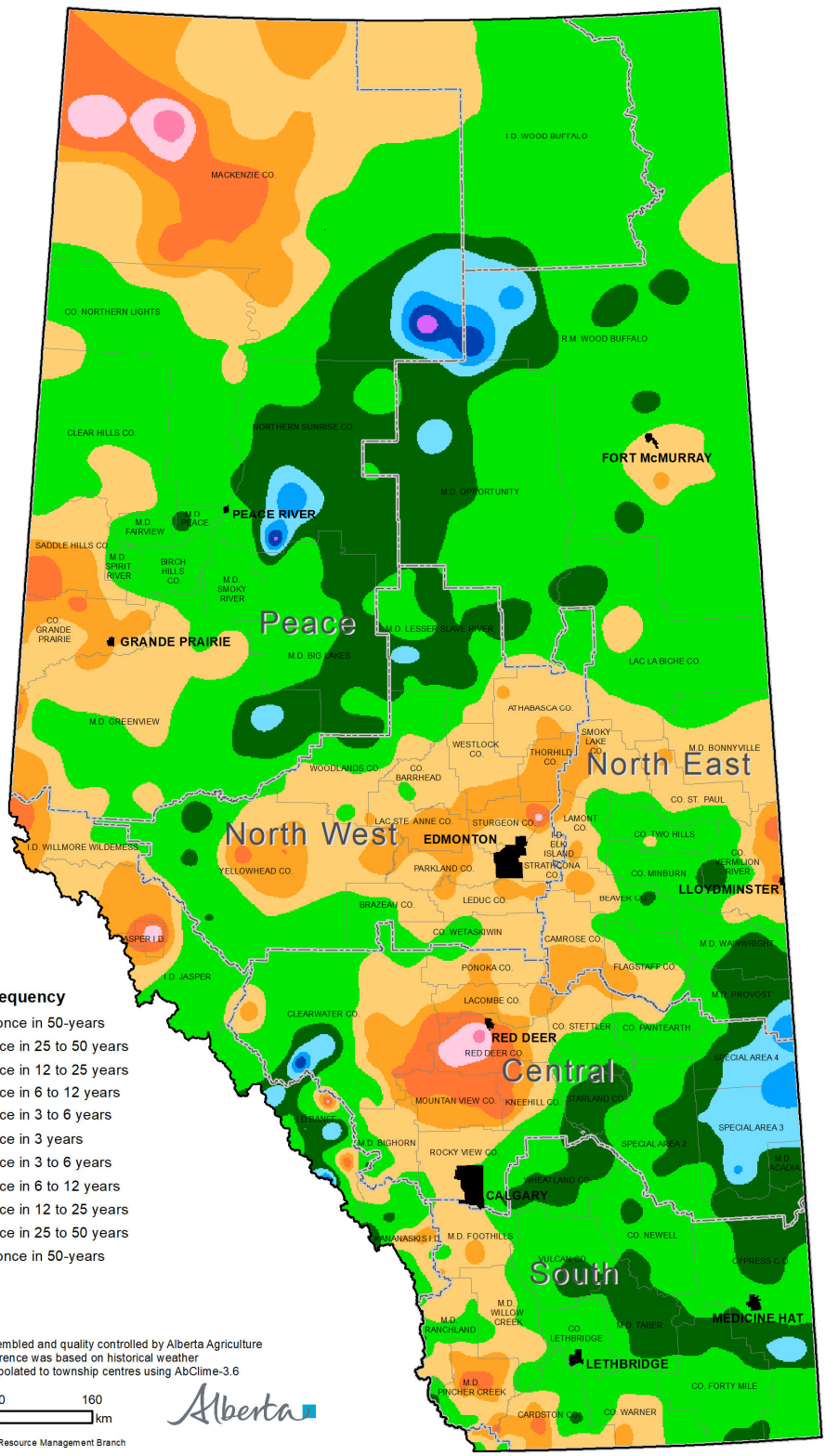
**Cold Season
Precipitation
Accumulations
Relative to
Long Term Normal**

November 01, 2024 to
April 23, 2025

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	













Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClim-3.6



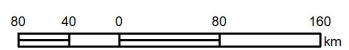


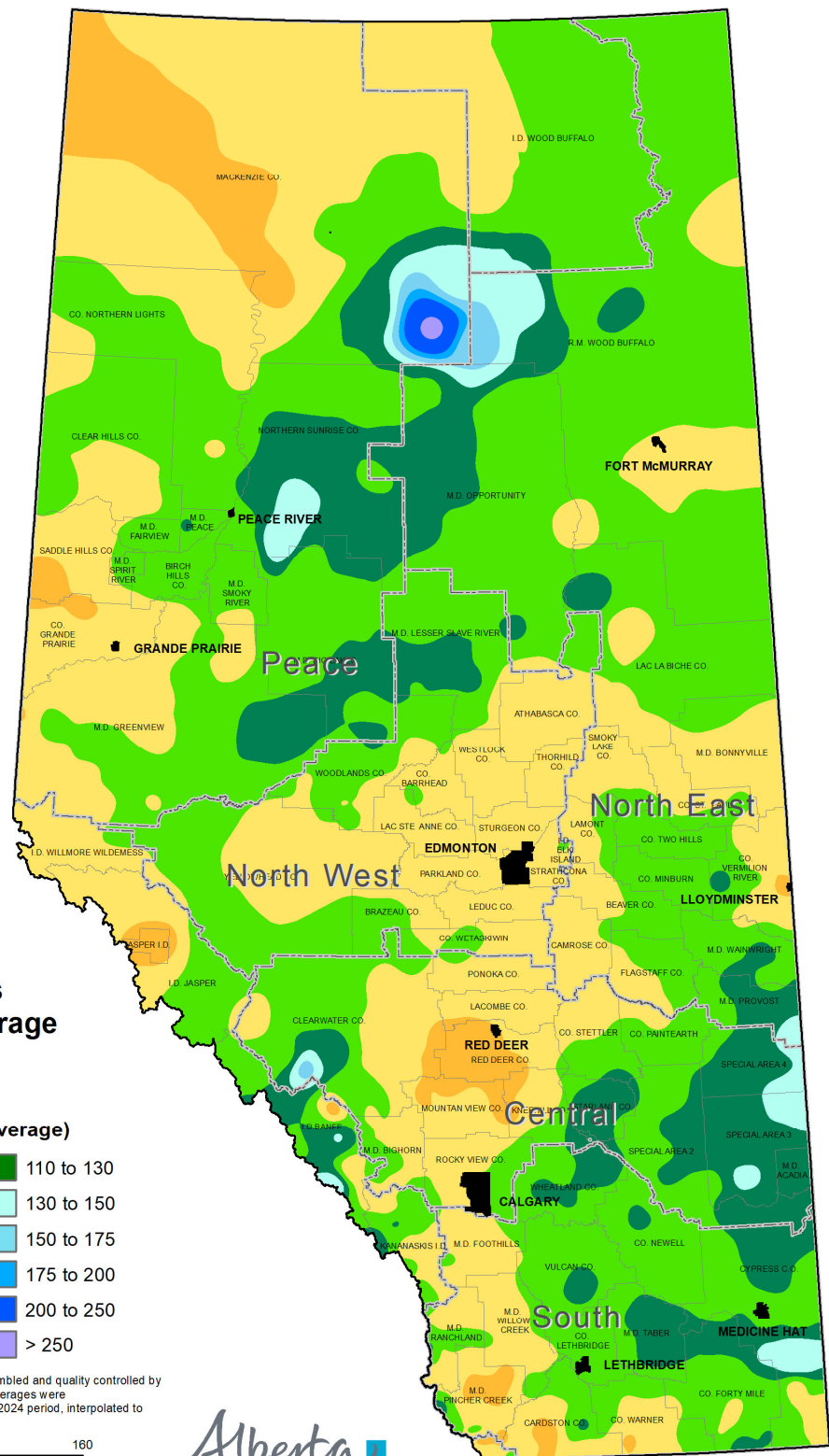
**365-Day
Precipitation
Accumulations
Relative to
Long Term Normal**

May 01, 2024 to
April 30, 2025

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6





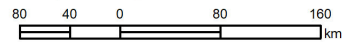
365-Day Precipitation Accumulations Percent of Average

May 01, 2024 to
April 30, 2025

Precipitation (% of Average)













 < 10	 110 to 130
 10 to 30	 130 to 150
 30 to 50	 150 to 175
 50 to 70	 175 to 200
 70 to 90	 200 to 250
 90 to 110	 > 250

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

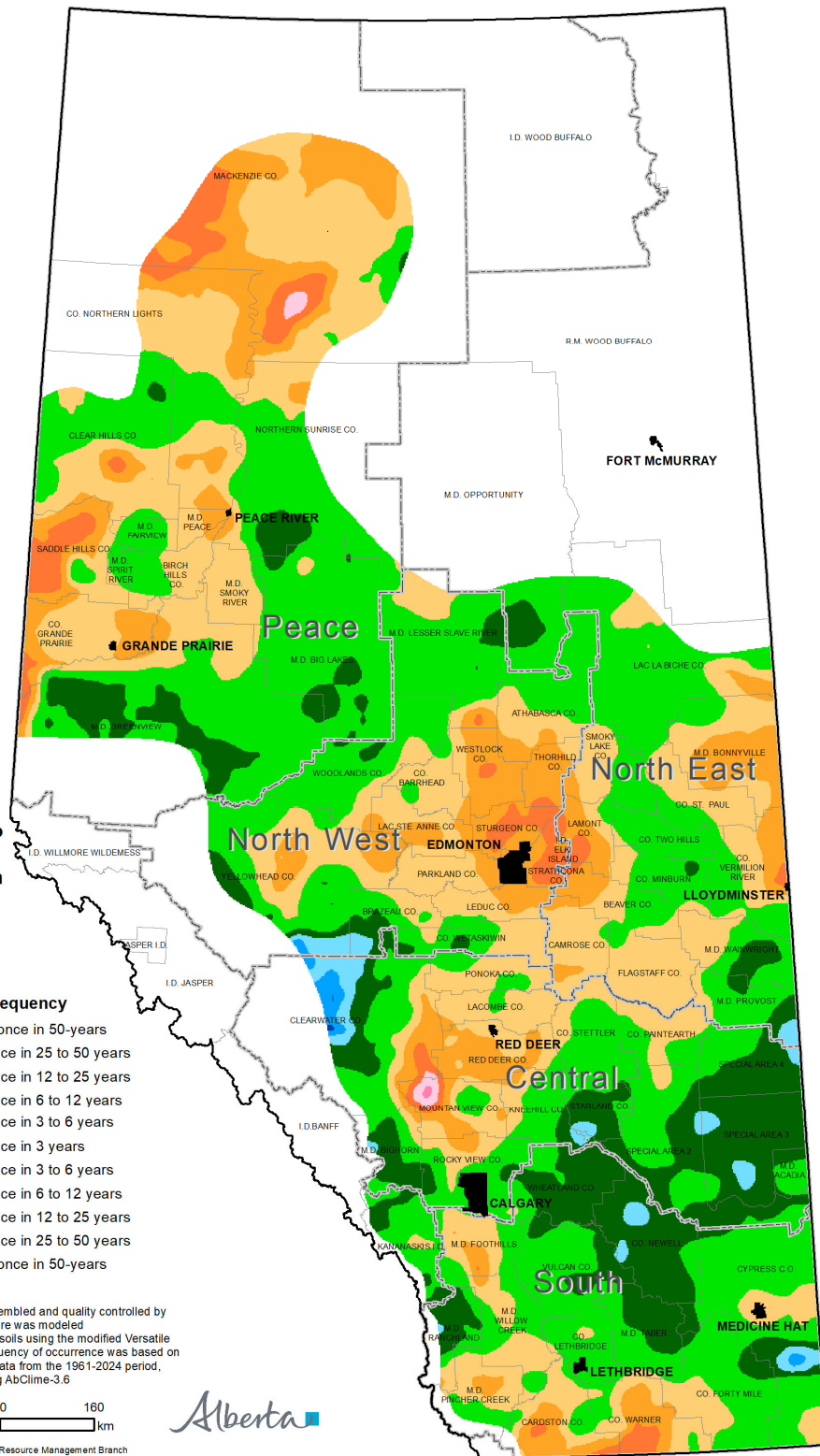


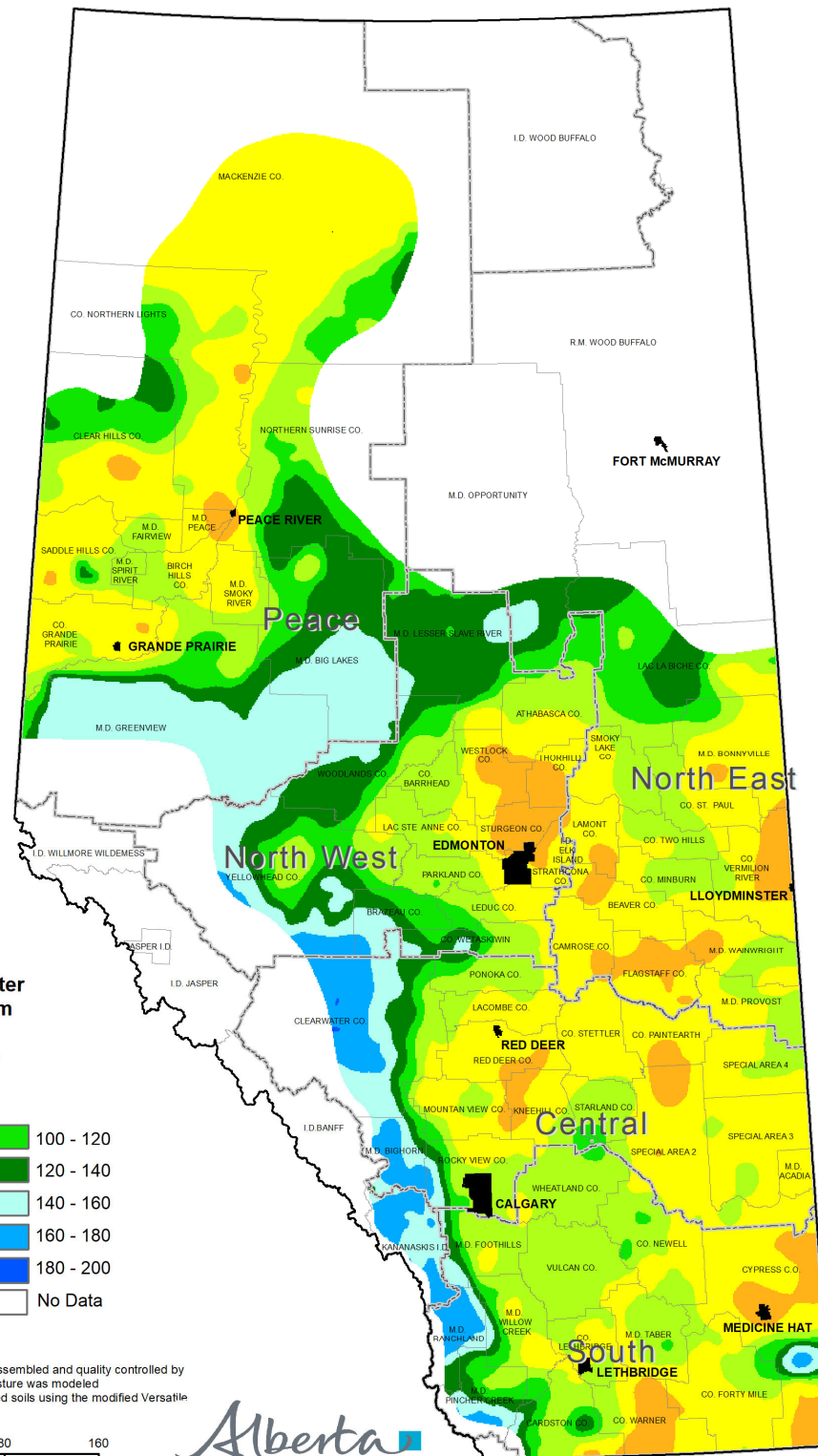
Spring Wheat Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Long Term Normal to a Depth of 120 cm

Estimated as of April 30, 2025

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6





**Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture as
Plant Available Water
to a Depth of 120 cm**

Estimated as of April 30, 2025

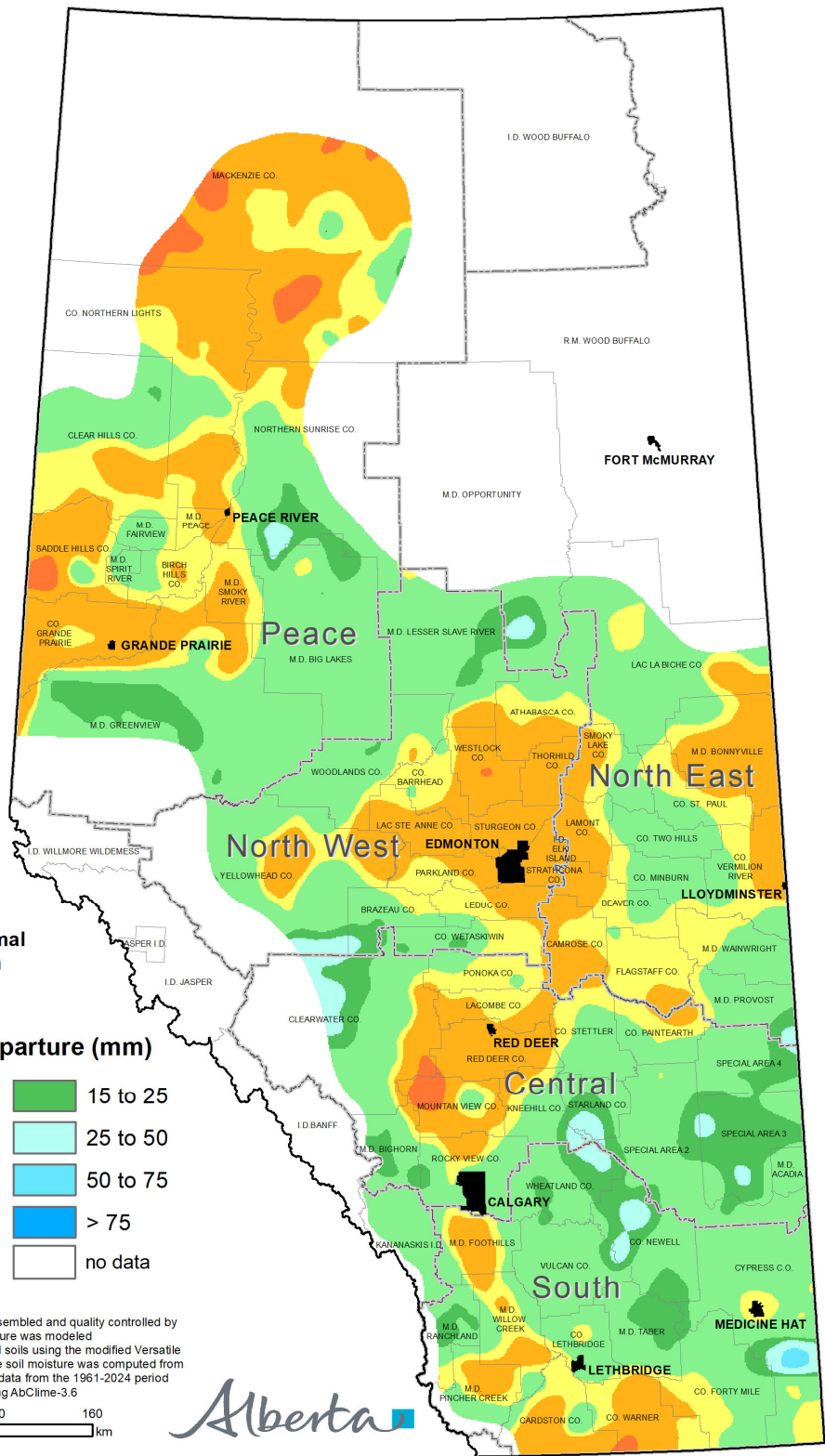
Soil Moisture (mm)

0 - 10	100 - 120
10 - 20	120 - 140
20 - 40	140 - 160
40 - 60	160 - 180
60 - 80	180 - 200
80 - 100	No Data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0.



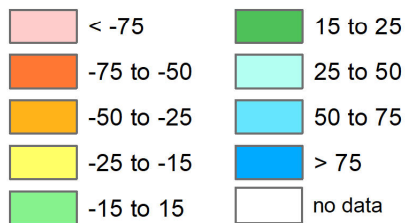
Alberta



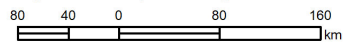
**Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture
Departure from Normal
to a Depth of 120 cm**

Estimated as of April 30, 2025

Soil Moisture Departure (mm)



Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. Average soil moisture was computed from model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period interpolated to township centres using AbClim-3.6



Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

May 21, 2025

30-Day Synopsis

As spring advances, Alberta typically enters a wetter phase beginning in May (**Map 1**).

There are notable regional differences in precipitation between April 22 and May 21. The western portion of the province, west of the Highway 2 corridor, received more than 30 mm of precipitation in the last 30 days (**Map 2**). The heaviest rainfall was received west of Red Deer, with Clearwater County receiving more than 70 mm of precipitation. East of Red Deer, Flagstaff County along with the Counties of Stettler and Paintearth received between 30 and 60 mm of precipitation.

Lower levels of precipitation, 5 to 20 mm, were received across the eastern portion of the province. The Peace Region received less than 20 mm in the last 30 days. A significant area around the central Peace Region, as well as several pockets across the region, received less than 5 mm of precipitation. The northern Peace Region, around High Level and Fort Vermillion received 5 to 10 mm of precipitation.

Comparing recent precipitation levels to long-term normal across Alberta, over the past 30 days, reveals significant spatial variability (**Map 3**). Relative to normal, the last 30-day precipitation accumulations trended from near normal to higher than normal for most of the Central, North West, North East and western portion of the South Region. A large area around Clearwater County and extending into Brazeau, Ponoka, Lacombe, Red Deer Counties and the County of Wetaskiwin received moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) to high (once in 6 to 12-year highs) 30-day precipitation relative to long-term normal.

The eastern portion of the province, including parts of the North East, Central and South Regions, have several areas with moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal. A few areas in Cypress County and the County of Forty Mile have low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

Most of the Peace Region is also reporting 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal from moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) to extremely low (once in 25 to 50-year lows). The lowest 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal are in the M.D.s of Greenview, Big Lakes and Smoky River as well as Northern Sunrise County.

Growing Season Precipitation Trends

As May 21 the growing season precipitation accumulations, from April through October, vary significantly across Alberta, with roughly half the province experiencing near-normal conditions, and the other half showing notable deviations from long-term norms.

The Central Region, the western half of the South Region, and the North West Region have near normal (once in 3-years) to moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) growing season precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal (**Map 4**). Pockets of high (one in 6 to 12-year highs) to very high (once in 12 to 25-year highs) precipitation relative to normal are scattered through the western portion of this area.

Cypress County and much of the County of Forty Mile have moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal.

The North East Region from Edmonton to the Saskatchewan border also have moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal. Pockets through Beaver, Lamont, Thorhild and Smoky Lake Counties have low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal.

The growing season accumulations relative to normal across the Peace Region ranges from low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) to extremely low (once in 25 to 50-year lows). A few pockets across the M.D.s of Greenview, Big Lakes and Smoky River have longer than once in 50-year growing season accumulations relative to normal. The exception is the northern Peace Region, Mackenzie County, which has near normal (once in 3-year) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

About half of Alberta has a reasonably typical growing season so far, in terms of precipitation.

365-Day Precipitation Trends

Looking back over the past 365 days, precipitation accumulations relative to normal (**Map 5**) have changed since the last report. The areas that had reported moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year) to low (once in 6 to 12-year) precipitation accumulations relative to normal have increased. These areas are now reporting 365-day precipitation accumulations of 70 to 90% relative to average (**Map 6**).

There are areas in each region experiencing very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) 365-day precipitation accumulations relative to normal. Small pockets across the province have extremely low precipitation accumulations (once in 25 to 50-year lows) relative to the long term normal. The 365-day precipitation accumulations in these areas are approximately 50 to 70% relative to average.

Conversely, the eastern half of the Central Region, parts of the South and North West Regions and the eastern portion of the Peace Region have near normal 365-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal. This translates to precipitation accumulations between 90 to 110% of average, which is positive news for those farming in these areas.

Soil Moisture Reserves

It is estimated that many fields in southern and central Alberta are experiencing near-normal soil moisture levels (**Map 7**). A large area from Wheatland County north to the County of Stettler and east into the Special Areas is estimated to have moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) soil moisture reserves relative to normal. It is estimated this area has between 60 to 80 mm of water in 120 cm depth of soil ready to support early growth (**Map 8**). This is estimated to be near normal to 25 mm above normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

In contrast, soil moisture in the County of Forty Mile east to the M.D. of Pincher Creek is estimated to be moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) (**Map 7**).

Estimated soil moisture reserves appear to have improved around Red Deer. An area through Mountain View County, and into Red Deer County is estimated to be moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) (**Map 7**).

Moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) persist around Edmonton through Westlock, Thorhild, Strathcona and Sturgeon Counties. Similar conditions are estimated to persist across the Peace Region. This area is estimated to have 40 to 60 mm of soil moisture as plant available water to a depth of 120 cm (**Map 8**). This represents a 25% to 50% deficit from normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

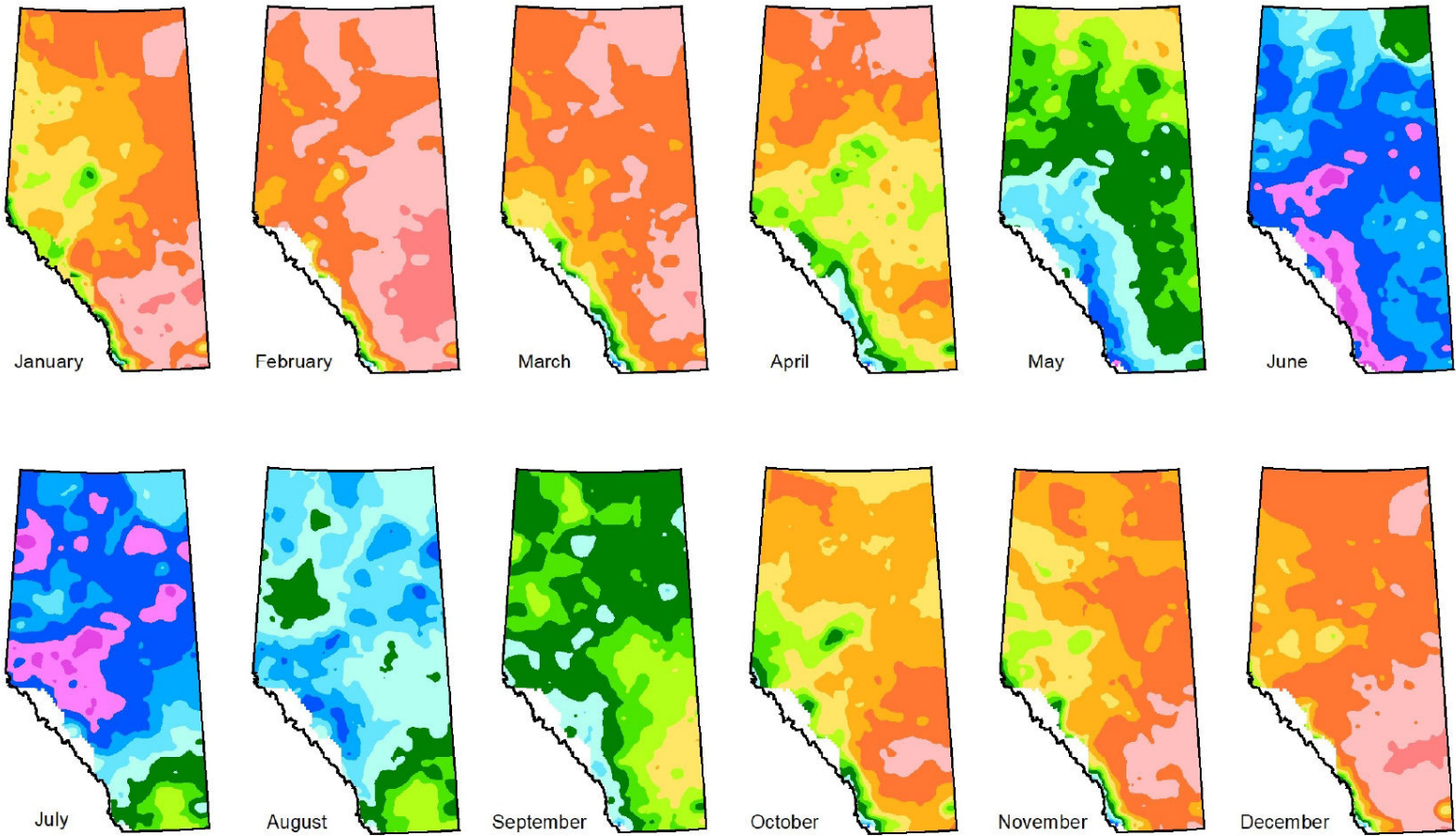
Perspective

As spring moisture begins to accumulate, soil moisture reserves will improve. Winter is inherently the driest season, and its influence on soil moisture and agricultural productivity is minimal.

The months of May through July are pivotal. They contribute the bulk of moisture needed for crop germination, vegetative growth and yield formation. What happens in these months

will be the true determinant of the 2025 cropping season's outcome.

Alberta is now entering its historically wetter period. There remains ample opportunity to improve moisture conditions, provided rainfall arrives in a timely and sufficient manner.



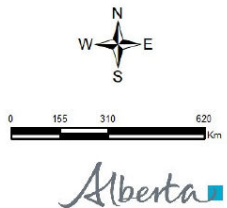
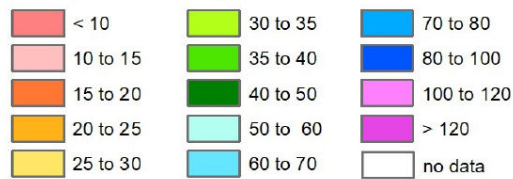
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development then interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

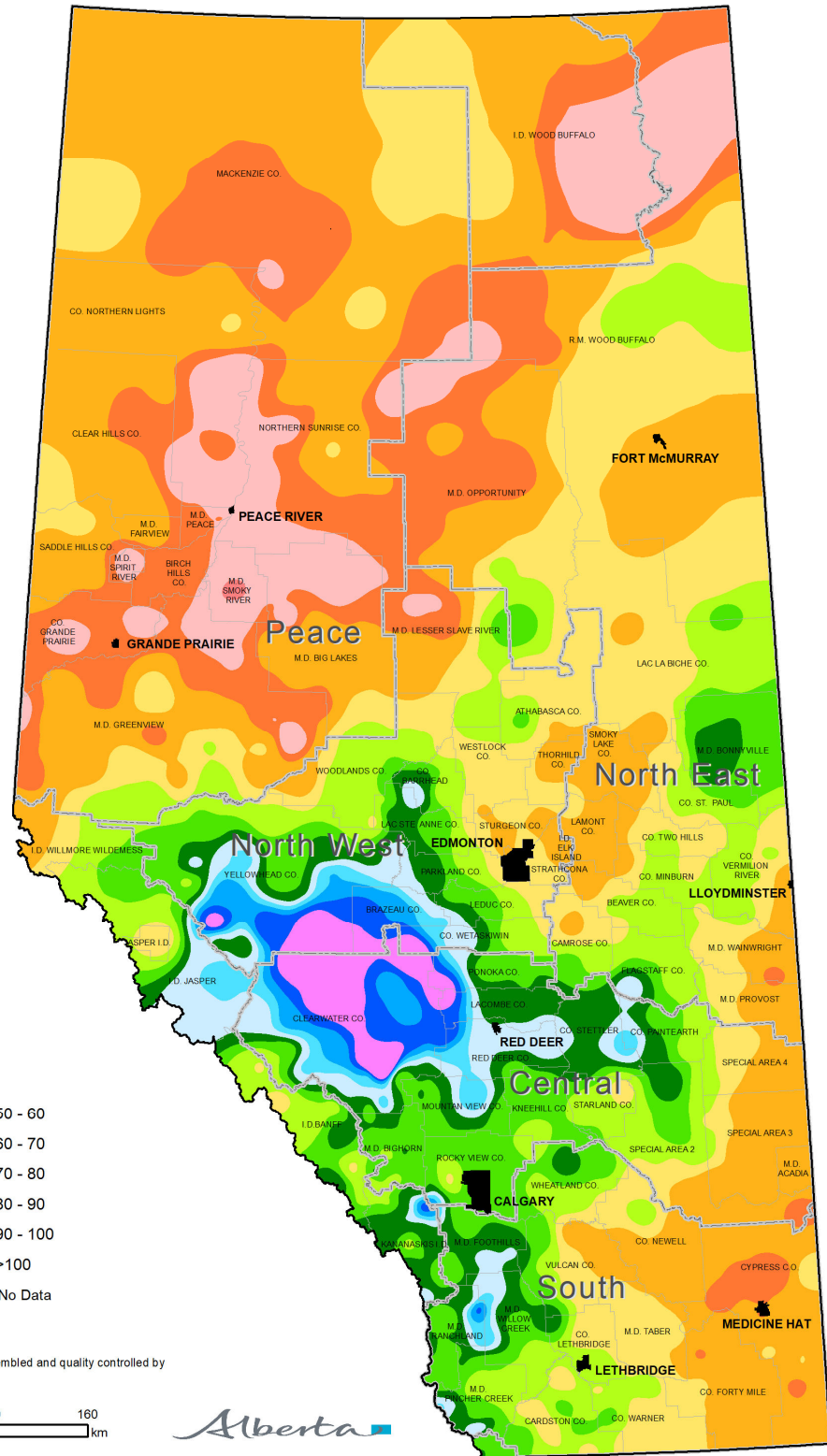
Precipitation (mm)



alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update

Government of Alberta | June 4, 2025 | Agriculture and Irrigation

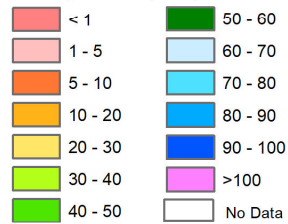
License: Public



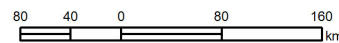
Precipitation Received During the Past 30-days

April 22, 2025 to May 21, 2025

Precipitation (mm)















Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.



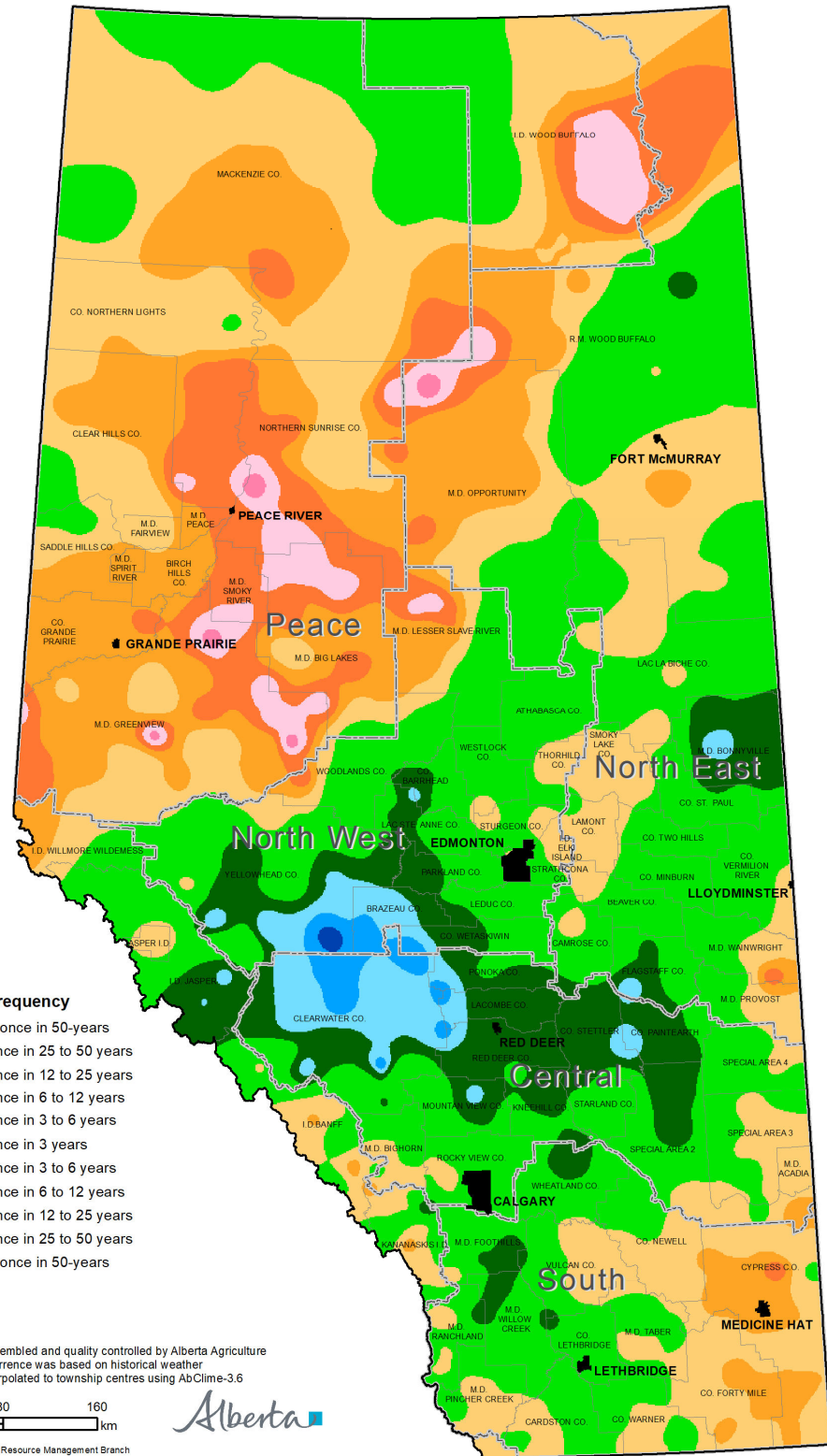
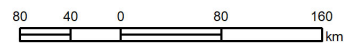
Alberta

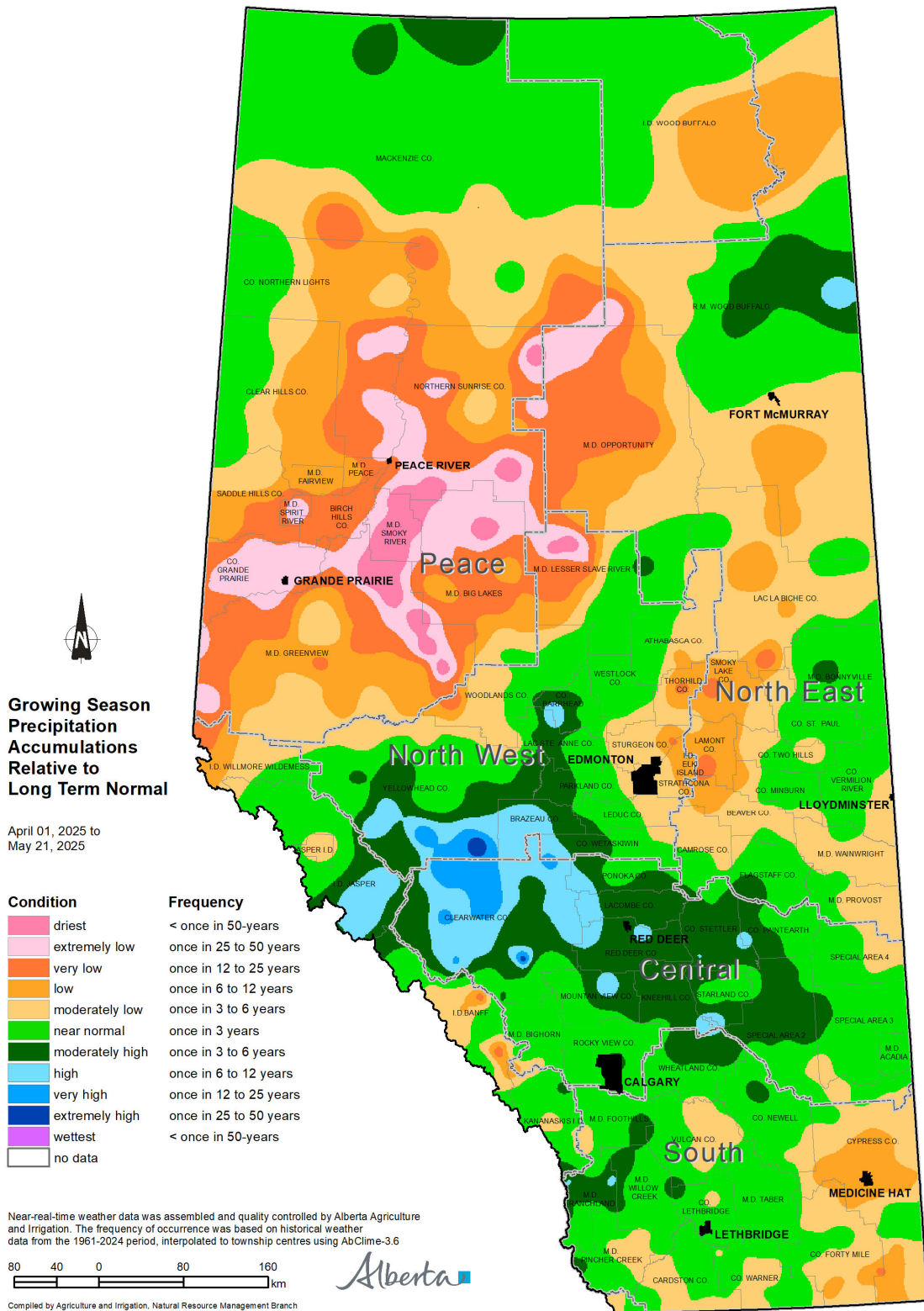
30-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

April 22, 2025 to
May 21, 2025

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6



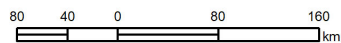


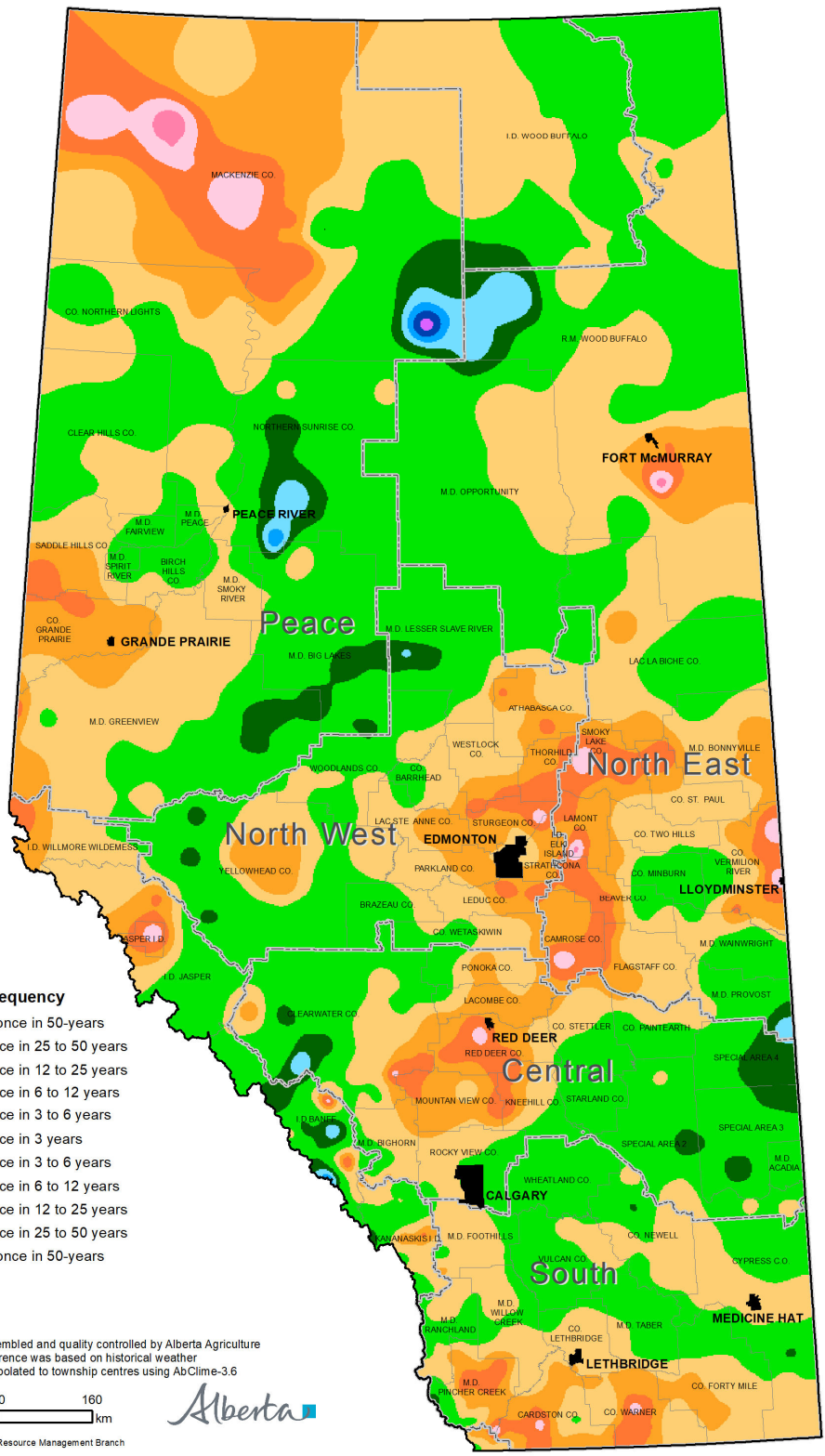
**Growing Season
Precipitation
Accumulations
Relative to
Long Term Normal**

April 01, 2025 to
May 21, 2025

Condition	Frequency
driest	< once in 50-years
extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
very low	once in 12 to 25 years
low	once in 6 to 12 years
moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
near normal	once in 3 years
moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
high	once in 6 to 12 years
very high	once in 12 to 25 years
extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
wettest	< once in 50-years
no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6

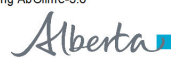
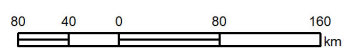




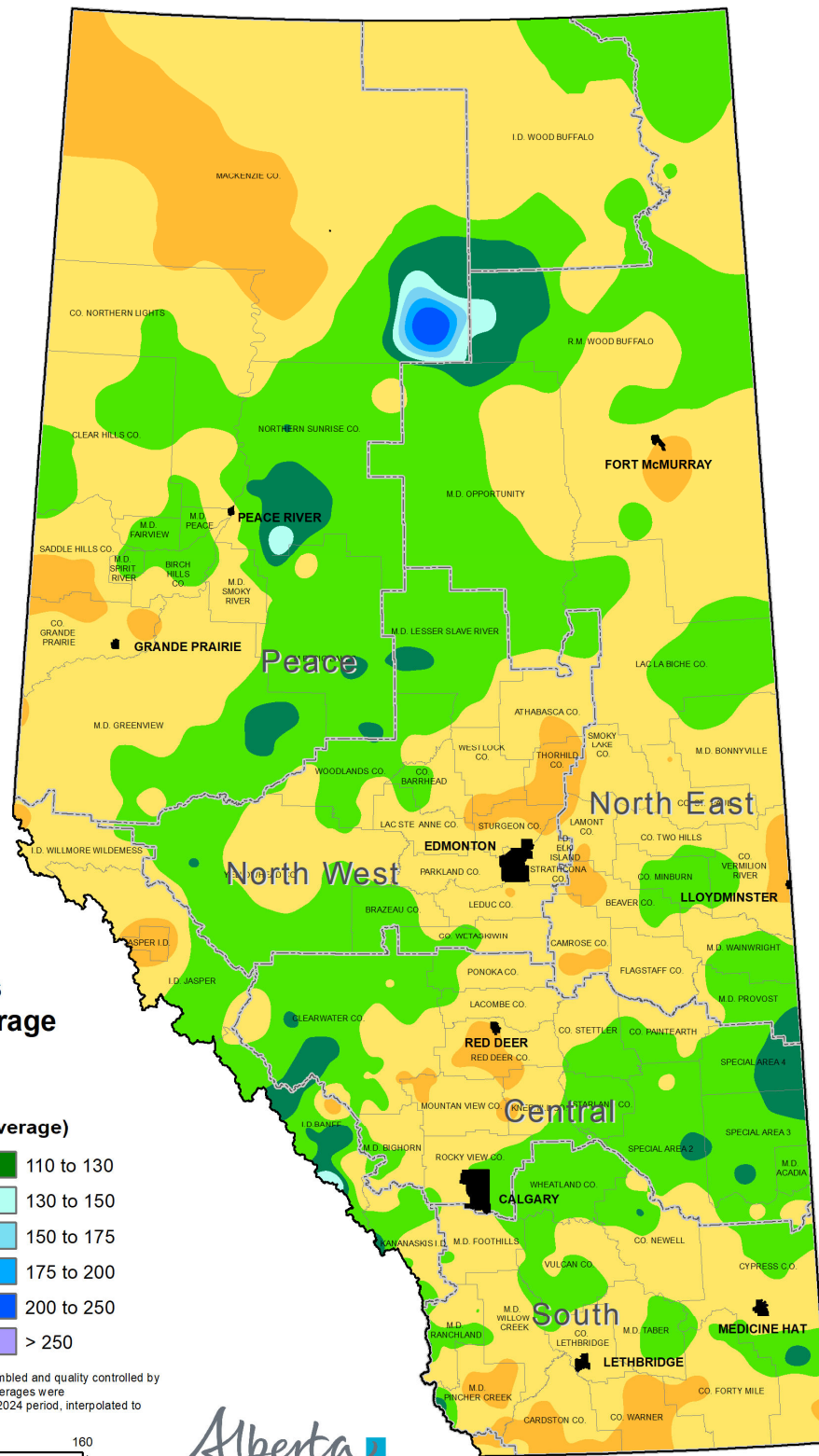
**365-Day
Precipitation
Accumulations
Relative to
Long Term Normal**

May 22, 2024 to
May 21, 2025

Condition	Frequency
	< once in 50-years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 3 years
	once in 3 to 6 years
	once in 6 to 12 years
	once in 12 to 25 years
	once in 25 to 50 years
	< once in 50-years
	no data



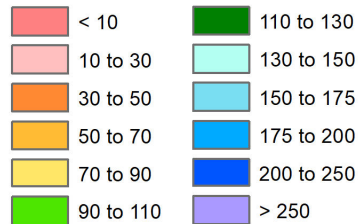
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6



365-Day Precipitation Accumulations Percent of Average

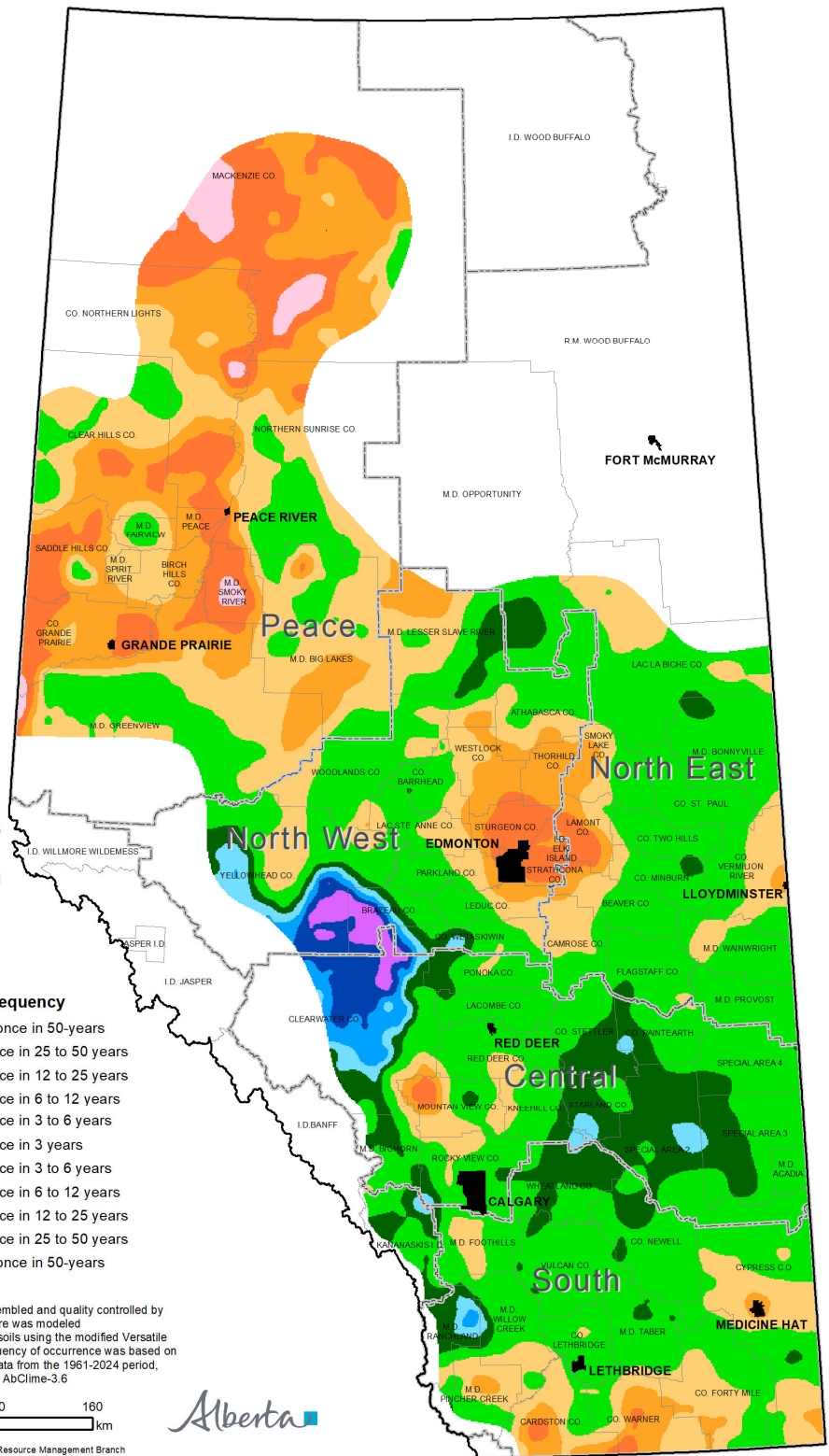
May 22, 2024 to
May 21, 2025

Precipitation (% of Average)



Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6





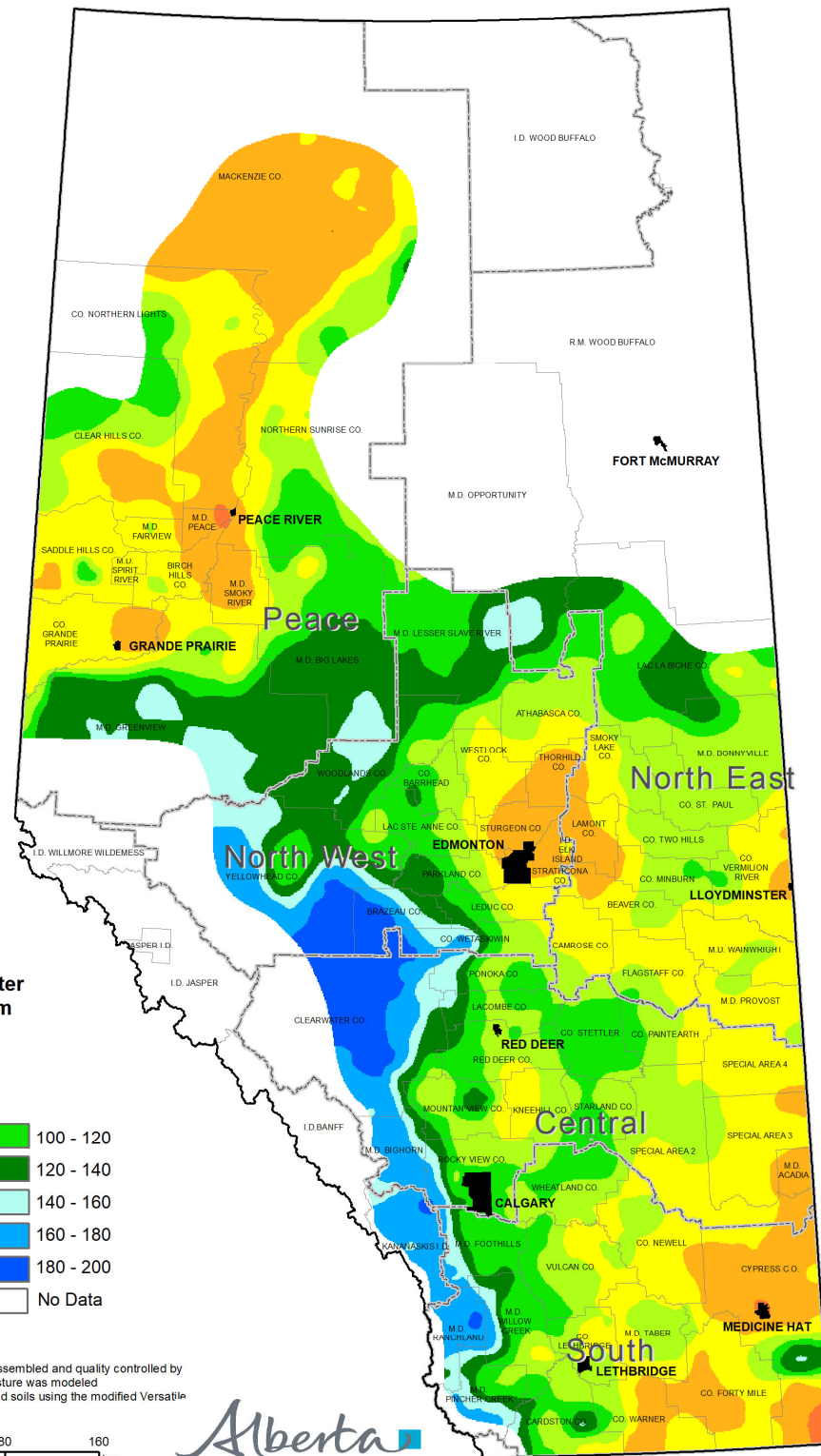
**Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture
Reserves Relative to
Long Term Normal
to a Depth of 120 cm**

Estimated as of May 21, 2025

Condition	Frequency
	driest
	extremely low
	very low
	low
	moderately low
	near normal
	moderately high
	high
	very high
	extremely high
	wettest
	no data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6





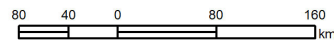
**Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture as
Plant Available Water
to a Depth of 120 cm**

Estimated as of May 21, 2025

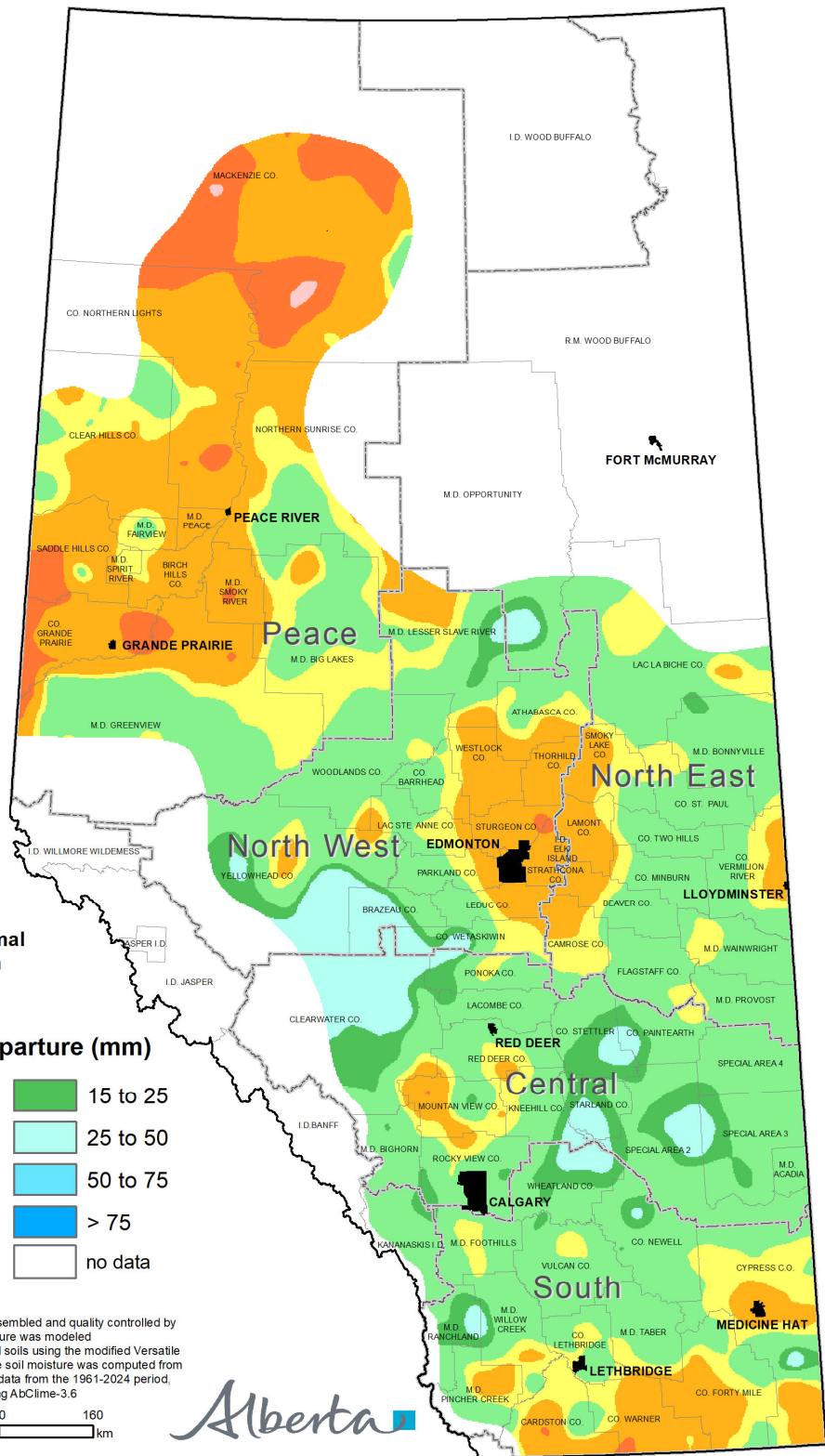
Soil Moisture (mm)

0 - 10	100 - 120
10 - 20	120 - 140
20 - 40	140 - 160
40 - 60	160 - 180
60 - 80	180 - 200
80 - 100	No Data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0.



Alberta



**Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture
Departure from Normal
to a Depth of 120 cm**

Estimated as of May 21, 2025

Soil Moisture Departure (mm)

	< -75		15 to 25
	-75 to -50		25 to 50
	-50 to -25		50 to 75
	-25 to -15		> 75
	-15 to 15		no data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. Average soil moisture was computed from model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

