

# Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards

## Agricultural Service Board Grant Program

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program promotes long-term sustainability of the agriculture industry and rural communities and the development and delivery of resource management programming. ASBs are responsible for implementing and enforcing legislative requirements under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, the *Weed Control Act* (WCA), the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA), the *Soil Conservation Act* (SCA) and assist with the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act* (AHA).



## 2020-21 Annual Impacts

- **\$8.4 million** in annual grants awarded to **69** Agricultural Service Boards to support legislative requirements
- **\$1.78 million** in annual grants to **43** Agricultural Service Boards for resource management programming
- ASBs work to protect ~ **52 million acres** of farmland, **32 million acres** cultivated, **20 million acres** pasture, **62,000 farm operators** and **43,000 farms** from agricultural pests, weeds and soil erosion by enforcing the APA, WCA, and the SCA
- **215 full-time, 113 part-time and 401 seasonal employees supported.**
- ABSs leveraged grant dollars at a **7:1 ratio** (i.e. 87% municipal and 13% provincial funding). The accumulative economic output is **valued at \$102.6 million** annually.

### Market Access

ASBs are key to Alberta's robust pest surveillance network that helps Albertans maintain market access by mitigating the risk of agricultural pest threats.

### Weed Control

- **47,930** prohibited and noxious weed infestations (sites) were investigated, **21,741** noxious weeds were controlled, and **4,592** prohibited noxious weeds were destroyed.
- Over **119,577 kilometers** of municipal roadways weeds controlled by Integrated Pest Management means including mechanical, chemical and cultural methods

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such as hand picking or biological control technologies

- **91 stationary and mobile Seed Cleaning Plants** operating in Alberta are inspected

## Partnerships in Action

Together we can support our agriculture sector and meet the needs of our rural communities as they continue to evolve.

## Pest Management

- **11,505** fields inspected for clubroot
- **1,869** fields inspected for virulent blackleg
- **504** fields inspected for Fusarium
- **228** pea diseases
- **2,503** pest insect surveys including Grasshopper, Wheat Midge, Bertha Armyworm and Diamond Back Moth



## Legislative Awareness and Education

- **337** Information transfers via websites, fact sheets, one-on-one, social media, newsletters).
- **255** Information awareness activities on legislations (APA-62, WCA-67, SCA-41, AHA-33 and ASB-52).

## Environmental Protection and Soil Conservation

- **184** Extension events delivered, engaging over **20,176** producers
- **492** Producers were met with regarding their Environmental Farm Plan
- **527** Producers educated on the CAP programs
- **304** fields inspected for soil erosion issues

## Alberta Agriculture & Forestry ASB Regional Liaison Program

The ASB Regional Liaison Program replaced the Key Contact Program and will be moved to a virtual and regional approach. The virtual liaison is part of a special team of liaisons who are able to provide ASBs, through Agricultural Fieldmen, with monthly updates on both policy initiatives and programs. They are virtual conduit between ASBs and the department of Agriculture and Forestry.

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