

1979 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CONFERENCE

RESOLUTIONS AND REPLIES

1. We appreciate that as a result of representations by Agricultural Groups in this province that the "Seed Act" has been amended in recent years with regard to the lowering of tolerances of weed seed content in "Oilseed Rape". High tolerances of "Other Weeds" in seed grades of rape and other crops continue to allow an opening for new weeds to come into our area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a general upgrading of the Canada "Seed Act" be undertaken with a view of reducing the acceptable level of "all weed seed" content in all grades of cereal grains, oilseed and forage crop seeds offered for sale in Canada.

UP

County of Vermilion River #24

REPLY - Provincial Field Crops Branch

The entire Federal Act is being looked at and to date the sections that have been agreed upon have been updated. The other sections will be revised as agreement is reached between all parties affected by the Act. The problem is to get as close to the ideal as possible without making it impossible to supply an adequate supply.

REPLY - Canada Agriculture

No response received to date, will forward when received.

2. CLEAVERS: (Galium Aparine L.)

AS Cleavers can not be properly separated from rape and Clover; and

AS Cleavers is a serious weed but not a major problem in certain areas; and

AS Cleavers are presently prohibited in rapeseed under the Canada Seeds Act; and

AS Legumes are very important in crop rotations; and

AS Legume acres are very substantial,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that alsike clovers, red clovers, sweet clovers and alfalfa be free of cleavers under the Canada Seeds Act.

REPLY - Provincial Field Crops Branch

It is impossible to have zero weed tolerance in all grades of all crops as the seed supply would be very limited. The buyer must be aware of what he is buying. He has the right to ask what weeds are in the pedigree seed he is purchasing. The ASB's and the Department must make greater effort to educate the buyers of their rights.

REPLY - Canada Agriculture

No response received to date, will forward when received.

3. CLEAVERS: (GALIUM APARINE L. and GALIUM SPURIUM L.)

WHEREAS rape being sold for seed has a zero (0) tolerance of cleavers, as regulated under the Canada Seed Act; and

WHEREAS there is a present considerable pressure being applied by the Seed Trade to have this restriction removed and have the tolerance standard relaxed; and

WHEREAS the infestation levels in Region #6 are still small and at a stage where they can be controlled; and

WHEREAS the Peace River Region Seed Production Industry can not have its' reputation falter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture support this region by requesting that the Canadian Seed Growers Association, and the C.D.A. Plant Products Division maintain the present restrictions as set out for seed rape, under the Canada Seeds Act.

M. D. of Fairview #136

REPLY - Provincial Field Crops Branch

We agree that because cleavers are allowed in cereals and forages but not rapeseed that the present standards are not practical and changes are required so that a specific tolerance is established in all crops. Because cleavers have been identified over a wide area of Alberta, zero tolerance would not be possible to maintain.

Also see reply to Resolution #2

REPLY - Canada Agriculture

No response received to date, will forward when received.

4. WHEREAS weeds are of a growing concern among numerous farmers

WHEREAS the control of these weeds can be very costly,

WHEREAS many of these weeds originate from seeding impure seed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there be a grade of seed made available that is virtually weed-free.

M. D. of Kneehill #48

REPLY - Provincial Field Crops Branch

This "super-grade" which is virtually weed free is being discussed by the Federal Plant Products people. The request and support for this response will be transmitted to Plant Products Division.

REPLY - Canada Agriculture

No response received to date, will forward when received.

5. WHEREAS the present standards for acceptable weed count in forage seeds is no difference for the Certified Grade than for the Canada # 1 grade.

WHEREAS the Department of Agriculture is promoting the use of certified Seed Grade as a high quality seed through its Roadside Seeding Programs under the Agriculture Service Board Agreement

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alberta Department of Agriculture take all possible steps to have the standard for weed seed count for graded Forage Seeds be increased to a much higher standard to reduce the number of weed seeds acceptable per pound of seed.

County of Wetaskiwin

REPLY - Provincial Field Crops Branch

The entire Seeds Act is being studied and revised where and when agreement between all parties affected by the changes can be reached. Your concern will be forwarded to the Plant Products Division.

REPLY - Canada Agriculture

No response received to date, will forward when received.

6. WHEREAS there is no regulation governing the regrassing of well sites, lease roads or seismic lines in the Land Conservation and Reclamation Act; and

WHEREAS there are no regulations governing the quality or variety of seed used to seed down abandoned well sites, lease roads or seismic lines,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Conservation and Reclamation Act include regulations governing the reseeding of well sites, lease roads and seismic lines and the variety of seed used and should designated by the Reclamations Officer in accordance with the land use and that the quality of that seed should be no less than Certified # 1.

Improvement District #21

REPLY - Environment

During the latter part of 1977 it was decided, after extensive research by the Conservation and Utilization Committee, that Guidelines rather than Regulations would be used in matters relating to the reclamation of lands affected by surface disturbances.

We evaluate the effectiveness of the Guidelines periodically and if we find some areas where our objectives are not being reached, we would certainly give consideration to making the necessary changes.

You will note that the Guidelines require renegotiation, but we do not specify either the variety or grade of seed. We are currently undertaking considerable research to determine which varieties under a variety of different circumstances will satisfy our needs, both under domestic and natural conditions. In that regard I would be reluctant to specify only #1 seed, since there may not be a commercial supply available of the variety required.

REPLY - Agriculture

The Department supports the use of certified seed whenever practical.

REPLY - Surface Rights Board

We wish to advise that the Board has no objections to the Resolution.

7. WHEREAS weed control on railroads is being neglected

AND WHEREAS conventional spray equipment is not satisfactory for this purpose

AND WHEREAS special equipment could take care of long distances of right-of-way and many difficult situations

AND WHEREAS valuable time is being taken from weed programs of local M. D.'s and Counties to accommodate relatively small situations

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Agriculture continue to investigate and negotiate to have railroad companies take the responsibility for weed control on their own rights-of-way.

M. D. of Pincher Creek

REPLY - Weed Control & Field Services

Alberta Agriculture has a continuing program through which we train railway personnel in weed control and encourage them to implement planned control programs in order to achieve an acceptable standard of weed control.

Railways need not be treated differently than any other land owners. They should be provided the same level of service afforded other landowners and when voluntary response is not forthcoming enforcement action under the Weed Control Act should be taken in the same manner as is applied to any other landowner.

8.

WHEREAS the Crown owns considerable lands adjacent to bodies of water and;

WHEREAS the Department of Environment is requiring the dedication of Environmental reserves in new subdivisions and;

WHEREAS these areas are invariably neglected with regard to weed control and ;

WHEREAS this situation creates a serious cause for concern to Municipalities and the adjacent landowners

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be requested to establish a policy to ensure adequate control of weeds on Crown Land.

County of Camrose

BACKGROUND

Recent discussions with representatives of the Public Land Division of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources have indicated that, the Department is not totally aware of the requests for environmental reserves and the weed problem associated therewith.

The problem of Weed Control along lake shores has been perennial.

The topography and natural obstruction along these areas practically eliminates control of weeds by conventional farming methods. The most logical method is by the use of chemical sprays applied by aircraft. This method was strongly resisted by Environmentalists and the Department of Environment when this type of weed control was initiated by the Municipality.

REPLY - Weed Control & Field Services

The Government recognizes in principle that it is bound by its own legislation. In the case of "The Weed Control Act" it is stated that the "Crown is Bound". In practice this means maintaining the standard which is accepted in the local area for private lands.

This resolution has been prompted by one incident in which the municipal body disagreed with a government agency on the degree of danger present due to the weed infestation versus environmental damage likely if spraying was carried out.

It is impractical to make a blanket policy covering all of the ramifications implied in this resolution. In individual cases, the species of weed, the terrain, the availability of suitable control measures and the probable degree of success must be weighed. Side effects, environmental impact, public reaction and other concerns will dictate the disposition of each case.

8. REPLY - Program Support - Lands Division

The wording of the resolution and of the background to the resolution seems to infer that the Public Lands Division is responsible for weed control on environmental reserves in subdivisions. Section 114(b) of The Planning Act, 1977 states that "...a council...may authorize the maintenance and protection of reserve land if the interests of the public will not be adversely affected". Section 1/4 of that Act defines a "council" as the "council of a municipality or the board of administrators means environmental reserve, ...". Although Section 114 does not state directly that environmental reserves are owned by the council of a municipality, Energy and Natural Resources has assumed that this section infers that such reserves are owned by a council because they are given the authority to maintain and protect such reserves. Consequently, we interpret this section to mean that the municipal council is responsible for weed control on environmental reserves.

The beds and shores of lakes are owned by the Crown as represented by the Associate Minister of Public Lands & Wildlife and consequently weed control on beds and shores is the responsibility of this Department. If there should be a weed problem on a lakeshore adjoining an environmental reserve, we would be pleased to discuss with the municipal council in question, the most practical method to control weeds on both the Crown owned shore and adjoining municipally owned environmental reserve.

9. DEFEATED

10. DEFEATED

11. WHEREAS a number of Agricultural Service Boards in Region #6 have passed, or are developing, weed control By-Laws which prohibit the establishment of such weeds as (1) Leafy Spurge, (2) Hoary Cress, (3) Nodding Thistle, (4) Field Bindweed, (5) Russian Knapweed, and (6) Diffused Knapweed; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that a consistent policy be sent through out the Region, in order that all the individual Agricultural Service Boards as separate entities, can maintain an effective eradication program for any or all of the aforementioned weeds; and

WHEREAS it was the consensus of the 1976 Agricultural Service Board Conference at Grande Prairie, Alberta that such a regional policy for weed control be established;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all the Agricultural Service Boards in Region 6, who have not to date passed such a By-Law or policy, that they do so in such a manner as to become effective for the 1979 crop year.

REPLY -

Concerns local by-laws and policy and not directed to Federal or Provincial authorities - no response required.

12. DEFEATED

13. DEFEATED

14. WHEREAS pesticide containers are an environmental concern,
WHEREAS pesticide containers do not readily decompose,
WHEREAS many of these pesticide containers are readily reusable,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that more of these containers be made reusable and a refund be made on these containers similar to pop bottles and cans.

M. D. of Kneehill # 48

REPLY - Environment - Pesticide Chemicals Branch

The problem of pesticide container disposal is presently being investigated at several levels:

- (a) Agriculture Canada is presently recommending triple rinsing of the containers that contain fluid formulations which, they feel, would make the containers acceptable for normal disposal at garbage dumps of landfill sites. The rinse water, of course, is to be added to the sprayer tank. Agriculture Canada is considering a type of verification stickers that could be placed on rinsed containers and are recommending the system as a stop-gap measure until Environment Canada have developed proper disposal sites.
- (b) Environment Canada have agreed to examine the problem and develop an acceptable disposal system for containers, as well as left-over or discontinued pesticides.
- (c) Our Waste Management Branch is studying the overall problem of hazardous chemical waste disposal which will include pesticides.

The resolutions attached to your memo recommends a refund system for pesticide containers, however this does not solve the problem of disposal of the containers after they have been collected.

The standards for pesticide packaging and containers are carried on regulations under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada). Presently the bulk of Pesticide containers are manufactured as disposable containers and as such, are not suitable for re-use by the pesticide industry.

REPLY - Canada Agriculture - Plant Products Division

I heartily agree that on the basis of environmental concerns it would be desirable to use pesticide containers which would be reusable.

I do however see real difficulties in imposing regulations to initiate such a program because of the fact that pesticides are manufactured and shipped in from the U.S., Japan, Europe, etc. This means that Canadian manufacturers and formulators would most likely cost more than using new containers. Transportation and labor costs being what they are, the idea of reusable containers would increase costs to the farmer.

14. REPLY - cont-

I don't feel the matter of container disposal is an easy problem to solve, and I would suggest that an in-depth study would be required to reflect the feasibility of re-cycling of plastic containers.

15. DEFEATED

16. DEFEATED

17. WHEREAS it is in the best interest of All Alberta citizens that the Province remain free of Norway Rats; and

WHEREAS the Province is now paying salaries and expenses of rat centres in counties and M.D.'s on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border; and

WHEREAS at the present time there is no grant for this purpose being made to the City of Lloydminster.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Government be approached regarding putting the City of Lloydminster on the same footing as the border Counties and M.D.'s with regard to grants for rat control,

AND FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED that a co-ordinator of rat control be stationed on the border with the responsibility of supervising not only the County & M. D. programs but also the City.

County of Vermilion River#24

REPLY - Crop Protection & Pest Control

Alberta Agriculture pays the salaries and expenses of pest control officers in seven east border municipalities by 100% grant and provides rat bait and other required material at provincial cost. The grants are paid essentially for officers employed full-time on rat control operations.

The rat situation in the City of Lloydminster does not warrant a full-time employee or grant funding. Alberta Agriculture has provided the City with rat bait and assistance with inspections for infestation over many years. City employees have inspected premises and controlled rats as needed while carrying out other services such as garbage collection and disposal.

If the City of Lloydminster requires assistance, Alberta Agriculture is prepared to provide inputs of manpower and other resources as needed. Department staff have kept in touch with city authorities.

The request for a co-ordinator of rat control to be stationed in the border area has been considered during the past. The Field Supervisor, Rodent and Rabies Vector Control, works out of Edmonton and handles rat control, along with rabies and other rodent problems, across the province. We think the seven municipal officers are handling rat control programs capably and efficiently without the need for closer supervision.

18. DEFEATED

19. LET IT BE RESOLVED that when Big Game Hunting season opens September 15 that hunters be not permitted to hunt on lands north of the Beaver River and all the land of Township 64 till they get into the Green Zone which is Township 65; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the opening of the big game hunting season in this zone be delayed for hunting from Sept. 15, to Nov. 1,

AND FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED that the big game hunting season be delayed to Nov. 1 in all zones in Alberta.

I. D. Bonnyville # 18

REPLY - Regional Wildlife Biologist

The background for this resolution goes back to 1978 where the M. D. of Bonnyville Council requested a meeting with Mr. J. Struthers, Regional Enforcement Officer and myself to discuss a concern over hunter/landowner conflicts in the Beaver River area. During the meeting (Nov. 21/78) it was stated by Mr. R. A. Doonanco that hunters were causing problems by trespassing on private and leased land where cattle were pastured. It was stated by Fish and Wildlife representatives that existing laws protect the land owner or leasee from trespass without his permission. However if presented with some factual documentation of the extent of the apparent problem we would consider changes if warranted. Such documentation did not materialize and it was assumed that the problem was not of a serious nature and therefore no steps were taken to ammend the current hunting season in that area.

20. DEFEATED

21. WHEREAS at present the Improvement District Fieldman is directed and supervised by the Improvement District Manager; and

WHEREAS the Improvement District Manager's wide range of responsibility may limit his interest in Agricultural matters,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Improvement District Fieldman be hired and paid by the Department of Agriculture and supervised by the Agricultural Service Board in conjunction with the District Agriculturist.

Improvement District #21

REPLY - Agricultural Services

This resolution or wordings of similar intent has been submitted before. There are significant reasons why we do not think it is appropriate for the District Agriculturist to supervise regulatory programs.

The Improvement District section of the ASB act was amended with the intent of giving Improvement Districts and Agricultural Service Boards more autonomy (powers of purchasing & banking). This has not been implemented but if it were it might be an acceptable alternative to the resolution. At present the Improvement Districts and Agricultural Service Boards are bound by all financial regulations of the provincial government (financial administration act) and all financial matters are administered through Edmonton.

21. REPLY -cont- Agricultural Services

The Department of Agriculture is bound by the same legislation and limitations on staff workers therefore, there is no advantage to change.

22. WHEREAS the producer's damage deposit for rental equipment is sent to the Department of Municipal Affairs in Edmonton; and

WHEREAS the department in Edmonton subtracts the rent from the damage deposit and refunds the balance to the producer; and

WHEREAS this process takes a considerable amount of time which ties up the producer's money,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Improvement District Fieldmen hold the deposit until the equipment is returned, forward only the rent portion to Edmonton and return the balance to the producers.

Improvement District #21

REPLY - Municipal Affairs

While I appreciate the producer's concern over the length of time it takes to get a refund on rental equipment, the administrative and accounting processes and controls required to implement the system as requested, to maintain proper accountability, appear to be excessive for the amounts of cash involved. Additionally, by implementing this resolution, we would be in contravention of parts two and four of the Financial Administration Act.

A review of recently rental agreements indicates a two week lapse between the date of the rental agreement and the date the refund was processed by this office. We estimate that it would take an additional three weeks for the cheque to clear the system and be received by the producer. This process could be expedited in two ways.

- (1) If the Improvement District Manager can get the deposit into the system as soon as possible and forward the agreement with the refund amount as soon as the rental period is over.
- (2) By our issuing an imprest cheque from this office rather than sending these particular refunds through the normal payment process, we should be able to save an additional two weeks in our office.

23. WHEREAS the first paycheque to a temporary employee such as weed inspectors and beaver control personnel is often close to two months on arriving; and

WHEREAS it is unreasonable to expect employees to work longer than one month before receiving any pay,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a cash advance be made available to temporary employees, such as weed inspectors and beaver control personnel within one month of commencing employment.

Improvement District #23

REPLY - Municipal Affairs - Financial Services

I have discussed the above noted resolution with the Director of Personnel and we agree that a cash advance to temporary employees is not the solution.

The processing time for producing a cheque out of the Salary and Wage System is approximately two to two and a half weeks. For example:

The pay period ended April 4th, 1979 should cause a Wage Document to be produced on the 4th or 5th of April in the District Office, which is then forwarded to Personnel by April 11th, at which time, this document would be processed through the Wage and Salary System, resulting in a cheque being produced on the 18th of April. Allowing for mailing time, the cheque should be received by the individual by April 24th.

The problem that we find occurring with new temporary employees is one of getting the initial documentation for the employee to Personnel in a reasonable period of time. Very often, we have found the initial Wage Time Certificate being prepared a month after the employee has commenced with the initial documentation arriving at the same time or even later in some cases. It is essential that the initial documentation be received in Personnel within a week of the employee's commencement in order to ensure that he is set up on the Wage and Salary System with an employee number, in order that he can be placed on the normal payment cycle and receive Accountable Advances and Expense Accounts for travelling.

24. WHEREAS the acreage of land affected by dry land salinity has increased considerable during the past few years,

WHEREAS the personnel assigned to work on dry land salinity problem appears to be insufficient because of considerable delay in procuring professional advice on particular problems,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we ask Alberta Agriculture to hire additional staff to work on dry land salinity.

Special Areas # 2 & 4

24. REPLY - Soils Branch

The Dryland Applied Research Group has identified salinity as ~~the~~ one of the problems requiring research and demonstration. It is important that this group coordinate their work with various specialists within the department. Soils Branch personnel are available to discuss needs, priorities, and plan of work.

25. WHEREAS there are many areas that require further development under the Province Soil Conservation Program,

WHEREAS many areas are not being developed because of inadequate finances to meet the Governments present cost sharing program,

WHEREAS some northern areas of the Province are receiving development assistance on a 75 - 25 cost sharing ratio,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government designate the entire Province of Alberta for development on a 75-25 cost sharing ratio under the soil conservation Program.

County of Athabasca #12

REPLY - Soils Branch

As the result of requests to the ECA hearings and the unique problem area of the Peace Region. Environment's 50/50 and Agriculture's 60/40 funding of drainage and erosion projects are now 75/25 for the Peace Region. The justifications behind this change does not apply as immediately to other areas.

26. WHEREAS the original application for grants through the Memorandum of Agreement is made up by local Agricultural Service Boards who are most aware of the problem in their area,

WHEREAS some major changes and cancellations have been made to these applications for grants by Alberta Agricultural staff, especially on Special Programs through possible lack of communication,

WHEREAS some Special Programs can only be effective if applied over a period of years with long term planning involved,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that when Alberta Agriculture personnel feel that major changes or deletions be made in the applications for grants the Agricultural Service Board involved be interviewed so that a complete understanding of the intent of the program is obtained before any major adjustments are made.

M. D. of Kneehill #48

26. REPLY - Rural Services

This year all major adjustments to ASB programs have been discussed with the ASB or Agricultural Fieldmen.

27. WHEREAS earthworms have generally been considered beneficial to the soil through aeration and fertilization,

WHEREAS numerous inquiries from farmers indicate that an over population of earthworms may be the cause of soil caking, compaction and plant deterioration in some soils,

WHEREAS while humus in the soil is the main diet of the earthworm, a shortage of humus could force the earthworm to eat the hair roots of desirous plants causing plant injury,

WHEREAS the soil that passed through the earthworm could be high in Sodium and Potassium which could cause soil caking and compaction,

WHEREAS the removal of humus from the soil will cause caking and compaction,

WHEREAS it is possible that earthworms could secrete a substance that could cause soil caking and compaction,

WHEREAS there are a lot of unanswered questions regarding the effects of earthworms on soil and crops,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that research be done of the earthworm to determine if there may be such a problem.

M. D. of Kneehill #48

REPLY - Crop Protection & Pest Control

Earthworms are not considered important in commercial farming or ranching operations. However they can affect the physical condition of soils in urban gardens, greenhouses and other intensive horticultural operations.

There is considerable information available on earthworms in research literature ie. "Earthworms - Boon or Menace" extracted Pages 13-16 Circular No. 3 Soils and Fertilizers for Alberta Gardens and Lawns, July 1957 University of Alberta, Department of Soil Science. Some of the chemical control measures listed in Circular 3 are obsolete but 1979 recommendations are available in the 1978 Report of The Western Committee on Crop Pests (1979 Guide).

The need for research on earthworms will be considered further with research agencies but is not expected to get high priority.

28. WHEREAS subsidization tends to discourage the most efficient production and,

WHEREAS the Agricultural Service Board of the County of Mountain View No. 17 feels there is adequate veterinary service available at a reasonable cost in the County,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture Province of Alberta reject the application by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association for subsidized veterinary service for Alberta's livestock producers.

County of Mountain View #17

REPLY - Animal Health Division

In view of the producer's response to the June 1978 brief presented by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association to the Minister, the department is not planning to implement any of the proposals made in that document.

29. DEFEATED

30. DEFEATED