

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CONFERENCES
R E S O L U T I O N S

REGION NO. 1 - Conference at Lethbridge - December 6, 1973:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the planting of trees be discretionary with regards to the backsloping provisions of the A.S.B. agreement.

2. WHEREAS Agricultural Committee have a responsibility to provide service, technical and extension assistance to farmers in their respective areas. Inspection services provide a valuable assistance towards the end. The average size of each district makes it impossible for one person to adequately cover his area and provide these services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Agricultural Committee shall be allowed to claim assistance for inspection services personnel in addition to the Agricultural Fieldman providing funds allocated towards these services are included into the Department grant structure.

3. WHEREAS present legislation dealing with stray animals is ambiguous and does not serve to effectively control livestock running at large, and

WHEREAS a study started some years ago by the Department of Agriculture seems to have been shelved and no action has been taken to rewrite the legislation and regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern Alberta Conference of A.S.B. strongly request that the studies be resumed immediately and that the legislation be reviewed at a very early date.

REGIONS NO. 2 & 4 - Conference at Morrin - February 7, 1974:

1. WHEREAS two Districts in the Province are completing their fifth year in the Warble Control program; and

WHEREAS a number of Municipal Districts and Counties are in third and fourth years, and some are just coming into the program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the provincial government continue the warble assistance program for another 5 year period.

- M.D. of Starland No. 47 and
- County of Flagstaff No. 29

REGIONS NO. 2 & 5 - Conference at Morrin - February 7, 1974:

2. WHEREAS the entire province of Alberta benefits equally from the "rat control" program but only 75% of the costs are paid from Provincial Government sources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government pay 100% of the costs of the "rat control" program but with the understanding that administration of the program remain under supervision of the local Agricultural Service Boards.

- M.D. of Provost No. 52 and
- Special Areas No. 3

REGION NO. 4 - Conference at Wetaskiwin - November 29, 1973:

1. WHEREAS Warble infested cattle continue to appear at livestock auction markets and packing plants; and

WHEREAS better control of the warble fly under the present program is difficult to accomplish;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a system of discounts be provided at auction markets for warble infested cattle.

- County of Lacombe No. 14

2. MOVED that this Conference recommend to the Provincial Department of Agriculture that contributors of warble fly grub infested cattle to auction markets be given the following options:

1. that they be returned to the farm of origin
2. that they be treated on sight with charges and liabilities borne by the contributor
3. that the cattle go for slaughter only
4. or that proof of treatment be produced

- J. Sebastian
- M. Polushin

3. WHEREAS it is urgently necessary that adequate forage supplies be available for the preservation of our provincial livestock industry; and

WHEREAS the market for hay is subject to wide fluctuations due to local weather conditions, transportation and storage problems, which creates a major problem for both the hay producer and the livestock feeder.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture be urged to investigate the feasibility of promoting and/or developing portable processing plants and storage facilities for hay with a view toward accumulating a provincial forage reserve and a stabilized market for hay.

- Art Wigmore
- W. Mills

4. MOVED that the Provincial Department of Agriculture institute a compulsory warble fly program to cover the entire province by July 1, 1974.

- J. Sebastian
- E.A. Phalempin

REGION NO. 5 - Conference at Lamont - December 19, 1973:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference go on record to urge the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Hon. E. Whalen, to make the Vegreville Soil Research Sub-Station a full fledged or autonomous soils and crop station; and

That the research work from this station in addition to solonchic soils, be extended to crop production on other soil types in this region.

- County of Minburn No. 27

- County of Lamont No. 30

- Copies of this resolution has been forwarded to Mr. D.F. Mazankowski, M.P.; Federal Minister of Agriculture, Hon. E. Whalen; and Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. H.M. Horner.

2. WHEREAS the present Improvement District Stray Animal Act and the Domestic Animals (Municipalities) Act do not provide the type of Legislation that is needed to protect farmers from stray animals; and

WHEREAS the above two Acts do not provide authority for RCMP and Brand Inspectors to act on stray animals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Improvement District Stray Animal Act and the Domestic Animals (Municipalities) Act be abolished, and new legislation be written regarding stray animals and protection for farmers against stray animals.

- Improvement District No. 18 (102)

3. WHEREAS the shelterbelt tree planting program is one of the most important A.S.B. programs in combating soil erosion and snow drifting as well as beautifying the rural areas; and

WHEREAS it is desirable to plant as many trees as possible under this program; and

WHEREAS abuses of the tree distribution program have not been prevalent among bona-fide farmers as such, particularly in this region; thereby making the site inspection and early cut-off dates unnecessary for this group; and

WHEREAS these regulations are seriously reducing the number of trees applied for;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that site inspections be mandatory only for acreage holders and that the cut-off date for applications be March 1st in the year of planting.

- County of Vermilion River No. 24

4. WHEREAS the rate of reactors in all other provinces is high compared to Alberta concerning Brucellosis, and now we are getting diseased animals from our neighbouring provinces;

BE IT RESOLVED that our provincial government put pressure on our federal government to get all provinces to go into a compulsory vaccination program for all replacement heifers.

- County of Two Hills No. 21

REGION NO. 6 - Conference at Leduc - December 7, 1973:

1. WHEREAS the control of warble grubs is of utmost economical importance to livestock owners; and

WHEREAS in many areas, a large percentage of livestock owners are in favor of warble grub control; and

WHEREAS still some cattle seem to go untreated and jeopardize the ultimate goal of a 100% control;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as an added measure of assistance to control, all cattle slaughtered at recognized federally inspected plants, be inspected for warbles during the months of March, April, May and June and that where cattle are found to be warble infested, the owners of such cattle be penalized.

- County of Leduc No. 25

2. WHEREAS Country Grain Elevator Companies have been cleaning grain for seed under the pretense of dockage cleaning; and

WHEREAS these elevators are not properly equipped to do a good and acceptable job of cleaning; and

WHEREAS farmers, local governments and the Provincial Government have a large investment in co-operative Seed Cleaning Plants; and

WHEREAS the Grain Elevator cleaning seems an unfair competition; and

WHEREAS most Grain Elevator agents do not seem to be in favor of cleaning at their establishment, but do so on order from head offices for the sake of public relations; and

WHEREAS the Seed Drill Survey in the County of Leduc, showed 100% rejection on elevator cleaned seed grain.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Department of Agriculture negotiate with the Federal Department of Agriculture to obtain legislation to halt all cleaning of grain for seed at Country Grain Elevators.

- County of Leduc No. 25

3. WHEREAS the tent caterpillar is becoming a serious pest and is destroying trees in desirable locations;

WHEREAS control of the caterpillars by local Service Boards is not practical due to the large expenditure involved;

THEREFORE we urge the Department of Agriculture to make it a Provincial Program.

- County of Parkland No. 31

4. WHEREAS necessary auction mart inspection by an S.P.C.A. constable is lacking on a regular and/or random basis; and

WHEREAS three constables cover the entire province inspecting farms, rodeos, pounds, auction marts and increasing complaints from acreages;

We recommend the S.P.C.A.'s budget be increased for the hiring of additional constables so that existing regulations may be enforced.

- County of Parkland No. 31

5. WHEREAS Section 42 of the Weed Control Act reads:

"Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the regulations or of any notice issued under this Act, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than \$25.00 and not more than \$500.00."

WHEREAS the minimum fine of Twenty Five Dollars is not a sufficient deterrent for contravention of the Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the words "not less than \$25.00" be changed to "not less than \$100.00".

- County of Parkland No. 31

6. WHEREAS Section 12 of the Weed Control Act reads:

"Every local authority shall cause to be made available disposal sites for weed seeds and materials containing weed seeds sufficient for the needs of the municipality."

WHEREAS many local authorities are unable to provide disposal sites for weed seeds due to high population areas and proximity to towns,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the words "shall cause to be made available" be changed to "shall be encouraged to make available".

- County of Parkland No. 31

7. WHEREAS Section 19 of the Weed Control Act reads:

"Where a person fails to comply with any notice issued by an inspector, the inspector may cause the noxious weeds or weed seeds to be destroyed, by any means consistent with good agricultural practice."

WHEREAS the term good agricultural practice is not always applicable or practical as other control methods must often be used on non-agricultural land and waste areas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the words "by any means consistent with good agricultural practice" be deleted.

- County of Parkland No. 31

8. WHEREAS a shortage of forage reserves exists; and

WHEREAS discontinuation of the forage assistance program would be detrimental to the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS cultural wild oat control practices include forage rotations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta request the Alberta Department of Agriculture to continue the forage assistance program.

- Improvement District No. 15

9. WHEREAS the Provincial Government has suggested they will encourage local industry such as alfalfa pelleting plants and increase production of prime agriculture products; and

WHEREAS the proposed wild oat problem does not recognize the value of forage rotation as good agricultural practices in wild oat control; and

WHEREAS the proposed wild oat program does not recognize varying regional requirements for wild oat control.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture reassess the proposed wild oat program so that the expenditures will more effectively meet the needs of the farmers in the Province.

- M.D. of Westlock No. 92

10. WHEREAS the losses in yield caused by wild oats in Western Canada annually is estimated to be \$500 Million; and

WHEREAS the wild oat infestation is causing a great deal of concern among producers; and

WHEREAS the Federal Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Department of Agriculture of the Prairie Provinces have recognized the seriousness of the wild oat problem and have appointed a committee known as the Wild Oat Action Committee, but have apparently not yet made a definite financial commitment relative to the operation of this committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our Alberta Service Board Conference request our Provincial Minister of Agriculture in conjunction with the Ministers of Agriculture of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the Federal Minister of Agriculture to provide adequate funds for the operation of the Wild Oat Committee.

- County of Parkland No. 31

11. WHEREAS it appears that supply of fertilizer and chemicals will be curtailed for the 1974 crop year due to the Energy Crisis;

WHEREAS the present level of production of food in Alberta is heavily dependent on adequate supplies of fertilizer and chemicals;

THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED that the Alberta Department of Agriculture contact the appropriate agencies including the Federal Government to give top priority in the allocation of petroleum products for the production of food including fuel, fertilizers and chemicals used in agriculture.

- County of Parkland No. 31

REGION NO. 7 - Conference at Fairview - December 17, 1973:

1. WHEREAS the Alberta Department of Agriculture and the Local Government in the Peace River area are desirous of maintaining a viable livestock industry; and

WHEREAS the Peace River area is eminently suited to the raising of cattle; and

WHEREAS the interests of Canadian Consumers as a whole are concerned with the productivity of the Agricultural Industry and the Cattle Industry in particular; and

WHEREAS a producer of cattle must make plans for livestock feed, pasture and facilities for a considerable number of years into the future; and

WHEREAS existing lease arrangements on certain crown lands can only be concluded on a year to year basis; and

WHEREAS said producer may be deprived of pasture rights at any time, thus necessitating an untimely liquidation of his herd;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any and all leases on crown lands where multiplicity of land use is practiced, give prior and definite consideration to the needs of the Livestock Industry in the Province of Alberta.

- County of Grande Prairie No. 1

2. WHEREAS there is a shortage of seed grains, namely wheat, oats and barley in the Peace River Region, and the likelihood of farmers being unable to obtain such grains locally;

THEREFORE let it be resolved that the Department of Agriculture provide information to municipalities as to the availability, cost and existence of the said grains.

- Improvement District No. 16

- Forwarded to Hon. H.M. Horner, Minister of Agriculture for consideration.

REPLY: "This will acknowledge yours of December 21st with the various resolutions which I found very interesting and constructive. I can assure you that they will be given every consideration."

3. WHEREAS the 1974 Agricultural Service Board budget provides for a grant of \$100.00 per bee yard for electric fencing;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that this grant be changed to \$100.00 loans, interest free, to a maximum of \$4,000.00, also that it be included in the Agricultural Development Corporation guaranteed Loan Act and repayment be made similar to existing native range improvement program.

- Improvement District No. 16

- Forwarded to Hon. H.M. Horner, Minister of Agriculture for consideration.

REPLY: Same as resolution #2 above.

4. WHEREAS water wells are a scarce commodity in the northern area;
and

WHEREAS water well testing has been done on a very limited basis and only on shallow holes; and

WHEREAS lack of water discourages the expansion of livestock production and rural development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that water well testing be carried on at an accelerated pace.

- Improvement District No. 23

5. WHEREAS cattle numbers are relatively small and distances between herds is large in some areas of the Peace country; and

WHEREAS Artificial Insemination technicians in the past have found it impossible to provide artificial insemination services to those areas operating as private entrepreneur.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Animal Industry Division could provide funds to subsidize Artificial Insemination technicians by making feasible through the Agricultural Service Board programs to provide a much needed service.

- Improvement District No. 21

6. WHEREAS it has been brought to our attention that the Provincial Government is giving a grant to Municipalities in the fight against wild oats;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be requested to allocate this grant to Municipalities on a proportional basis on acreages seeded to cereal and oil seed crops.

- County of Grande Prairie No. 1

- Forwarded to Hon. H.M. Horner, Minister of Agriculture.

REPLY: Same as resolution #2 above.

7. WHEREAS the present Predator Control operation is being hampered by non-cooperation from other Departments; and

WHEREAS Agricultural Service Boards are closely associated with farmers' problems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Predator Control operations in agricultural areas of the Province be carried out by the Pest Control Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

- Improvement District No. 20

8. WHEREAS grassing of soils with rotation is often a necessity to maintain soil fertility and is a good coverage practice in the Peace River region; and

WHEREAS expansion of agriculture in this region will also increase economic stability to this area and will be dependent on livestock production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canada Department of Agriculture continue with a grass incentive program.

- Improvement District No. 21

- Forwarded to Hon. Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.

REPLY:

"Thank you for your letter of December 21st advising me of the resolution which was passed at the Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference recently held in Fairview concerning the Grassland Incentive Program.

The present program is scheduled to continue with payments on the increased forage production acreage in 1974. This means that 1973 is the last year in which acreage that will be eligible for payment can be seeded but actual payments will be made up to December of 1974.

The question of the possible extension of the program either in its current or a modified form is under consideration, thus I appreciate having your views at this time."