

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)*.

2024-25 annual impacts

- \$11.3 million in annual grants awarded to 68 ASBs to support legislative requirements.
- \$1.78 million in annual grants provided to 43 ASBs for resource management.
- \$215,000 for the Rat Control Program.
- ASBs protect about 49.2 million acres of farmland (including 25.7 million acres of annual crops land, 20.4 million acres of pasture), 41,505 farms from agricultural pests, weeds, and soil erosion by enforcing the *APA*, *WCA*, and the *SCA*.
- ASBs employ 227 full-time, 89 part-time and 484 seasonal workers.
- ASBs leveraged grant dollars at a **6:1 ratio** (i.e. 86 per cent municipal and 14 per cent provincial funding). The accumulative economic output is valued at \$114 million annually.

Weed control

ASBs investigated about 57,546 prohibited and noxious weed infestations (sites), controlled 26,872 noxious weeds and destroyed 3,864 prohibited noxious weeds.

- More than 158,803 kilometers of municipal roadways weeds controlled by Integrated Pest Management means including mechanical, chemical and cultural means such as hand picking or biological control technologies.
- 99 stationary and mobile seed cleaning plants operating in Alberta were inspected.

Pest management

- ASBs completed 9,809 fields inspections for Clubroot.
- 2,733 fields inspected for Virulent Blackleg.

- 852 fields inspected for wheat head pathogens.
- 3725 inspections for rats in six municipalities.
- 99 wild boars sighting reported.
- 4 rat infestations were confirmed.
- 3114 pest insect surveys including grasshopper, wheat midge, Bertha armyworm, Swede midge, Cutworms, Pea leaf weevil, lygus, and Diamondback moth.

Legislative awareness and education

- ASBs provided 1,996 Information transfers via websites, fact sheets, one-on-one, social media, newsletters, events, project partners, etc.
- 320 Information awareness activities on legislations

Environmental protection and soil conservation

- ASBs delivered 327 extension events.
- ASBs distributed 448 written extension material to producers.
- 4,176 producers were assisted via one-on-one consultation with their local ASB. Consultation topics included Environmental Farm Plan, Canadian Agriculture Partnership programming, and other environmental issues.
- ASBs performed 258 soil conservation inspections and resolved 88 soil erosion issues, and 5945 acres in the process of being mitigated/improved.

Regional Liaison Program

The ASB Regional Liaison Program replaced the Key Contact Program and is a virtual and regional approach.

The virtual liaison is part of a special team of liaisons who provide ASBs, through agricultural fieldmen, with monthly updates on policy initiatives and programs. They are a virtual conduit between ASBs and Agriculture and Irrigation.

Agricultural Service Board contacts

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