

Lacombe County Agricultural **GUIDE**

*Supporting agriculture
in Lacombe County*



LACOMBE
COUNTY



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Purpose	4
Disclaimer	5
Process	5
Overview of Agriculture in Lacombe County.....	6
Definition of Agriculture.....	7
Vision for Agriculture	7
Mission for Agriculture	7
Guiding Principles.....	8
Action Statements	8
Priority Areas.....	9
Priority Area 1: Development and Land Use	10
Introduction.....	10
Land Use Bylaw No. 1237/17.....	11
Cannabis Production Facilities	11
Agricultural District 'A'	12
Municipal Development Plan No. 1238/17.....	12
Our Agriculture Community (Sections 3.1-3.9)	12
Confined Feeding Operations (Section 3.9).....	12
AG(15) Temporary Grazing of Livestock Along Roadsides.....	13
Priority Area 2: Water & Environment	14
Introduction.....	14
Agricultural Plastics/Twine Recycling Program.....	15
Beaver Program	16
Road Construction Wetland Assessments	16
Environmental Management Plan	16
Municipal Development Plan No. 1238/17.....	17
Our Natural Environment and Recreation	17
Soil Conservation	18
Wetland Drainage.....	18
Biobeds	19
External Programs & Organizations Supported by Lacombe County.....	20
Priority Area 3: Infrastructure	22
Introduction.....	22
Road Designations and Standards.....	23
Road Construction Program.....	24
Texas Gates.....	24
Gravel Program	25
Road Maintenance.....	26
Approaches	26
Fencing	26
Brushing Program.....	27
Intersections	27
Culverts - Manure Management.....	27



Dust Control.....	28
Individual Mailboxes.....	28
Rural Addressing	29
Priority Area 4: Weeds, Pests and Disease Management	30
Introduction.....	30
Agricultural Service Board (ASB).....	31
Livestock Health and Disease	32
Weed Identification & Inspection Program	33
River Weed Control Program.....	34
Sprayer Rental Program	34
Integrated Vegetation Management Plan	35
Pest Inspections & Identification Program.....	36
Sea Buckthorn Management Project	40
Priority Area 5: Municipal Relations	42
Introduction.....	42
Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs).....	43
Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs)	43
Livestock Emergency Management.....	44
Rural Crime Watch	46
Synergy Groups	47
Lacombe County Mutual Aid Organization.....	47
Priority Area 6: Community Engagement.....	48
Introduction.....	48
Communications In Lacombe County.....	49
Public Participation	49
Agriculture Safety Campaigns.....	50
Fire Permit Season	50
Financial Support for 4-H	51
Voluntary Farm Vehicle Safety Checks.....	52
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).....	53
Agricultural Extension Events & Workshops.....	54
Appendices	56
Appendix 1: Lacombe County Agriculture Trends	56
Appendix 2: Lacombe County Policies.....	66
Appendix 3: Lacombe County Documents and Guides.....	68
Appendix 4: Acts and Regulations	69

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has a long history in Lacombe County, and it is by far the largest and most prominent land use within the municipality. The local economy relies on the wise use of the land and associated resources for agricultural production and related value-added activities. Lacombe County residents also enjoy the lifestyle associated with a community in which the agriculture industry is predominant.

PURPOSE

In recent years, Lacombe County has experienced a considerable amount of change and growth. Lacombe County Council is committed to ensuring agriculture continues to be an integral part of and contributor to the fabric of Lacombe County's economic, social and environmental existence, now and in the future.

In response, Lacombe County has developed this Guide that identifies and supports a long-term vision for agriculture in the County. This Guide outlines the goals and objectives, and corresponding policies and programs that directly support agriculture and land-use planning in agricultural areas to ensure the industry can remain a significant contributor to the economic, environmental and social well-being of the County now and into the future.

This document consolidates, into one resource, the municipal policies and regulations (or portions of), plans (or portions of), programs, and activities which are focused on and which support agriculture in the municipality. This is not a stand-alone or static document. This Guide is a "living document"; it will evolve as County programs and policies evolve and, as such, it should be reviewed on a regular (annual) basis. While this document will evolve, the one thing that will remain constant is the value and respect the County has for the agriculture community, and its commitment to enabling the industry to flourish. This document is a testament to that commitment.



DISCLAIMER

This Guide is intended to capture the County policies and regulations (or portions of), as well as various programs and other supporting documents that are of particular relevance to agriculture and which assist in achieving the vision for agriculture within the municipality. However, it is not all inclusive and reference should always be made to original legislative, policy, regulations and plan documents when additional detail and/or context may be required.

All Lacombe County generated information, such as policies, bylaws, guides, etc., can be found on the Lacombe County website at www.lacombecounty.com.

PROCESS

The advancement of agriculture requires leadership, and involves cooperation and coordination between the municipality, its residents and stakeholders. The path to developing this document began in 2012 and has involved considerable consultation and stakeholder engagement. The following outlines the widespread activities undertaken and the stakeholders involved who contributed significant input into the development of this Guide.

- Spring 2012 – Council Strategic Planning: Identified the need for an agricultural plan.
- December 2012 – Committee of the Whole: Explored the creation of an agricultural plan.
- March 2013 – Committee of the Whole: Agreed to proceed with the development of an agricultural plan.
- March 2014 – County Council questionnaire: Council’s perspectives, priorities and concerns on the issues and opportunities that an agricultural plan could help support.
- March 2014 – Public focus group sessions: Seek the agriculture community’s perspectives, priorities and concerns relative to the issues facing the agriculture industry and their own operations; identify key priority areas.
- Spring 2015 – Agricultural Community Consultation: Engage the agricultural community and solicit their feedback on five key priority areas, including the community’s vision of the future.
- November 2015 – Committee of the Whole: meeting to provide input into the development of a vision for agriculture, discuss and set the goals which are at the core of the Lacombe County Agricultural Guide.
- March 2016 - Draft Agricultural Guide presented to Council.
- 2020/2021 - Revisions made to original Agricultural Guide, to ensure it is easy to read and relate to by Lacombe County ratepayers, especially those in the agriculture community.
- 2023 - Agricultural Guide reviewed internally by all departments and updates made where needed.



OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURE IN LACOMBE COUNTY

The Central Alberta region is Alberta's second-largest agricultural region. Following the 2021 census, Lacombe County was reported to have 1,010 farms (out of 45,505 farms in the province). Within our boundaries are 335 oilseed and grain farms and more than 100,000 head of cattle - making Lacombe County a significant player in the province's agriculture industry.³ In addition to primary agriculture, there are also a considerable number of agriculture-based businesses and value-added processing facilities (e.g. grain handling and condominium storage, malt production, custom meat processing, cheese and yogurt processing, milk replacement supplements⁴) which contribute to the diversity and economy of the municipality and the region. Please refer to Appendix 1 for detailed Lacombe County agriculture statistics.

DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURE

For the purposes of this Guide “agriculture” in Lacombe County is defined as:

“The practice of, or any activities performed relating to the cultivating, growing, raising, managing and/or selling of livestock¹, crops², food and/or related value-added products or services on land located within Lacombe County.”

VISION FOR AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is valued, respected and supported in Lacombe County and, as a result, a healthy, prosperous and sustainable agriculture industry and rural community thrives within the municipality.

MISSION FOR AGRICULTURE

As a municipality, our mission is to engage, support and enhance the agriculture community and rural entrepreneurs, and enhance rural life in Lacombe County. Lacombe County will contribute to and support agriculture in the municipality through the development and implementation of responsive and progressive municipal policies and programs.

¹ “Livestock” is defined as domestic animals that are kept, raised for use and/or profit.

² “Crops” are defined as a plant or plant product that is grown and harvested for profit or subsistence.

³ 2021 Census of Agriculture Data

⁴ Lacombe County Profile



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles have guided the development of this document and underpin Lacombe County's efforts to support agriculture in the municipality. These guiding principles have been derived directly from Council input and the results of the public consultations held with Lacombe County residents throughout this process. These guiding principles state and reinforce that:

- Agriculture in Lacombe County is changing but the future looks positive.
- Lacombe County's rural landscape is important and appreciated.
- Growth and development will occur but it needs to be effectively managed, coordinated and carefully planned.
- Lacombe County will continue to offer quality services, good infrastructure and competitive taxes.
- Agriculture should continue to be the predominant land use within the municipality.
- Subdivision of agricultural land should only be considered within the established community planning framework and not conflict with County goals and objectives.

ACTION STATEMENTS

The following statements identify broad approaches that the municipality will take relative to agriculture and the agricultural community, to ensure it can continue to contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the County. As a municipality Lacombe County will:

- Develop proactive, integrated plans and policies and deliver responsive programs that support agriculture activities.
- Increase awareness of the impact and importance of agriculture to Lacombe County.
- Promote the rural character of the County.
- Enhance the connectivity between agriculture and stewardship.
- Encourage the practice of agriculture in an environmentally responsible manner and support practice change where possible.



PRIORITY AREAS

Six priority areas were identified through the comprehensive stakeholder engagement processes which led up to the development of this document. Within this Guide, specific goals, related objectives as well as relevant policies, programs and activities have been identified in each of the six priority areas.



Development and Land Use



Water and Environmental Management



Weeds, Pests and Disease Management



Infrastructure



Municipal Relations

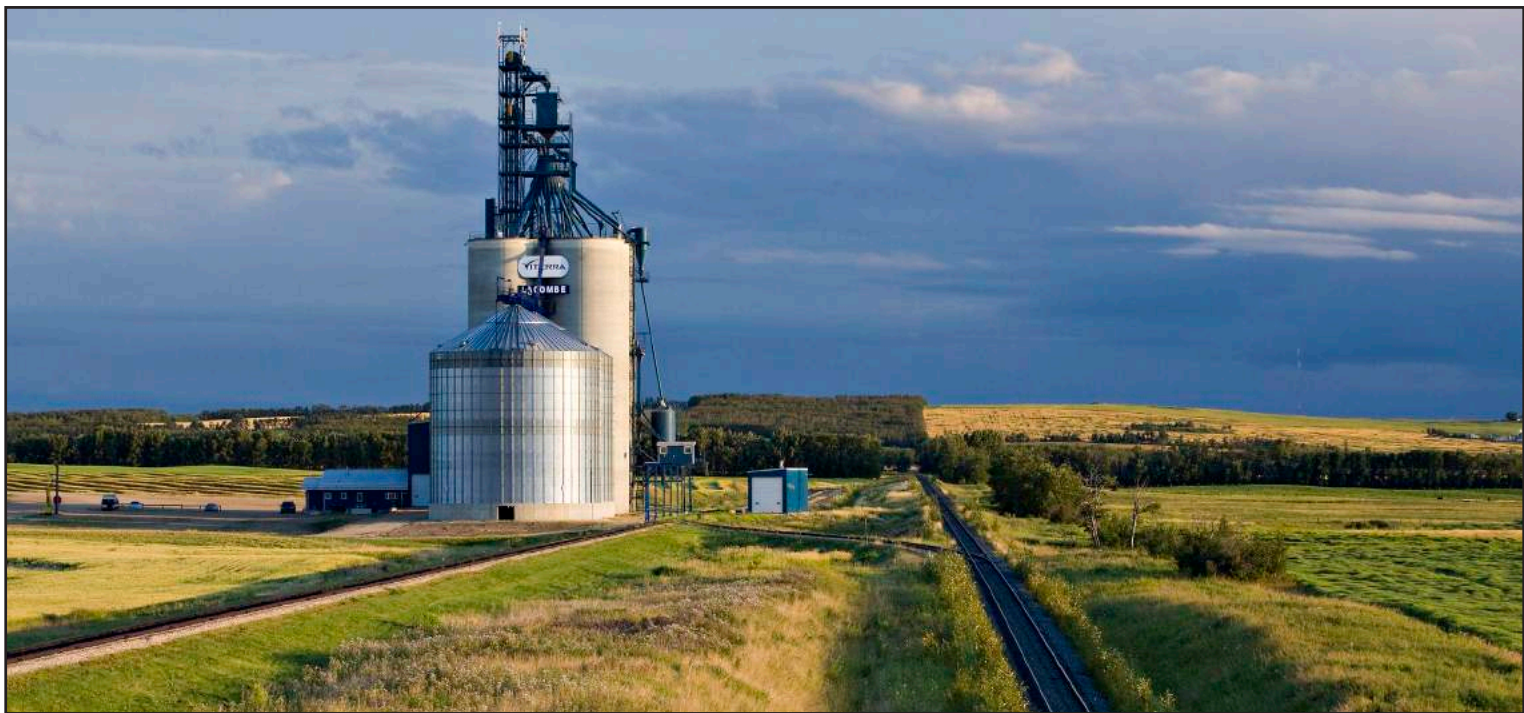


Community Engagement

Development & Land Use

GOAL:

A healthy and viable agricultural industry that is an essential part of the County's economy.



OBJECTIVES

- Limit premature subdivision and fragmentation of agricultural land
- Minimize conflicts between non-agricultural uses and existing agricultural operations
- Accommodate the growth, diversification, and intensification of agricultural operations

Municipal Departments Involved:

- Planning Services
- Corporate Services
- Community Services

External Organizations Involved

- [Natural Resources Conservation Board \(NRCB\)](#)

Supporting Documents

- [AG\(15\) Temporary Grazing of Livestock Along Roadsides](#)
- [Agricultural Operation Practices Act \(AOPA\)](#)
- [Alberta Land Stewardship Act](#)
- [Municipal Development Plan \(MDP\)](#)
- [Land Use Bylaw \(LUB\)](#)

Land Use Area 1



MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN BYLAW NO. 1238/17

Our Agriculture Community (Sections 3.1 - 3.9)

The aim of this section is “to ensure that the rural character of Lacombe County is protected by supporting its agricultural community, safe guarding agricultural lands, through responsible subdivision and development practices necessary to enable the agricultural community to succeed and address their needs without hindering the need of agriculture in the future.”

Lacombe County aims to protect agricultural lands from incompatible non-agricultural uses, and therefore discourages development with conflicts with, is incompatible with, or has a negative impact on agricultural operations. Lacombe County has four subdivision opportunities on agricultural lands (see list below). These opportunities balance the need to protect extensive tracts of high quality agricultural lands, with agricultural housing needs and the need to create smaller titles which better support small farm operations.

- First Parcel out subdivision or choice of building site
- Fragmented Parcel Subdivision
- Agriculture Parcel Subdivision
- Boundary Adjustments

Confined Feeding Operations (Section 3.9)

The *Agricultural Operations Practices Act (AOPA)* sets out the technical requirements that confined feeding operations must meet and the regulatory and review the responsibilities of the **Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB)**. The legislation is the responsibility of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

The AOPA delegated responsibility for confined feeding operations to the NRCB on January 1, 2002. Before this, licensing and compliance monitoring was the responsibility of Alberta’s municipalities.

NRCB approval officers review applications for new and expanding operations. NRCB inspectors ensure

Municipal Programs & Activities

• MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN BYLAW NO. 1238/17

- OUR AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY
(SECTIONS 3.1-3.9)

• LAND USE BYLAW NO. 1237/17

- LUB 6.32 CANNABIS PRODUCTION FACILITY
- LUB 6.33 CANNABIS RETAIL
- LUB 7.1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (A)

• POLICY AG(15) TEMPORARY GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK ALONG ROADSIDES

that confined feeding operations comply with the AOPA, its regulations, and their permit conditions. The board of the NRCB provides a review function for the approval officer and inspector decisions.

The provisions in AOPA bind approval officers and inspectors. These include public notification and consistency with municipal development plan land use provisions and legislated standards that address the effects on neighbours and the environment. Lacombe County does provide comment on applications for new and expanding confined feeding operations, as indicated in Section 3.9 of Lacombe County’s MDP.

For information, contact the nearest NRCB field office, or after hours, contact the reporting line at 1-866-383-6722. You can find more details at <http://www.nrcb.ca/confined-feeding-operations>.

LAND USE BYLAW NO. 1237/17

What is the Land Use Bylaw?

The Land Use Bylaw’s (LUB) purpose is to facilitate the orderly, economical and sustainable development and use of land and buildings within the County.

The LUB divides the County into 20 land use districts, each with:

- a clear purpose to which land and buildings are to be used
- an established power to the Development Authority
- a method for decision making on applications
- a manner in which notice of the issuance of a development permit is to be given



Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

An MDP is a strategic plan that provides broad policy direction for future growth and development of the County. It also provides guidance for Council and Administration on decision-making related to growth and development. The MDP contains policies dealing with agriculture, residential development, hamlets, economic development, environmental management, parks and recreation, transportation and utilities and intermunicipal planning and cooperation.

Several guiding objectives were developed throughout the public consultation process in 2016-2017 and are based on the community's vision set out for the County. These objectives seek to embody and support the growth node strategy and MDP policies for Lacombe County development.

- Protect and encourage the County's strong agricultural community
- Demonstrate responsible stewardship of the County's natural environment and provide a variety of recreational opportunities
- Diversify and support economic growth
- Ensure compatible and responsible development of the County's built environment
- Support innovative and efficient infrastructure and technologies
- Foster strong municipal leadership

Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

Following the policy framework set out in the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) sets out the rules and regulations describing how individual properties may be used or developed. The LUB is a more regulatory document that describes the type of land use or development which can be made of individual properties within the County.

The LUB divides the municipality into 20 general land use districts. Each district defines permitted or discretionary uses that can be considered under that particular zoning. Permitted uses are uses for which an applicant is entitled to a development permit if the proposed development conforms to all applicable provisions of the LUB.

LUB 6.32 Cannabis Production Facility

Lacombe County Council amended *Lacombe County's Land Use Bylaw* (LUB) to accommodate cannabis legalization at the October 25, 2018 meeting. Before these changes were drafted, staff held two public meetings, in conjunction with Alberta Health Services, as part of the County's *Cannabis in Your Community* public engagement strategy.

The two areas that the LUB looked at as a result of cannabis legalization were cannabis production facilities and cannabis retail.

Cannabis Production Facilities: Identified as a discretionary use in the Agricultural 'A' District, the Business Industrial 'I-BI' District, and the Hamlet Industrial 'I-H' District.

Cannabis Retail: Identified as a discretionary use in the Hamlet Commercial 'C-H' District, Highway Commercial 'C-HC' District, General Commercial 'C-GC' District, and Recreational 'P-R' District. Public feedback indicated that cannabis retail stores should be treated the same as liquor stores.

In LUB Section 6.32 Cannabis Production Facility and Section 6.33 Cannabis Retail, it explains the application process, necessary approvals, and setbacks. The location of the cannabis production facility or cannabis retail development within a listed District will inform the further regulations.

LUB 7.1 Agricultural District 'A'

The purpose of the Agricultural 'A' District is to provide a land base to support various agricultural operations. Other uses may be considered in the District, based upon their compatibility with surrounding agricultural operations.

See the LUB for the detailed Agricultural 'A' District land uses and regulations. This document is available on our website (www.lacombecounty.com) or by contacting Lacombe County Planning Services at 403-782-8389.

POLICY AG (15) TEMPORARY GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK ALONG ROADSIDES

Lacombe County understands that climatic conditions play a significant factor in agriculture operations. Western Canada has historically experienced growing seasons of extreme drought conditions. Lacombe County created this policy to assist livestock owners in years where drought periods may cause livestock feed shortages by permitting their livestock to graze County road ditches.

Landowners are only to use the gravel roadsides that are adjacent to their property. If a landowner is interested in this, they must sign into an agreement with Lacombe County.



Water & Environment

GOAL:

The rural landscape and character of Lacombe County is protected, and environmentally sensitive and scenic natural areas (eg. River valleys, lakeshores, ecologically unique areas) are preserved.



OBJECTIVES

- Encourage the practice of agriculture in an environmentally responsible manner
- Acknowledge the value of land, associated natural capital, and establish appropriate land use policies to preserve and enhance these assets
- Support the use of voluntary market-based instruments for ecosystem (natural capital) services
- Organize and implement soil and water conservation programs
- Ensure drainage and related servicing and infrastructure supports agricultural viability but does not negatively impact downstream neighbours or adversely impact municipal infrastructure

Municipal Departments Involved:

- Community Services
- Operations
- Planning Services
- Corporate Services

External Organizations Involved

- [Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta](#) (ARECA)
- [Agroforestry Woodlot Extension Society](#) (AWES)
- [Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation](#) (AAI)
- [Alberta Environmental Farm Plan](#)
- [Alberta Environment and Protected Areas](#) (AEPA)
- [Alberta Farm Animal Care](#) (AFAC)

Area 2 Environmental Management



- [Alberta Plastics Recycling Group](#) (APRG)
- [Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society](#) (also known as Cows and Fish)
- [Battle River Watershed Alliance](#)
- Buffalo Lake Management Team
- [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#) (SCAP)
- [Cleanfarms](#)
- [Ellis Bird Farm](#)
- [Grey Wooded Forage Association](#) (GWFA)
- Gull Lake Watershed Society
- Lacombe Lake Watershed Society
- [Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission](#) (LRWSC)
- [Red Deer River Municipal Users Group](#) (RDRMUG)
- [Red Deer River Watershed Alliance](#) (RDRWA)
- Sylvan Lake Management Committee

Supporting Documents

- [Municipal Development Plan](#) (MDP)
- [AG\(5\) Beaver Flood Control](#)
- [AG\(10\) Maintenance of Land Reclamation and Drainage Projects](#)
- [AD\(32\) Environmental Policy](#)
- [RC\(8\) Use of Management of County Reserve Lands](#)
- [Alberta Wetland Policy](#)
- [Alberta Water Act](#)
- [Public Land Act](#)
- [Soil Conservation Act and Regulations](#)

LACOMBE COUNTY PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

Lacombe County, Red Deer County, and Ponoka County joined forces on grain bag recycling in 2018. In 2019, Lacombe County was selected as a participant in a provincially funded agricultural plastics pilot project. The pilot project is managed through the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group, which has contracted Cleanfarms to design and deliver the pilot project.

The grain bags will be rolled and collected directly at the farm sites for eventual delivery to a plastic recycling center in Alberta.

Municipal Programs & Activities

- **AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS / TWINE RECYCLING**
- **MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN BYLAW NO. 1238/17**
 - **OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (SECTIONS 4.1-4.8)**
- **BIOBEDS**
- **SOIL CONSERVATION**
- **WETLAND MANAGEMENT**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVES/MUNICIPAL RESERVES**
- **ROAD CONSTRUCTION & WETLAND ASSESSMENTS**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- **EXTERNAL PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

****Please note: grain bags are only collected between October and April**** The service is offered free of charge to agricultural producers operating within Lacombe County, Ponoka County, and Red Deer County.

Twine Recycling

Producers can pick up Cleanfarms Twine Recycling Bags at the Lacombe County office and Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Sites during business hours. Twine will only be accepted if placed in the Cleanfarms Twine Recycling Bag and then brought to the collection site.

Requirements:

Shake – Remove as much debris, snow or ice as possible. Excessively dirty twine may be rejected or subject to a landfill tipping fee or additional charges at drop off.

Bag – Place loose twine in a Clean Farms Twine Recycling Bag and tie bags to close. Please do not knot the twine. Clean Farms Twine Recycling bags are available free of charge at the Lacombe County office or Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Sites.

Return – Return to a Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Site during regular business hours.

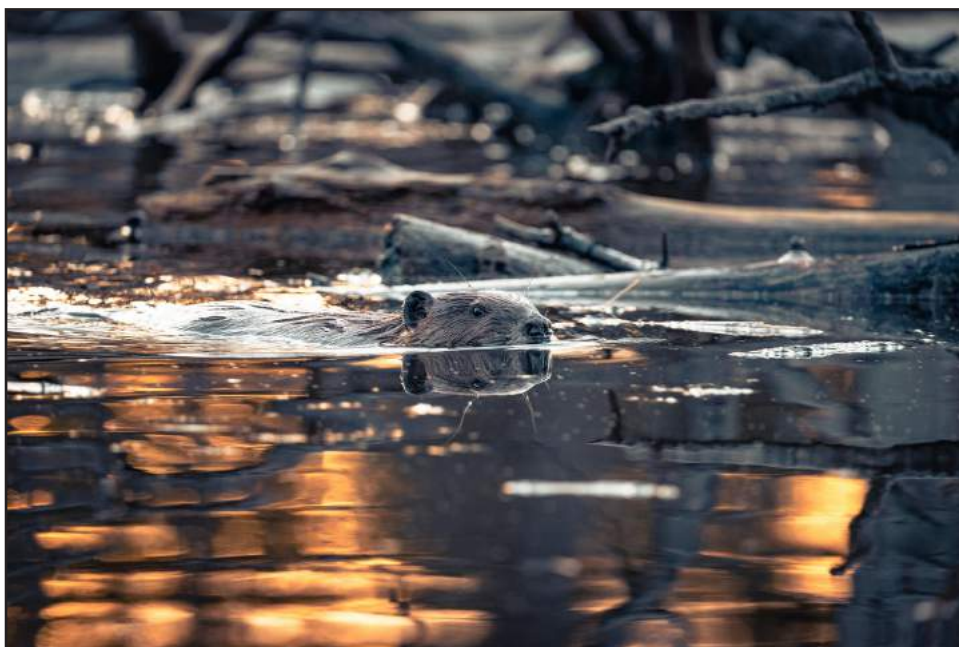
Beaver Management

Beaver activity in Lacombe County can have a major impact on roads and the associated drainage works. Under the *Beaver Flood Control Policy AG(5)*, Lacombe County will carry out beaver control if there is flooding on County right-of-ways from beaver activity on County land.

If the flooding is from private lands, we will trap on those private lands (with written permission from the landowner). If there is flooding from beaver activity and it is not affecting County property, the Agricultural Fieldman will provide names of local trappers who can assist you.

Road Construction Wetland Assessments

Wetlands play a crucial role in the landscape by providing numerous ecosystem goods and services. Approximately 64% of wetlands in Alberta no longer exist, and the implementation of the *Alberta Wetland Policy* directs municipalities on how to conserve, restore, protect and manage our existing wetlands. Under this policy, Lacombe County assesses all road construction projects annually for wetland impacts. The mitigation hierarchy for this policy is to avoid, minimize, and replace. Lacombe County attempts to avoid affecting wetlands when possible, minimize our impacts where we can, and pay compensation when wetland loss occurs.



Environmental Management Plan

The Lacombe County Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is a living document that lays a foundation for Lacombe County to make environmentally sustainable and conscientious policies and initiatives.

There are five priority areas within the EMP. The two that affect agriculture directly are water quality and efficient use of water.

1. Water Quality
2. Waste Creation and Disposal

3. Efficient use of Water
4. Energy Consumption
5. Land Use in the Built and Natural Environment

The two water-related priority areas ensure the County strives to improve our impact on water quality and improve our understanding of how to use water more efficiently in our day to day activities.



MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN BYLAW NO. 1238/17

Our Natural Environment and Recreation (Section 4.1 – 4.8)

The aim of this section is “to protect and enhance the County’s natural capital and continue to provide for parks, recreation and other community services building upon the County’s green infrastructure that enhance the quality of life for County residents.”

Lacombe County is committed to the responsible stewardship of our natural environment. The County has been at the forefront of environmental stewardship and hopes to continue this.

The County’s landscape is mostly considered a rural one, of which its natural assets are an essential part. During the 2016-2017 public consultation process the community voiced that the rural landscape is fundamental to the community’s cultural heritage; therefore, its protection is a key objective of the MDP.

The County also recognizes the importance of the agriculture community as being stewards of the land and supports general conservation projects for preserving valuable ecological resources on farmland.

The policies in Section 4.0 include:

- setbacks from watercourses or waterbodies
- restricted development in flood plains
- protection of areas of environmental significance
- establishment of Environment Reserves and Municipal Reserves
- conservation easements
- donated lands, and
- conservation projects.

These policies ensure the impact of developments does not effect our overall rural landscape, and also protects farms, livestock and other infrastructure from flooding.

Agricultural Plastics Recycling: Partner Profiles

Cleanfarms: Cleanfarms is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization. They work collaboratively with their members, partner agencies, and the government to ensure that Canadian farmers can actively contribute to a healthy environment and a sustainable future.

Cleanfarms plays an important role in protecting the environment by keeping recyclable materials out of landfills and burn piles. To help farmers better manage their waste, Cleanfarms partners with agri-retailers and municipalities across the country to make their programs available to farmers in every region.

Alberta Plastics Recycling Group (APRG):

The APRG is made up of over 20 organizations representing agricultural producers, retailers, manufacturers, municipalities, non-profits and others. In August of 2017, a group of 70 representatives from municipalities and producer groups gathered for discussions about challenges and opportunities around agricultural plastics recycling.

In 2019, the group was granted \$1 million in funding from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry for a three-year pilot program to recycle grain bags and twine. Cleanfarms was selected as the pilot program operator. More information about Alberta Ag-Plastics: Recycle it! can be found at <https://cleanfarms.ca/alberta-ag-plastic-recycle-it-program>.

Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission

The Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission supports the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program by providing storage space for collected plastics and twine until they can be brought to the recycling facility.



Agriculture staff rolling grain bags for the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

SOIL CONSERVATION

Lacombe County is blessed with an abundant and varied landscape of very productive soils. Under the *Soil Conservation Act*, landowners are required to protect their soil from wind or water erosion. While wind erosion is not a frequent problem in Lacombe County, water erosion can cause significant land degradation. The Act imposes a duty upon every landholder to take appropriate measures to prevent soil loss or deterioration. Landowners may be asked to seed grassed waterways or plant a shelterbelt to alleviate and protect their soils.

WETLAND DRAINAGE

Wetlands

Wetlands include bogs, fens, swamps, marshes and shallow open waters. The ownership of wetlands is determined by the permanence of the wetland. The province does not claim ownership to the bed of wetlands that are not reasonably permanent. Implementation of *Alberta's Wetland Policy* began in 2015. The goal of *Alberta's Wetland Policy* is to avoid impacts to wetlands wherever possible, and replace wetlands when permanent losses cannot be avoided.

Statutory Right to Divert Water

Under the *Water Act*, a person who occupies land above groundwater or Allocation of Water adjacent to a water body is entitled to divert 1,250m³ per year as a "household user" if they do not have a municipal water source. Household uses include human consumption, sanitation, fire prevention and watering animals, gardens, lawns, and trees. Household users have the highest priority under the legislation.

Any "traditional agricultural user" who diverted water prior to January 1, 1999 may continue to divert up to 6,250m³ per year without a license, approval, or authorization. A "traditional agricultural user" is someone who diverts water for the purpose of raising animals or applying pesticides to crops. A traditional agricultural user is not protected in the priority sequence unless they registered their use as a farm unit with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) prior to 2003.



Making Changes to Water on Your Land

Under the *Water Act*, all water in Alberta is property of the Crown, even if it is located on private property. This means that a landowner wishing to make any alterations to the water flow on their land should contact AEP to obtain an approval prior to beginning the activity. This includes any changes to drainage or changes to the purpose of a diversion, the installation of tile drainage, infilling, and the creation of dugouts, ditches, berms, and water crossings. AEP will examine aquatic effects and possible impacts to other users before issuing an approval.

For more information on Water Act approvals, please call AEP toll free at 310-3773 (within Alberta) or 1-877-944-0313 (outside of Alberta).

Suspected Non-Compliance by Adjacent Landowner

If you suspect that an adjacent landowner's activities are impacting the water flow on your land, the first step is to try to talk to the adjacent landowner to try to find an appropriate resolution. If you suspect the adjacent landowner is not in compliance with the *Water Act*, you may wish to start a file with the compliance and enforcement division of AEP by calling the 24 Hour Environmental Hotline at 1-800-222-6514. Landowners wishing to report an adjacent landowner's suspected non-compliance should ensure their own activities are above reproach, as the investigator will be examining all non-compliant



Photo of Ellis Bird Farm

activities on the affected lands.

It is important to understand that this process will not necessarily render an immediate resolution to the issue, particularly if the call to AEP is made during a busy season. Landowners are encouraged to be patient and respectful as the investigation takes place. Requests for updates should be made through the 24 Hour Hotline. If you're suffering a loss or damage as a result of someone else's non-compliance with the *Water Act* and you are seeking immediate relief, you have the option of applying for an injunction to the Court of Queen's Bench to order the person stop the activity.

Powers of an AEP Investigator

Landowners should be aware that an inspector or investigator with AEP has the right to enter or gain access to any place, except a private dwelling, for the purposes of the *Water Act*. They must try to enter at a reasonable time and give advance notice to the owner or occupant. The investigator's powers including requiring that equipment be set into operation, taking photographs or copies of documents, and making reasonable inquiries of people.

It is against the law to interfere with the work of an inspector or investigator carrying out their duties. As a landowner, you have the right to ask for an identification card and an explanation of the powers and duties that they are hoping to carry out. An inspector or investigator must have the consent of the occupant to enter a private dwelling.

BIOBEDS

What is a biobed?

A pesticide rinsate biobed is **a structure designed to remove pesticides from the water used to rinse sprayers**. The biobed itself is a lined pit or box filled with a mixture of topsoil, manure, and straw, allowing the liquid to trickle to the bottom. The natural process of this mixture removes the pesticides.

RIPARIAN AREAS: Riparian areas are lands that occur along watercourses and water bodies. Typical examples include flood plains and streambanks. They are distinctly different from surrounding lands because water's presence strongly influences their unique soil and vegetation characteristics.

Lacombe County supports property owners who want to manage these areas. Contact the Lacombe ALUS coordinator at 403-342-8653 or visit https://alus.ca/alus_community/alus-lacombe/.

Lacombe County will set an environmental initiative for their roadside and custom spraying program, including rinsing the spray tanks/concentrate holding containers on the sprayer units when a new herbicide is being used, as well as triple rinsing of chemical jugs once they are empty.

Approximately 68% of Lacombe County is in arable acres. This means herbicides are common in most of Lacombe County farmers' crop management programs. Lacombe County is constructing a model biobed for its roadside spraying program and to be used to provide awareness/education on the use of biobed. This biobed will model how herbicide rinsate water can be cleaner through this natural process.



Photo of Crooker wetland

EXTERNAL PROGRAMS & ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY LACOMBE COUNTY

Lacombe County collaborates with many organizations that benefit the agriculture industry and support sustainable agriculture. Working together sees that programs can be successful and reach more people. This may be through hosting an educational workshop or training staff in specific programs to reach a larger demographic.

Agricultural Research & Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)

The ARECA's mission is to assist its member associations to be viable and sustainable in achieving their visions. They are a not-for-profit organization that works with producers to enhance and improve their operation's sustainability through access to cutting edge information, field research, and new technology. The ARECA provides a direct link between the industry and government and between producers and researchers, and host workshops, grazing schools, tours, seminars, conferences and other extension activities.

Grey Wooded Forage Association

The Grey Wooded Forage Association was established in 1984 by a group of cattle producers in West Central Alberta to improve and make more efficient grazing management practices. This group spreads education and awareness on grazing management, riparian management, agricultural sustainability, grass production, as well as pasture and perennial forage regeneration.

Environmental Farm Plans (EFP)

Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) is a **voluntary program** that helps producers identify and address environmental risks in their operation. Completing an EFP also increases understanding of legal requirements related to protecting water, air and soil quality, which is key to the sustainable production of crops and livestock and to leaving a healthy and productive farm for the next generation.

An EFP will identify what is already working well and pinpoint where improvements can be made. By addressing these risks, producers can increase operational efficiency while reducing farm costs. With an EFP completion certificate, producers become eligible for funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Pairing environmental stewardship with agricultural production is also crucial in the marketing of your products. Consumers are increasingly concerned about the safety and quality of their food and how that food is grown/raised. Sustainable sourcing is becoming a requirement of many major food purchasers, from manufacturers to restaurants. Having an EFP demonstrates the sustainability commitment to the public, government, lenders and/or investors.

Ellis Bird Farm (EBF)

Ellis Bird Farm is both a non-profit company and a working farm. It was established in 1982 to carry on the legacy of Lacombe-area conservationists, Charlie and Winnie Ellis, when their farm was purchased by Union Carbide Canada Ltd. At the time, Charlie and Winnie operated one of the largest Bluebird trails in Canada and had established their farmstead as a haven for wildlife.

The mandate of Ellis Bird Farm is fourfold: to carry out a summer

nesting program; to carry out a winter bird feeding program; to conduct and support scientific research; and to develop and deliver public education programs.

Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC)

For over 25 years, Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) has been a collective, trusted voice on matters of livestock welfare. AFAC was founded in 1993 by Alberta livestock organizations and is now the only provincial animal care organization in Canada. As the public's interest and concern for farm animal care is increasing, there is an opportunity for organizations like AFAC to provide leadership as a progressive animal care organization.

AFAC has two areas of focus: it creates resources and training opportunities for producers to support them in providing the best care for their animals; and it works to build understanding and trust through outreach opportunities with the public.

Agroforestry Woodlot Extension Society (AWES)

In the late 1990s, representatives from government, industry, and conservation agencies realized they shared a common goal in encouraging the sustainable management of the more than 3.6 million hectares of privately owned forested land in Alberta. Their collaborative efforts led to the formation of the Agroforestry Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) in 2000. AWES continues to work with landowners encouraging sustainable forest management, such as planting and designing shelterbelts and ecobuffers on private lands.

Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish)

Cows and Fish (C&F) a non-profit society that strives to foster a better understanding of how improvements in grazing and other management of riparian areas can enhance landscape health and productivity for the benefit of landowners, agricultural producers, communities and others who use and value riparian areas.

Watershed Organizations

Lacombe County maintains partnerships/relationships with watershed alliances, watershed societies, and lake management committees to ensure we work collaboratively on water quality initiatives within the County and the surrounding watersheds. Local watershed groups include **Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, Battle River Watershed Alliance, Red Deer River Municipal Users Group (RDRMUG), Gull Lake Watershed Society, Sylvan Lake Management Committee, Buffalo Lake Management Team, Lacombe Lake Watershed Society, Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society, and Medicine River Watershed.**

Lacombe County and watershed groups encourage landowners to maintain **healthy riparian areas** (this is the land from the water's edge to the upland). Healthy riparian areas are critical for a healthy river ecosystem. Many watershed groups are developing riparian health assessments on local rivers. They are using public aerial photography from satellites to create data to estimate these riparian areas' intactness. These tools can improve education and awareness, ultimately improve water quality, and help ensure a healthy and sustainable water supply for current and future generations.



*Photo from Grey Wooded Forage Association,
Riparian Range Pasture Walk, August 2020*

Websites for external programs and organizations

Agricultural Research & Extension
Council of Alberta (ARECA)
<https://www.areca.ca/>

Alberta Farm Animal Care Association
(AFAC)
<https://www.afac.ab.ca/>

AgroForestry Woodlot Extension
Society (AWES)
<https://www.awes-ab.ca/>

Alberta Riparian Habitat Management
Society
<https://cowsandfish.org/>

Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
<https://www.albertaefp.com/>

Ellis Bird Farm (EBF)
<https://www.ellisbirdfarm.ca/>

Grey Wooded Forage Association
<https://greywoodedforageassociation.com/>

Priority Infrastructure

GOAL:

Well-developed and well-maintained infrastructure is in place to support the needs of the agriculture industry.



OBJECTIVES

- Infrastructure (e.g. bridges, roads, etc.) planning and decision making takes into account agricultural needs
- Decisions about operating budgets (e.g. management and maintenance of infrastructure) will support agriculture

Municipal Departments Involved:

- Operations
- Community Services

External Organizations Involved

- [Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors](#)
- [Alberta Environment and Protected Areas \(AEPA\)](#)
- [Mainroad Alberta Contracting LP](#)
- [Canadian Pacific \(CP\) Railway](#)
- [Canadian National Railway \(CN Rail\)](#)

Supporting Documents

- [AG\(2\) Weed and Brush Control](#)
- [OP\(1\) Road Designation and Standards](#)
- [OP\(2\) Road Construction Programs](#)
- [OP\(4\) Gravel Program](#)
- [OP\(12\) Texas Gates](#)
- [OP\(16\) Road Maintenance](#)
- [OP\(29\) Approaches](#)
- [OP\(31\) Fencing Undeveloped Road Allowances](#)
- [OP\(40\) Brushing Program](#)
- [OP\(41\) Culverts Manure Management](#)
- [Lacombe County Standards Manual](#)
- [Land Use Bylaw Section 6.18 & 6.9](#)

Area 3



Municipal Programs & Activities

ROAD DESIGNATIONS AND STANDARDS

To effectively manage the maintenance of roads under Lacombe County's jurisdiction, the following classification system and standards are in place. Lacombe County may vary the classifications and standards to address specific needs or unusual conditions..

Primary Local Main

- facilitate the flow of commodities during all four seasons
- accommodate large volumes of traffic (more than 500 vehicles/day)
- provide connector routes to trading centers within Lacombe County
- allow for year-round movement of legal loads

Secondary Local Main

- facilitate the flow of light vehicle traffic
- provide connector routes to urban areas and other paved roads
- provide for the limited flow of commodities on a seasonal basis
- minimize maintenance procedures (grading, gravelling, dust control)

Local Road

- facilitate the flow of all types of traffic
- provide connector routes between paved roads
- facilitate the flow of commodities during all four seasons
- accommodate moderate to low volumes of traffic (less than 500 vehicles/day)
- provide connector routes to trading centers within Lacombe County

• ROAD DESIGNATIONS & STANDARDS

• ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

• GRAVEL PROGRAM

• TEXAS GATES

• ROAD MAINTENANCE

• APPROACHES

• FENCING ADJACENT TO UNDERDEVELOPED ROAD ALLOWANCES

• BRUSHING PROGRAM

• CULVERTS

• DUST CONTROL

• RURAL MAILBOXES AND ADDRESSING

• CORNER LOT RESTRICTIONS AND SIGHT LINES

- allow for year-round movement of legal loads

Access Road

- accommodate low volumes of traffic from a single source or destination
- facilitate the flow of commodities from an agricultural operation, industrial facility or residence to a Local or Local Main road
- provide limited access to residential, agricultural, industrial or commercial operations
- provide limited access to a recreational area

Farm Machinery Road

- facilitate the limited movement of farm machinery to fields where no other access is available
- facilitate the limited movement of farm produce during harvest time
- facilitate the limited movement of livestock to pastures

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Lacombe County is committed to establishing and maintaining a road construction program that considers long-term transportation needs.

Priorities for the long-term construction program are to be based on the greatest need and most benefit using the following criteria:

- Public safety
- General condition of existing road
- Traffic volumes and type of traffic
- Traffic patterns and alternative roads available
- Service for new developments
- Maintenance concerns
- Cost of construction

TEXAS GATES

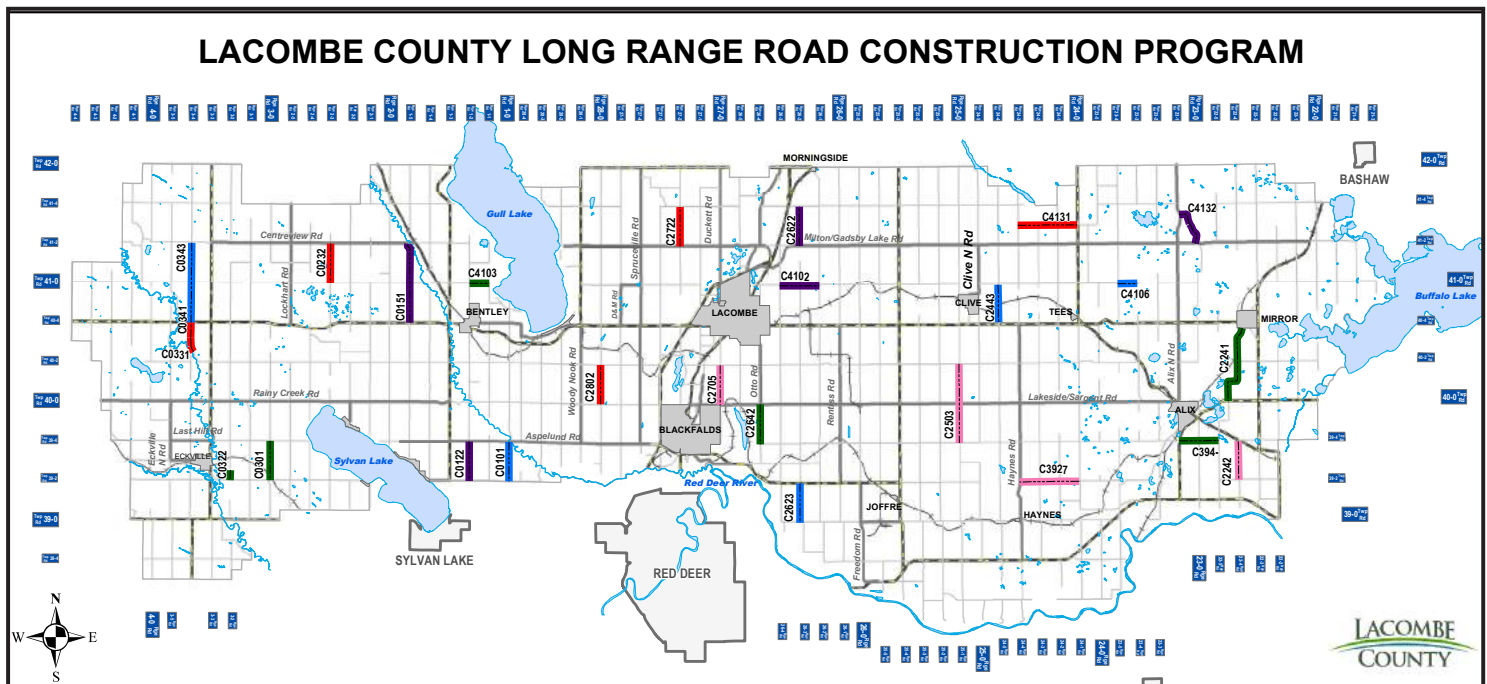
Lacombe County recognizes that there are circumstances where Texas Gates' use may

be considered, provided public access is not adversely impacted.

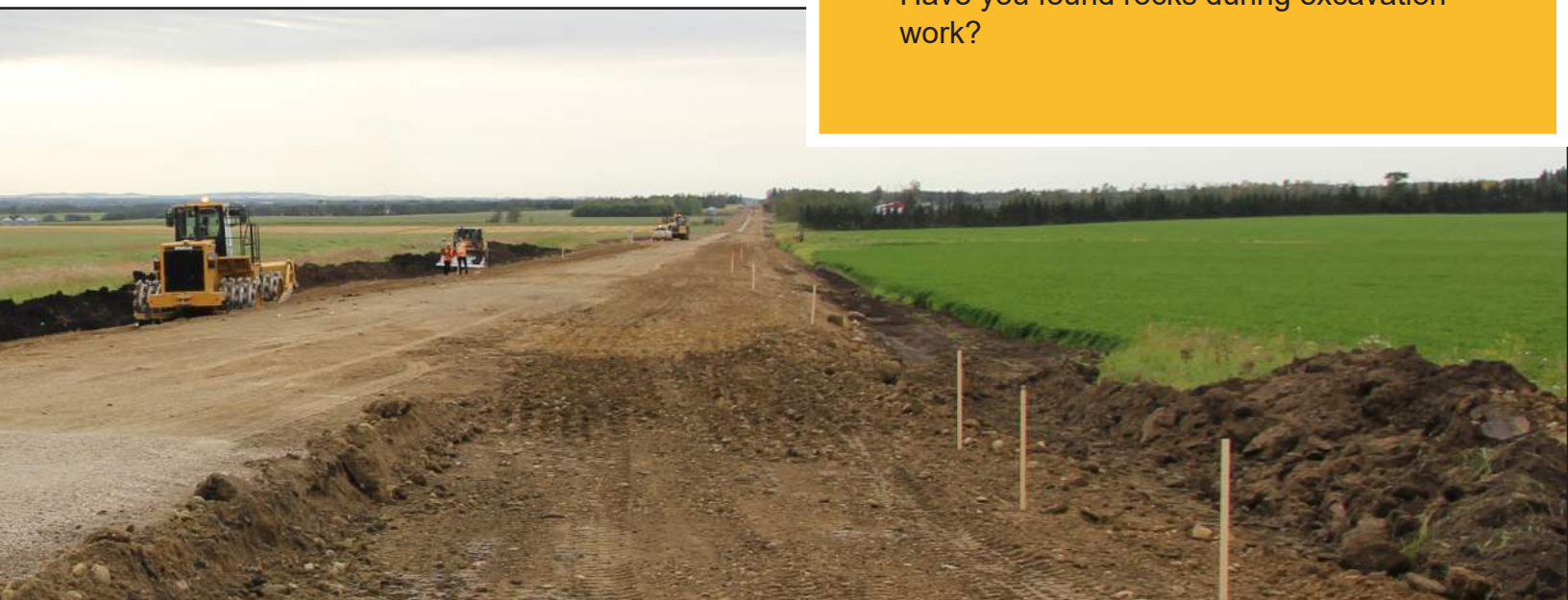
The installation of a Texas Gate will only be considered on dead-end roads and where the primary use of the road is for access to farmland only.

A Texas Gate shall be constructed in accordance with the following specifications:

- Minimum clear width of six meters by two meters.



- Constructed with bars of pipe or railroad steel and a base of steel or treated timber.
- Bars shall not allow an open space of more than 115 millimetres.
- Travel distance of the Texas Gate shall be no less than five and one half meters.
- Designed for a minimum gross vehicle weight of 50,000 kilograms.



DO YOU HAVE GRAVEL ON YOUR PROPERTY??

To ensure we have a reliable supply of gravel to maintain our County roads, Lacombe County is always looking for new gravel sources. Gravel is an important, non-renewable resource necessary for the construction and maintenance of roads.

What should I do if I think I have gravel on my land? If you believe you have gravel on your property, and you wish to investigate further, please contact the County office at 403-782-8379 and speak with the Operations Department. County staff will come out to meet with you and arrange for testing. While the testing involves digging a test hole or holes, it is done in the least invasive way practical. There is no obligation on the part of the Land Owner if suitable gravel is found. The County will discuss options and work with the landowner on a possible agreement to access and use the land.

What are indicators that there is gravel on my land? Several common qualities indicate that there might be gravel on your property, including:

- Is the ground rocky?
- Are there gravel pits nearby?
- Do you have low-lying land?
- Do you have a creek/river bed on your property?
- Have you found rocks during excavation work?

GRAVEL PROGRAM

All gravel roads are to be re-gravelled from time to time as is necessary to provide a road that is generally passable for traffic under normal spring or rain conditions.

Re-gravelling is to be undertaken each year based on priorities established within the limits of the annual operating budget. Priorities are to be determined with consideration to the road classification and the road's existing gravel condition relative to the amount and type of traffic.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Paved Roads

The goal of winter maintenance for paved roads is to remove snow and ice from the road surface as quickly as possible. Supervisory staff will determine the appropriate use of equipment and materials to achieve this result. Time frames will vary depending on the severity and duration of the weather event.

In the summer, Lacombe County's paved roads' maintenance goal is to protect the public from potholes and premature pavement failure.

Gravel Roads

The goal of winter maintenance for gravel roads is to remove snow from the road surface after accumulations reach approximately 5cm or more. Gravel road snow removal will be undertaken under the direction of the supervisory staff with the goal of minimizing the amount of gravel that ends up in the ditch.

The goal of summer gravel road maintenance is to keep gravel roads in a reasonable safe driving condition relative to the road's character and recent weather conditions.

The order in which roads are graded will depend on traffic volumes, the road's structural condition, and the amount of gravel on the road.

APPROACHES

Approaches located within County road allowances are under the direction, control and management of Lacombe County. The County has full discretion over the installation and/or removal of approaches. For public safety, the County limits the number of new accesses and ensures that all approaches meet approved standards.

All approaches **MUST** be constructed in accordance with the standards set out in the latest edition of the *Lacombe County Standards Manual*. Approaches must have the same surface as the road that it enters onto.



Lacombe County will normally limit the number of approaches allowed to:

- a) A maximum of four approaches on agricultural parcels that are 80 acres in size or greater, with no more than two approaches per parcel permitted on a township road and no more than two approaches per parcel permitted on a range road.
- b) A maximum of two approaches on agricultural parcels that are less than 80 acres in size, with no more than two approaches per parcel allowed on a township road and no more than two approaches per parcel allowed on a range road.

Where a farm residence or farm yard exists on a parcel of land zoned agriculture, two additional approaches may be considered providing the approaches can otherwise meet the standards and specifications. In this circumstance, four approaches per parcel will be permitted on a range road or township road.

Where a farm residence has been subdivided on a parcel of land zoned agriculture a maximum of two approaches will be permitted.

FENCING ADJACENT TO UNDEVELOPED ROAD ALLOWANCES

Lacombe County has the direction, control, and management of all roads within its boundaries and recognizes that roads and rights-of-way's primary purpose is to provide public access. However, there may be circumstances where property owners may wish to arrange for the location of fences adjacent to an undeveloped road allowance for grazing livestock.

The owners or occupiers of property adjacent to an undeveloped road allowance can enter into an arrangement with neighbouring property owners for the location, construction and maintenance of fences to accommodate the grazing of livestock or other farming practices. Lacombe County will not require the construction of fences on both sides of the undeveloped road allowance.

The fencing arrangement between adjacent property owners will only be recognized in situations where public access will not be adversely impacted.

Unopened road allowances are generally to be left in their natural state.

If the adjacent property owners are unable to agree on fencing, or if there is an objection to the fencing arrangement by the general public, the adjacent property owners who wish to control livestock will be required to remove any fencing located on the road allowance and erect a fence on the property line.

BRUSHING PROGRAM

Lacombe County recognizes the need to remove trees and other vegetation on road allowances and adjacent properties to accommodate public safety, road maintenance, road construction, and vehicle and equipment movement. Lacombe County maintains a brushing program that considers long-term transportation needs and smaller emergent projects that the County can complete quickly.

The brushing program is a collaborative program between the County's Operations and Agriculture departments.

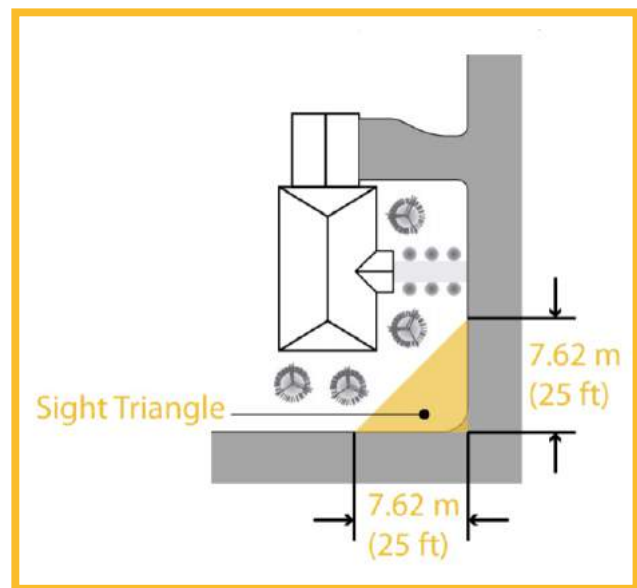
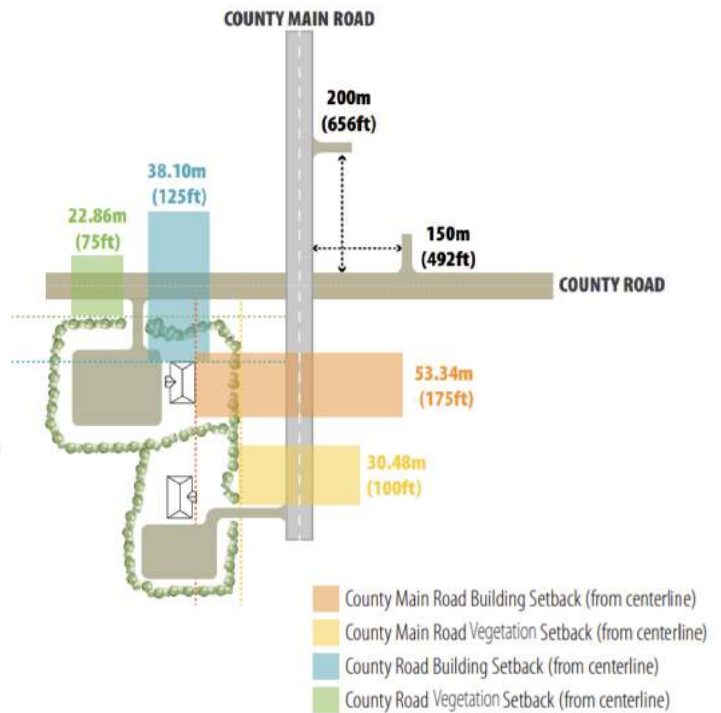
Priorities for the two-year brushing program are to be based on the greatest need and most benefit using the following criteria:

- Public safety
- Compliance with road construction program
- Road maintenance concerns
- Reserve maintenance requirements
- Cost of brushing project
- Traffic volumes and type of traffic
- General condition of existing road
- Number of benefiting residents – agreement from adjacent landowners
- Facilitating the movement of equipment

CORNER LOT RESTRICTIONS AND SIGHT LINES AT ROAD INTERSECTIONS

Sight lines are also considered in the Land Use Bylaw (Sections 6.9 and 6.18). Any residence must have a triangle sight line at an intersection corner. This is to recognize the large size of farm equipment and to ensure property visibility during busy times of year (seeding and harvest seasons).

On a corner lot in any residential district, no building, fence, wall, shrub, tree or any other object with a height exceeding 0.91 m (3 ft) above the lower right-of-way grade level that limits visibility shall be constructed, or placed within the triangle formed by the boundaries of the lot abutting the right-of-ways



and a straight line connecting points established on the said boundaries a distance of 7.62 m (25 ft) from the point where they intersect.

No development, access or egress, shall be permitted within the areas illustrated above for county main roads and roads in the Agricultural 'A' District.

CULVERTS – MANURE MANAGEMENT

Lacombe County recognizes the need to facilitate the effective management of manure using the dragline method. We will consider the placement of culverts in selective roads to accommodate draglines to reduce the amount of road damage and improve safety by placing delivery lines through the road structure, which will allow for less truck and tractor traffic on the road system.

Lacombe County will consider requests for the installation of culverts to accommodate draglines subject to budget allocations and other priority maintenance requirements.

DUST CONTROL

Lacombe County recognizes that dust from gravel roads may create health, safety or general nuisance concerns for residents and therefore offers a dust treatment program to mitigate the impact of dust in front of residences.

The County will arrange for dust control (Calcium Chloride) on roads in front of a residence with 33 1/3% percent of the road preparation costs, dust treatment, and application to be paid by the applicant.

The County must receive requests for dust control along with payment on or before May 15th of each year.

INDIVIDUAL ROADSIDE MAILBOXES

Lacombe County understands the legislative right for individual mailboxes on the roadside but requires anyone installing one to **ensure their mailbox has the proper design, materials and placement**, to allow for road maintenance.

Lacombe County also recognizes that community mailboxes with decent roadside turnouts are preferred for privacy protection and the postal delivery personnel and the general public's safety.

Individual Mailbox Regulations

1. Residents placing individual mailboxes on the roadside must meet regulations set out by Canada Post as described under the "Rural Mailbox Guidelines".
2. The support post for the mailbox must be a **minimum** of 1 meter from the shoulder of the road surface, with the mailbox placed on a cantilever arm to reach the shoulder of the roadway. The box must be a minimum of 1.1 meters higher than the shoulder of the road.
3. Rural mailboxes shall be placed or replaced along County roadsides in such a manner that any part of the mail box, fixed post or cantilever arm will not extend onto or over any portion of the road surface.
4. All rural mailbox supports shall be made of wood, plastic or other pliable and breakable material only.
5. For safety purposes, items such as wagon wheels, old farm equipment, steel or concrete posts, etc., are not acceptable and shall not be placed along roadsides.

PLEASE NOTE: Lacombe County is not responsible for any damages or losses of individual roadside mailboxes, even if it occurred because of road maintenance activities (mowing, grading, snow removal, etc.).

Mailbox owners are responsible for all repairs and maintenance required around the mailbox area.



RURAL ADDRESS SIGNS

What is rural addressing?

Rural addressing is a system where all developed properties in the County (not including hamlets) are assigned an address. The primary purpose of rural addressing is to assist emergency responders – police, fire and ambulance – to easily and quickly find your home or business. It is also an easy method for other parties such as service and delivery companies to locate your property.

Did you know: Lacombe County was one of the FIRST counties in Alberta to implement a rural addressing system? Because of this, all development properties in Lacombe County have a rural address assigned to them.

What are the benefits of using rural addressing over a legal land location?

A rural address is a much more accurate way to locate your property than a legal land location. While a legal land location identifies a specific quarter section, a rural address will pinpoint the access to your home or business on a range road, township road or highway, which is critical in emergency response situations.

The sign is cheaper than the fine!

All residents must have a rural addressing sign. If it's faded or significantly damaged, then it's time for a new one! The Bylaw infraction could cost \$500 if your sign is not posted, and \$750 for subsequent violations.

Replacement signs cost \$30 each (signposts are \$15 each). Lacombe County can come and install a new sign and post for \$88 (if needed).

In some cases, residents will require more signs (i.e. if you have multiple residences on your property).

How are rural addresses created?

Lacombe County assigns the rural addresses. Rural addresses are based on the Township Road/Range Road grid system. In many ways, a rural address resembles a town or city address. However,

instead of using the streets and avenues to address residences and businesses in a town or city, rural addressing uses the township and range road network to establish the access point, or number, of a property in the rural area. An example of a rural address for a residence or business located on a quarter-section is 40317 RGE RD 280.

Who is responsible for maintaining and/or replacing rural address signs?

The property owner is responsible for the sign's maintenance and eventual replacement. Landowners can order replacement signs through the County.

How should I install my rural address sign?

- Must be in an obvious place next to the driveway at the property line.
- Should be clearly visible from the public road (from either direction) and not obstructed by trees, buildings, etc.
- Placed within 6.1 metres (20 ft) of either side of the shoulder of the primary access and 1 metre (3.3 feet) from the property boundary.
- Should be firmly attached to a post, fence or other permanent fixture.
- Signs should be a minimum of 1 metre and no higher than 2.5 metres above natural ground level.
- Should be on the right hand side of the driveway, entering the property and far enough from the shoulder to allow snow removal.

CAUTION should be exercised with any underground installation to avoid contact with utilities. For assistance with this, contact: UTILITY SAFETY PARTNERS (formerly Alberta One Call) at 1-800-242-3447 or by [submitting an online request](#).

RURAL ADDRESSING: MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS

When it comes to rural addressing, please make sure that YOU and your family, friends, contractors, etc. are familiar with your rural address, where it is located, and how it works!

Lacombe County's rural addressing system is the best, most accurate way to ensure emergency responders can locate your home quickly. **We all know seconds count in an emergency!**

Weeds, Pests & Disease

GOAL:

Agricultural lands and agricultural production are protected from the negative impacts of weeds, pests and disease.



OBJECTIVES

- Ensure strong policies are in place to support the control of regulated weeds, pests and disease impacting agriculture
- Develop and implement responsive weed, pest and disease control and enforcement programs

Municipal Departments Involved:

- Community Services
- Corporate Services

External Organizations Involved

- [Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman](#) (AAAF)
- [Alberta Agriculture and Forestry](#) (AAF)
- [Alberta Environment and Parks](#) (AEP)
- Crop Diversification Centre South and North
- [Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [Grey Wooded Forage Association](#) (GWFA)

Supporting Documents

- [AG\(2\) Weed and Brush Control](#)
- [AG\(3\) Sprayer Rental Program](#)
- [AG\(4\) Coyote Control Device and Chemicals](#)
- [AG\(6\) Virulent Blackleg of Canola](#)
- [AG\(7\) No Spray Requests](#)
- [AG\(8\) Weed Notice Work](#)
- [AG\(9\) Skunk Traps](#)
- [AG\(11\) Clubroot of Canola](#)
- [AG\(12\) Spraying Services](#)
- [Agricultural Pest Act & Regulations](#)
- [Agricultural Service Board Act](#)
- [Alberta Weed Control Act & Regulations](#)
- [Animal Health Act & Regulations](#)

Area 4 Waste Management



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation partners with local Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) to address agricultural concerns in communities to ensure all partners work collaboratively to maintain and improve agricultural production.

Every rural municipality in Alberta has an appointed Agricultural Service Board (ASB); the primary function of ASBs is to assist producers in achieving sustainable agricultural production and considering environmental and social issues as they relate to agriculture. Lacombe County has a long history with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and the Agricultural Service Board Program.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD DUTIES:

- act as an advisory body primarily to Council;
- advise and help organize and direct weed and pest control, and soil and water conservation programs;
- assist in the control of livestock and animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*;
- promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer;
- promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality;
- undertake projects/initiatives as referred by Council; and
- assist with the preparation of the Agricultural Services budget to be approved by Council.

County Council appoints Agricultural Fieldman to do the work of the ASB. Agricultural Fieldman develop, implement, and control programs designed to carry out priorities and policies set by their local ASB, such as:

- weed and pest control
- soil and water conservation
- assisting in the control of animal diseases

Municipal Programs & Activities

- **AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**
- **CUSTOM SPRAYING PROGRAM**
- **INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**
 - **ROADSIDE SPRAYING**
 - **ROADSIDE MOWING**
 - **BRUSH CONTROL**
- **ANIMAL DISEASE & HEALTH**
- **MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE AWARENESS**
 - **VERBENONE SALES**
- **PEST IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION PROGRAM**
 - **BLACKLEG**
 - **CLUBROOT**
 - **COYOTE CONTROL**
 - **RICHARDSON GROUND SQUIRREL**
 - **SKUNK**
- **RIVER WEED CONTROL PROGRAM**
- **RENTAL PROGRAM**
 - **PASTURE SPRAYERS**
 - **SLIDE IN SPRAYERS**
 - **SKUNK TRAPS**
- **WEED IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION PROGRAM**
- **SEA BUCKTHORN MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

- encouraging sustainable agriculture to improve the economic viability of producers
- promoting agricultural policies that meet the needs of a municipality

Some of the Acts that Lacombe County Agriculture Services and the ASB are responsible for include:

- [Weed Control Act](#)
- [Soil Conservation Act](#)
- [Agricultural Pests Act](#)
- [Animal Health Act](#)

The ASB is bound by the terms of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

Agricultural Service Board Act

The *Agricultural Service Board Act* sets out the framework for establishing an ASB by an incorporated municipal district or specialized municipality.

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation may enter into an agreement with an ASB in order to provide funding for any ASB-related activities. Additionally, advisory committees may be established for these purposes, and Agricultural Fieldmen may be provincially-appointed to help carry out operational functions locally.

LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND DISEASE

Legislation through the *Animal Health Act & Regulations* puts in place much of the necessary infrastructure and traceability systems to quickly respond if there are threats of disease outbreaks or other emergencies that could affect animal health, public health, or food safety. Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV) has a lead role in animal disease response.

The Act puts the onus on the owner of an animal or authorized person to advise the CPV of suspected or confirmed reportable and notifiable disease within 24 hours. "Reportable diseases" refer to diseases that could threaten animal or public health, food safety, or the animal industry's economic interests. They require a response to control or eradicate.

"Notifiable diseases" do not require control actions, but it is crucial to monitor for changes or unusual trends. The diseases are prescribed in the Reportable and Notifiable Disease Regulation.

Various strategies and tools are designed to prevent and control the spread of disease, including conducting inspections and surveillance, ordering treatments, implementing biosecurity measures, and



Photo from Ross Adams, Range Management Specialist with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

establishing quarantines, surveillance zones and control areas. If necessary, the CPV may order the destruction of animals, animal products or by-products, or property that has been contaminated through contact with a diseased animal or a disease-causing agent. Dead animals may also be exhumed and examined if suspected to have died from a reportable disease.

The Act also facilitates the licensing of retail



Common Baby's Breath



Canada Thistle



Common Tansy



Dames Rocket



Field Scabious



Himalayan Balsam



Hawkweeds: orange, meadow, and mouse-ear



Leafy Spurge

outlets that sell production animal medicines, livestock markets and livestock assembling stations.

WEED IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Weed Control Program runs each year from May to August. Lacombe County has two weed inspectors who conduct weed inspections, looking for Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds, under the **Alberta Weed Control Act**. The Government of Alberta authorizes Lacombe County (and all Counties and Municipal Districts within Alberta) to enforce this Act.

Lacombe County weed inspectors are appointed to inspect all lands within Lacombe County's jurisdiction, **including private land pasture, crops, fence lines, yard sites, lease roads, gravel pits and road allowances**. Weed inspectors work with landowners to control and manage these problem weeds. Lacombe County has approximately 500 weed cases throughout the summer that require appropriate action.

Our weed inspectors inspect mainly for the weeds (pictured below) to protect agriculture lands, and sensitive/vital ecosystems from these invasive plants. They can be costly to control from year to year, and Lacombe County believes preventative control of a small amount is preferable to trying to control a large weed infestation. In some cases, this can push out the native plant species, creating a monoculture. Benefits include reduced costs and time spent on maintenance.

Lacombe County uses best management practices and an integrated approach. The more effective control is the use of herbicides. Herbicides can leave a residual in the soil and reduce the invasive weed for a couple of years. Continuous mowing and intensive grazing are also effective and viable options,

especially in areas where herbicide cannot be used. These two strategies are used to deplete the root reserves and prevent seed production, but require constant and appropriate management.



Oxeye Daisy



Scentless Chamomile



Tall Buttercup



Spotted Knapweed



Yellow Toadflax



Sea Buckthorn

What is the difference between a prohibited noxious weed and a noxious weed?

Prohibited Noxious Weed: a plant designated in accordance with the regulations as a prohibited noxious weed and includes the plant's seeds. This weed designation can be seen as regulatory support for an "Early Detection, Rapid Response" stage of invasive plant management. Plants in this category are either not currently found in Alberta or are found in few locations such that eradication could be possible. Under the *Weed Control Act*, a person has a responsibility to destroy a prohibited noxious weed.

Noxious Weed: a plant designated in accordance with the regulations as a noxious weed and includes the plant's seeds. Noxious weeds have the ability to spread rapidly, cause severe crop losses and economic hardship. This weed designation is a regulatory support for a containment stage of invasive plant management. A local authority may conduct control programs for these weeds if they feel they may have significant ecological or economic impact on lands within their municipality.

Weed Type	# of cases in Lacombe County
Scentless Chamomile	73
Common Tansy	94
Leafy Spurge	28
Tall Buttercup	69
Oxeye Daisy	13
Canada Thistle	54
Dame's Rocket	9
Common Baby's Breath	4
Spotted Knapweed	3
Himalayan Balsam	3
Yellow Toadflax	19
Field Scabious	9

The chart above shows the rolling number of weed cases identified through Lacombe County's Weed Inspection Program. A "weed case" can range from the discovery of a single plant to a high infestation on a single piece of property. Most weeds listed below need regular control efforts every year or two. High infestations may take decades to eradicate, but consistent control efforts will ensure the weed infestations do not get worse. Weed case numbers fluctuating only slightly from year to year because of these reasons.

Some weeds are widely spread across the county, such as **Scentless Chamomile, Tall buttercup and Common Tansy**, resulting in very high case numbers.

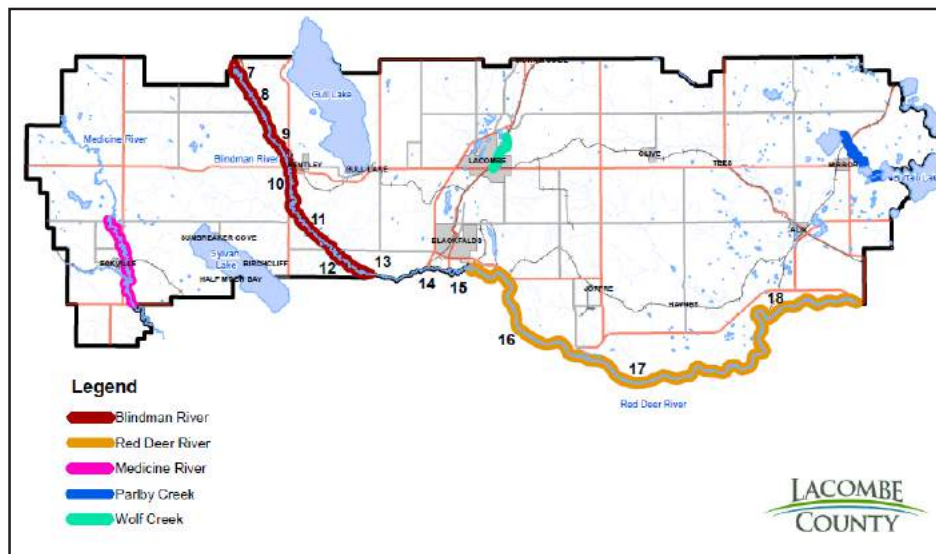
Leafy Spurge, Ox-eye Daisy, Dame's Rocket, Common Baby's Breath, Spotted Knapweed, Himalayan Balsam, and Field Scabious are lower in case numbers, meaning they have been found in fewer areas.

Canada Thistle, Yellow Toadflax, and White Cockle are weeds that are wide-spread. They are inspected only when the infestation level is severe and included in the weed case totals if considered a severe case. Low infestation levels for these are not reflected in the case files because they are prevalent on nearly all properties.

RIVER WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

Each year, Lacombe County operates a River Weed Control Program in July and August. Lacombe County hires two River Weed Inspectors to canoe the Blindman River, Medicine River, Parby Creek, Red Deer River, and Wolf Creek picking Scentless Chamomile, along those river systems within Lacombe County. On days where the inspectors cannot get onto the river due to weather and river flow rates, they pick weeds along County roadsides.

The River Weed Control Program disposes approximately 60-120 bags of weeds annually.



RENTAL PROGRAM

Pasture Sprayers

In conjunction with our weed control program, Lacombe County offers a pasture sprayer rental program. Landowners can rent a pull-type pasture sprayer, ideal for rough terrain that can be pulled behind a truck or tractor. Sprayers have a 400-gallon water capacity and 20 gallons/acre coverage. Lacombe County's sprayer has an additional handgun system and fence line-spraying nozzle.

Private Lands Spraying

This service is for landowners who wish to hire Lacombe County to spray prohibited noxious or noxious weeds on their property. We recommend looking into private industry custom spraying to complete the work due to the high demand for this service. Lacombe County has a list of private spray companies available for residents seeking spraying services.

LACOMBE COUNTY'S INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The goals of Lacombe County's Integrated

Vegetation Management Plan are:

- to control prohibited noxious and noxious weeds on County lands, as well as brush species, to assist with road maintenance.
- to increase the safety of County roads by improving intersection sight lines.

For full details, please refer to Lacombe County's **Weed and Brush Control Policy AG(2)**.

There are four (4) roadside mowers that mow the ditches beside main paved road and gravel road in the County.

Mowing districts are split into three sections (West, Central, and East). Each year, all gravel roads get a shoulder cut, and one-third of the County's paved roads receives a full cut. (**Please note: this does not include numbered highways. These roads are the responsibility of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors**).

Full cut mowing programs control brush growth in County roadsides and to help ensure wildlife and other hazards are easily visible to motorists.

Lacombe County has one roadside spraying unit that spot sprays for noxious weeds on our roadsides from May to

September. The herbicides that Lacombe County use are registered, selective, and residual herbicides.

The herbicides only target broad-leaf species and lay residue into the soil to control weeds up to two years in that area (dependant on soil regime). Lacombe County spot sprays and uses only herbicides when weeds are present.

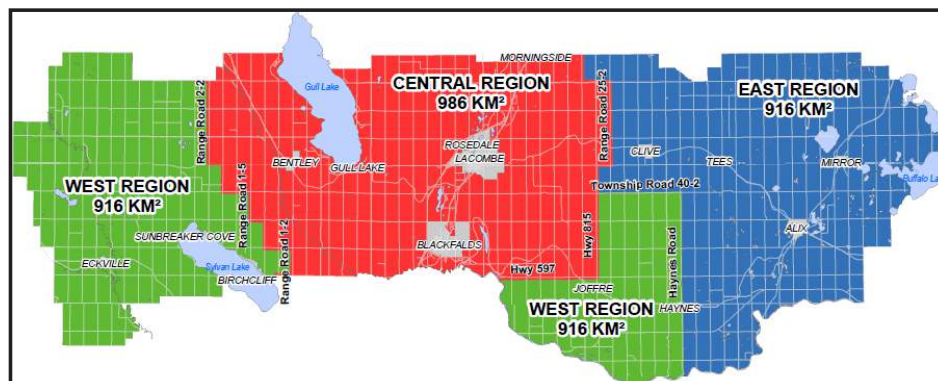
In the spring or fall, the County will spray roadside brush to maintain the roadside structure and improve sight line visibility.

No Spray Areas

Landowners can designate their lands 'No Spray' areas by completing a No Spray Form. This form must be submitted to the Community Services Department **prior to April 1 of the current year**.

If a landowner opts for a "No Spray" area beside their property, they are responsible for controlling all Prohibited Noxious or Noxious Weeds on their property and County road allowances.

Failure to control these weeds will result in the County controlling the weeds after July 15 of that year.



Lacombe County Mowing Map



PEST INSPECTIONS AND IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Agricultural staff are appointed to enforce the *Alberta Pest Control Act* on behalf of the Province of Alberta, allowing them to control any pests or nuisances in Lacombe County.

COMMON PESTS IN LACOMBE COUNTY

Definitions and images of Pests & Nuisances on Page 38-39.

Clubroot of Canola

Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of canola, mustard and other crops in the cabbage family. Cole crop vegetables, such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga and turnip, are susceptible to clubroot. Many cruciferous weeds, like wild mustard, stinkweed and shepherd's purse, are also susceptible to clubroot.

As the name of this disease suggests, the roots of infected plants may exhibit a club-like appearance; however, overall symptoms will vary depending on the crop's growth stage when it becomes infected. Infection at the seedling stage can result in wilting, stunting and yellowing symptoms by the late rosette to the early podding stage, while premature ripening or death can be observed in canola or mustard plants nearing maturity. Plants infected at later growth stages may not show wilting, stunting or yellowing, but may still ripen prematurely, and seeds may shrivel, thus reducing yield and quality (oil content).

Blackleg of Canola

Virulent blackleg of canola/rapeseed is a fungal canker or dry rot disease of the actively growing crop that causes stem girdling and lodging. In heavily infested crops, up to 100% of the stems may be infected, resulting in major yield loss.

Two types of blackleg fungus infect canola: weakly virulent and virulent. The weakly virulent (or mild type) has always been common in canola fields. The disease appears on leaves and stems in August but does not usually cause significant damage. Highly virulent blackleg is more aggressive and can cause yield loss.

Rats

Alberta has a rat-free status. If a rat is spotted, please call 310-RATS (Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's pest surveillance department). There are two types of rats that are on the *Alberta Pest Control Act*, the Norway rat and Roof rat.

Norway rat (pictured left): Grey-brown colour on the top, white to light grey underneath. They are 40cm in length (body and tail). The tail is almost as long as its body.



Roof rat (pictured right): Brown/grey/black in colour. They are 16-20cm in length, and the tail is longer than its body.



Photos from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Inspection and Investigation section.

COMMON NUISANCES IN LACOMBE COUNTY

Coyotes

As coyotes are considered wildlife, under the *Agricultural Pest Control Act*, Lacombe County can only provide control if coyotes are harassing or killing livestock. **Pets do not qualify as livestock and do not qualify under this program.**

Landowners have the right to destroy coyotes on their property. Coyotes survive very well amongst people and will adapt to any situation that is advantageous to them. Do not make your property attractive to them by leaving out pet food or carrion (dead animals), as this will only serve to attract them. In many situations, coyotes are only fulfilling their role in nature, which is to clean up carrion.

Richardson Ground Squirrels

Health Canada has cancelled the registration of 2% liquid strychnine used to control Richardson Ground Squirrel. As of March 2023, the use of 2% liquid strychnine has been banned. There are alternate control solutions available, which are available at many agricultural product retailers.

Skunks

Skunks can be hunted or trapped by the owner or occupant of the land. To prevent skunks from visiting your property, you must remove food and shelter the animals are seeking.

Skunk traps are loaned to County residents out at no cost. There is a \$75 Deposit (cheque or cash). The traps must be returned in two weeks and brought back clean and undamaged. Private companies can be contacted to trap skunks, or residents can call Alberta Fish and Wildlife with skunk concerns.



Wild Boars

Wild boar are raised in Alberta as livestock. When they are not being raised as livestock on a farm, they are considered to be “at large” and are an invasive pest that can damage property/crops/environment, endanger people and animals, prey on young livestock and wildlife, spread diseases, and alter the ecosystems.



Photo from the University of Saskatchewan

Wild boar are not native to Alberta. They came to the province in the 1980s and '90s as livestock. Over the years, some animals escaped, and have established several feral/wild populations.

If you see a wild boar at-large call 310-FARM (3276) or email af.wildboar@gov.ab.ca note the location and safely provide any photos of damage caused by wild boar or the animals themselves. Provincial government staff will collect the information and work with the landowner and the municipality to help find a solution. Currently, there are no known wild boar populations in Lacombe County.

Undesignated species that may be problematic

Lacombe County has previously worked with the Provincial and Federal governments to monitor invasive species. Programs and education are facilitated by the Crop Diversification Centre in Brooks, which is part of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.

Some of the past surveys include grasshopper, Bertha army worm, lygus bug, fusarium, verticillium wilt, and potato psyllid. The data is collected and compiled to create provincial risk maps and monitor data trends across Alberta.

Mountain Pine Beetle Awareness

The Mountain Pine Beetle is a bark beetle family member and is the most damaging insect pest of pine trees in western North America. Left unmanaged, the Mountain Pine Beetle could devastate Alberta pine forests. Lacombe County has found several cases in the western areas of the County.

The most unmistakable sign indicating Mountain Pine Beetle's presence is boring sawdust found in bark crevices and around the base of the tree. Secondly, look for pitch tubes (small nodules of sap that look like crystallized honey on the bark), peel back the bark and look for live larvae. If you do find live larvae under the bark, your healthy trees are at risk.

Verbenone Sales

There is a product on the market called Verbenone that has been used in spot applications to try and stop beetles from attacking valued trees. Verbenone pouches can be attached to specific high-value trees chosen to be protected; however, they do not guarantee that Pine Beetles will not infest the tree. Verbenone is a pheromone and is normally only deployed to deter mass attack of Mountain Pine Beetle in tree stands.



What is considered a pest?

A pest is an animal, bird, insect, plant, or disease declared to be a pest set out in Schedule 1, Part 1 of the *Alberta Pest Control Act* (right)

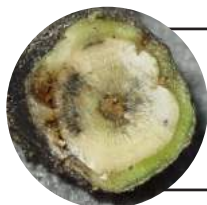
Schedule 1 / Part 1 Animals, birds, insects, plants & diseases declared to be pests throughout Alberta

- Africanized bee
- Blackleg of canola
- Clubroot
- Dutch elm disease
- European elm bark beetle
- Flag smut of cereals
- Grasshopper
- Head smut of corn
- Lesser grain borer
- Native elm bark beetle
- Potato wart
- Stem & bulb nematode
- White rot of onions
- Bacterial ring rot
- Chalkbrood
- Columbia River root knot nematode
- Dwarf bunt
- Fireblight and the causal bacterium
- Golden nematode
- Gypsy moth
- Karnal bunt
- Norway rat
- Rabies
- Warble fly



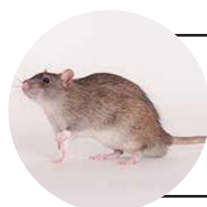
Clubroot of Canola

Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of canola, mustard, and other crops in the cabbage family. As the name of this disease suggests, the roots of infected plants may exhibit a club-like appearance.



Blackleg of Canola

Virulent blackleg of canola/rapeseed is a fungal canker or dry rot disease of the actively growing crop that causes stem girdling and lodging.



Norway Rat (or other species from the genus Rattus)

Through the rat control program, rats are not allowed to establish themselves in Alberta. Rats, especially Norway rats, are very destructive to crops. Occasionally small infestations are found in the province – but they are eradicated.

CROP DISEASE OF NOTE



Fusarium Head Blight

While no longer on the *Alberta Pest Control Act*, Fusarium head blight (FHB) is a fungal disease of cereal crops that affects kernel development. FHB is caused by the fungus *Fusarium graminearum*, which causes significant losses in grain yield and grain quality. It also results in the production of mycotoxins, which affects livestock feed, the baking and milling quality of wheat and the malting and brewing qualities of malt barley.

What is considered a nuisance?

A nuisance is an animal, bird, insect, or disease declared to be a nuisance under Section 1, Part 2 of the *Alberta Pest Control Act* (right).

Schedule 1 / Part 2 Animals, birds, insects, plants & diseases declared to be nuisances throughout Alberta

- Bushy-tailed wood rat
- Columbian ground squirrel
- Coyote
- Deer mouse
- English sparrow
- European starling
- Franklin's ground squirrel
- Wood rat
- House mouse
- Magpie
- Meadow vole
- Northern pocket gopher
- Richardson's ground squirrel
- Rock dove
- Skunk
- Thirteen-lined ground squirrel



Coyotes

Coyotes survive very well amongst people and will adapt to any situation that is advantageous to them. Do not make your property attractive to them by leaving out pet food or carrion (dead animals) as this will only serve to attract them.



Richardson Ground Squirrels

Ground squirrels play an important role in the ecology of Alberta's wildlife, and are a major source of food for many predators. Richardson's ground squirrels can be lawfully shot, trapped or otherwise removed where permitted when infestation levels are high.



Skunks

Skunks can be hunted or trapped by the owner or occupant. To prevent skunks from visiting your property, you must remove the food and shelter that skunks are seeking.



Magpie

Magpies play an important role as scavengers and consumers of insects. Unfortunately, the magpies' carnivorous habit can present issues to livestock or spreading livestock disease. Alberta Agriculture recommends trapping magpies.

Lacombe County: Gull Lake Area



Sea Buckthorn

In September 2019, Lacombe County Council passed Bylaw 1299/19, which elevated Sea Buckthorn to a local Noxious Weed within Lacombe County.

SEA BUCKTHORN MANAGEMENT PROJECT

History of the Gull Lake Watershed

Gull Lake was first settled by homesteaders in 1895. Located on the south shore of the lake, the Summer Village of Gull Lake is the oldest summer village in Alberta (being incorporated in 1913). In 1932, Aspen Beach Provincial Park was established and was one of the first parks in the Alberta park system.

Gull Lake offers many recreational opportunities, including sailing, power boating, swimming, fishing, windsurfing, and cross-country skiing.

Gull Lake is a confined watershed and is a large, shallow lake with several area streams, including Birch Bay Creek and Wilson Creek, which flow into Gull Lake.

About Sea Buckthorn

Originating from Eurasia, Sea Buckthorn is not a native species to North America. It is highly invasive (especially in riparian areas) and displaces naturally occurring vegetation and wildlife. Due to its thorny branches, Sea Buckthorn creates a barrier that divides and prevents access to Gull Lake through infested areas.

Sea Buckthorn berries are a high source of Vitamin C and produce a variety of consumable products after juice extraction.

Sea Buckthorn is often used as an orchard species. The berries can be harvested by hand but present a challenge due to the thorniness of the Sea Buckthorn branches. The fruit is strongly attached and is not easily stripped from the dense shrub.

As an allelopathic plant, Sea Buckthorn releases growth inhibitors into the soil preventing the establishment of native plant species.

Sea Buckthorn Identification

- Dense and stiff branches, that are very thorny
- Leaves are a distinct pale silvery-green, lanceolate, 3–8 cm long, and 7 mm broad
- Roots distribute rapidly, extensively through rhizomes and seed dispersal
- Berries are an attractive food source for wildlife
- Male plants produce brownish flowers which wind-distribute pollen
- Females produce fruit, seeds, and have flowers without petals

SEA BUCKTHORN MANAGEMENT PROJECT TIMELINE

2017

Key stakeholders met to discuss concerns regarding the increasing levels of Sea Buckthorn within the Gull Lake riparian areas.

2018

Lacombe County surveys and maps the infestation levels of Sea Buckthorn around Gull Lake.

2019

Key stakeholders join forces to create a Sea Buckthorn control plan. Lacombe County elevates Sea Buckthorn as a local Noxious Weed under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*. Lacombe County begins control operations on County-owned lands.

2020

Lacombe County begins control operations on Crown lands.

**FUTURE
ACTION**

The control and eradication of Sea Buckthorn is a long-term commitment. The goals of the project are to maintain recreational opportunities, protect wildlife habitat and preserve ecological diversity within the Gull Lake watershed.



PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Municipal Relations

GOAL:

Lacombe County's municipal neighbours have a greater awareness and understanding of the importance of agriculture to the County.



OBJECTIVES

- Strong and functional inter-municipal relationship with urban and rural municipal neighbours contribute to greater understanding of agriculture-related issues
- Ensure neighbouring municipalities are aware of and understand the nature of agricultural activities and related land uses that take place in Lacombe County

Municipal Departments Involved:

- Planning Services
- Corporate Services
- Community Services

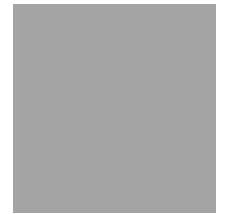
External Organizations Involved

- Neighbouring municipalities (urban and rural)
- [Lacombe County Mutual Aid Organization](#)
- [Alberta Farm Animal Care](#) (AFAC)
- [Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#) (RMA)
- [Alberta Municipalities](#)
- [Rural Crime Watch Groups](#)
- [Synergy Alberta](#)

Supporting Documents

- [EN\(10\) Rural Crime Watch](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness For Farm Animals](#)
- Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF)
- [Intermunicipal Development Plan](#) (IDP)
- [Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Plan](#)
- [Modernized Municipal Government Act](#)

Area 5



INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORKS (ICF)

Municipalities that share a common boundary must create an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF), a new legislated requirement introduced in the *Modernized Municipal Government Act* in 2016. Municipalities had until March 31, 2020, to finalize all required ICFs for their municipality.

Lacombe County signed ICFs with all the neighbouring counties (Red Deer County, Clearwater County, County of Stettler, Ponoka County and Camrose County), as well as the City of Lacombe, Town of Blackfalds, Town of Eckville, Town of Bentley, Village of Clive, Village of Alix, Summer Village of Gull Lake, and the Summer Villages of Half Moon Bay, Birchcliff and Sunbreaker Cover.

Frameworks are intended to:

- provide for integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of intermunicipal services
- allocate scarce resources efficiently in delivering local services
- ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents

Each framework must identify which service they provide, which service is shared between municipalities, and which are provided by third parties. The ICF also details how the services listed below are funded/delivered:

- transportation
- water and wastewater
- solid waste
- emergency services
- recreation, and
- any other services that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities that are parties to the framework

Municipal Programs & Activities

- **INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORKS (ICF)**
- **INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS (IDP)**
- **LACOMBE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- **LACOMBE COUNTY MUTUAL AID ORGANIZATION (LCMAO)**
- **RURAL CRIME WATCH**
- **SYNERGY GROUPS**

INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

The purpose of an IDP is to outline a cooperative framework for the resolution of planning, environmental matters, economic development, the coordination of intermunicipal programs, utility servicing, other infrastructure, and transportation issues that are of joint interest between Lacombe County and another municipal partner.

IDPs must also meet the Provincial Land Use Policies' requirements to encourage cooperative approaches to managing growth and development.

They ensure cooperative planning initiatives for land use decisions within the IDP plan area are thoughtfully considered and support both municipalities' long-term interests. IDPs also provide land use and development certainty for landowners within the Plan boundaries.



Planning Hierarchy

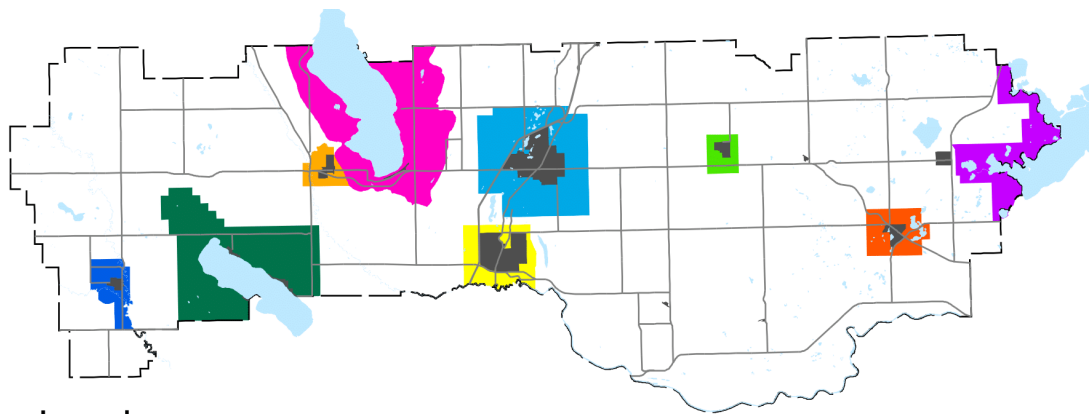
IDPs are prepared under the legislative authority prescribed in Section 631 of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*. The MGA states that two or more municipal councils may, by each passing a Bylaw, adopt an IDP to include those areas of land lying within the boundaries of the municipalities as they consider necessary.

The map to the right highlights the various IDPs in Lacombe County.

LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Plan recognizes “diseases that impact animals” and “animal or insect infestation or damage” as reasonably high risk for Lacombe County. While these events are low in frequency, they can have significant consequences, making them a noteworthy hazard.

The all-hazard approach to the plan limits specific preparation for these hazards but focuses on a strong management system used to guide the response to all types of hazards in the County. Preparedness for



Legend

- Alix/Lacombe County IDP
- Bentley/Lacombe County IDP
- Blackfalds/Lacombe County IDP
- Buffalo Lake IDP
- Clive/Lacombe County IDP
- Eckville/Lacombe County IDP
- Gull Lake IDP
- Lacombe/Lacombe County IDP
- Sylvan Lake IDP

livestock emergencies is also incorporated in mutual aid agreements with municipalities that have, and will deploy, livestock emergency response trailers such as Ponoka County and Red Deer County.

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Trailers

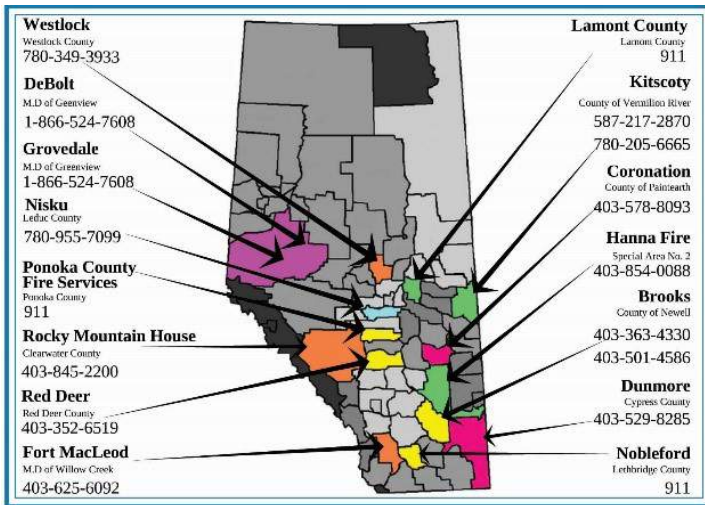
These trailers can be used in the event of a livestock truck rollover, a barn roof

collapse, flood, or barn fire. The trailers are designed to aid the situations where loose livestock need to be contained, and human and animals safety may be at risk.

Trailers are located in Ponoka County, Red Deer County and Clearwater County for people to use.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR FARM ANIMALS



From barn fires to natural disasters, emergency situations often call for special measures to shelter, care for and/or transport pets, livestock and poultry. Safeguard your animals, your property and your business by taking precautions now.

KNOW THE RISKS

Knowing the risks specific to your area, community and region can help you better prepare. Some of the more common risks to farm animals include:

- Overland flooding of creeks, rivers or canals
- Wildfire in forested areas or out of control grass fires in the prairies
- Spills or releases of dangerous goods, chemicals or hazardous materials

MAKE A PLAN

Your plan should help you respond to the risks that you feel are the most important and could cause damage to your property or injury to your animals.

When developing your plan, there are three main options to consider for how you can respond to emergency events: **shelter-in-place**, **evacuate family and animals**, and **evacuate family but not the animals**.

Learn more at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/emergency-preparedness-for-farm-animals-and-livestock>.



RURAL CRIME WATCH

The Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association (ARCWA) has its roots in rural Alberta, when concerned Albertans, operating locally, felt a need for a provincial organization to tie together the scattering of local rural crime groups and associations.

Want to report something suspicious and don't know the RCMP phone number? The Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association has an app to help locate the nearest RCMP detachment in Alberta to report a suspicious person or a person in distress.

More information can be found by visiting www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca.

Rural Crime Watch groups in Lacombe County

Lacombe County Community Peace Officers work closely with rural crime watch groups operating within County boundaries. To learn more about rural crime watch organizations and how to get involved, call 403-782-8959, or refer to the contact information (right).

Rural Crime Watch Associations & Contact

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association

<http://ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/>

Red Deer / Lacombe Rural Community Crime Watch

Ken Wigmore, President

Email: rdcrimewatch@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.rdruralcrimewatch.com>

Medicine River Rural Crime Watch Society

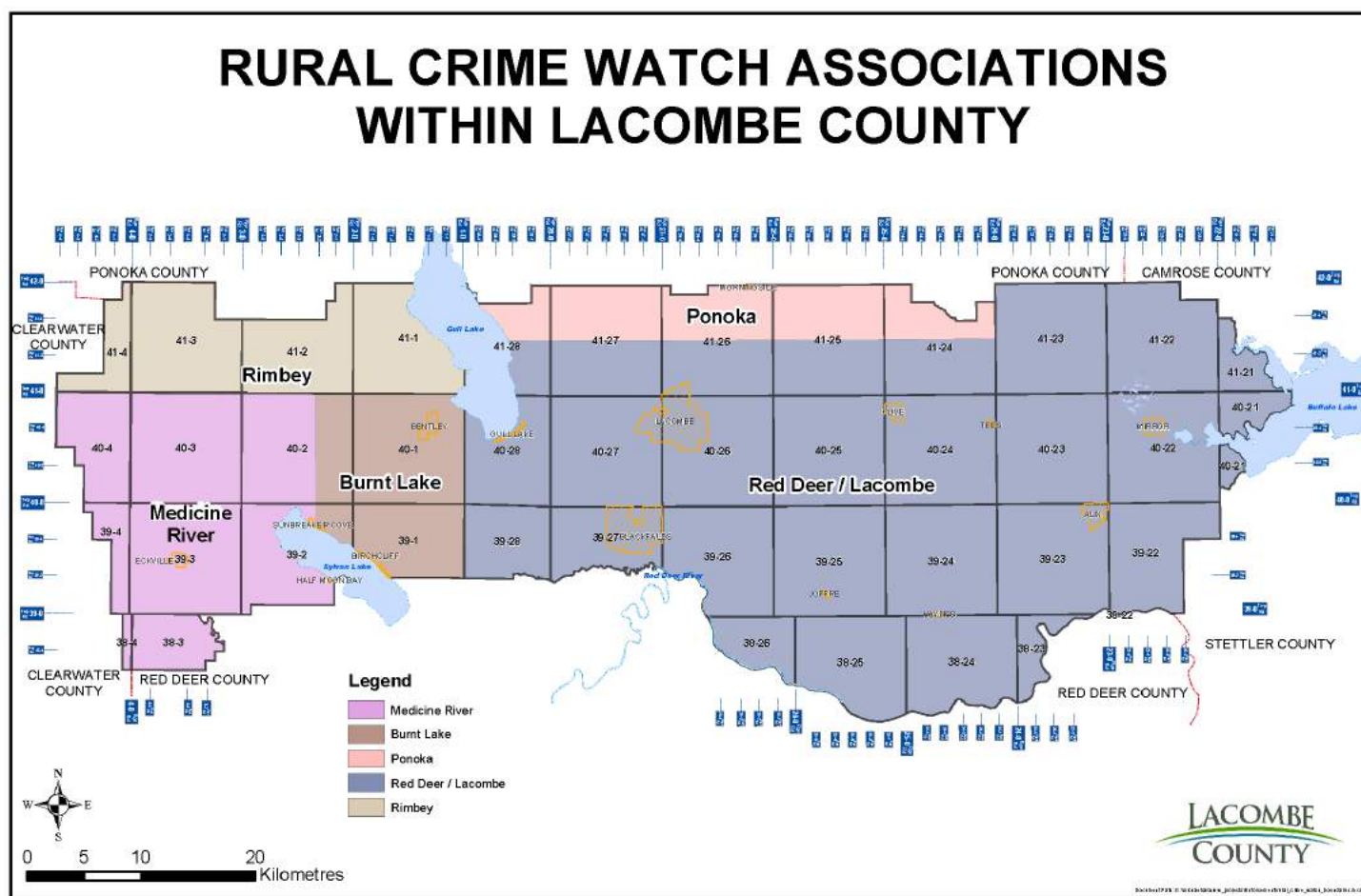
Jordan Staudinger, President

Email: medicinercws@gmail.com

Burnt Lake Rural Crime Watch

Melvin Johanson, President

Email: burntlakercw@gmail.com



Rural Crime Watch support in Lacombe County

Lacombe County recognizes that Rural Crime Watch Groups play an essential role in keeping our community safe and therefore supports local Rural Crime Watch Groups and their ongoing efforts to reduce crime incidents in rural areas.

To support Rural Crime Watch groups in Lacombe County, grants are provided to them for operating and/or capital projects.

Lacombe County will also consider Special Project Grants for initiatives that emphasize education and extension relative to rural crime watch and crime prevention.

Community Peace Officers act as liaisons between Rural Crime Watch groups and Lacombe County. The County also assists with the promotion and dissemination of information for its communication channels.

For more information, visit [Policy EN\(10\) - Rural Crime Watch](#) on the Lacombe County website.

LACOMBE COUNTY MUTUAL AID ORGANIZATION (LCMAO)

Lacombe County Mutual Aid Organization (LCMAO) is the mutual aid emergency response organization in the Lacombe County area. It was formed in 1998 to facilitate coordinated emergency response between municipal and industrial emergency response departments in the region. Together, they train, plan and share best practices for emergency response in the area.

Large scale emergencies require a large, organized response and don't always stop at industry fence lines or municipal boundaries. LCMAO members are emergency management and response professionals from local industries and municipalities.



Using combined experience, expertise and resources, LCMAO maximizes response and minimizes the impact of emergencies on the community.

SYNERGY GROUPS

Synergy groups are community-based, multi-stakeholder groups that work collaboratively in addressing the pressures of resource development in ways that support social, environmental and economic well-being for their communities and the province.

Synergy groups provide forums for people to come together to share information, discuss local issues, gain understanding, build relationships, and extend credible, relevant information into their broader communities. This creates the opportunity for communities to have more meaningful, ongoing participation in decisions that directly affect them and helps to support responsible and sustainable energy development and minimize conflicts.

Synergy groups operating within Lacombe County include:

- Central Alberta Synergy
- Calumet Synergy Association
- Rimbey Regional Synergy Group

For more information, visit <https://www.synergialberta.ca>.



Community Engagement

GOAL:

Lacombe County develops and delivers coordinated and relevant organized communications that engage and support the agriculture industry.



OBJECTIVES

- Meet regularly and build relationships with the agriculture community and other stakeholders
- Interact with Lacombe County's MLAs and MP at the preliminary stages of an issue
- Provide the agriculture community with opportunities to contribute its perspective on issues of importance
- Engage the agricultural community in a process that helps them better understand

what municipal programs and policies are in place, and why and how they benefit agriculture

- Ensure Lacombe County residents have a greater understanding and awareness of agricultural activities and land uses
- Celebrate the successes, milestones and achievements of agriculture in Lacombe County

Municipal Departments Involved:

- All Lacombe County departments

External Organizations Involved

- [AgSafe Alberta](#)
- [Agricultural Service Boards \(ASB\)](#)
- [Agriculture for Life](#)
- [Association of Agricultural Fieldman \(AAAF\)](#)
- [Canadian Agricultural Safety Association](#)
- [Central Alberta Crime Prevention Centre \(CACPC\)](#)

Supporting Documents

- [AD\(40\) Public Engagement Policy](#)
- [AD \(43\) Social Media Policy](#)
- [AG\(14\) Financial Support for Local 4-H Clubs](#)
- [F\(1\) Fire Protection and Emergency Response](#)
- [Forest and Prairie Protection Act](#)
- [Guide to Crime Prevention through Environmental Design](#)
- [Public Engagement & Communications Action Plan](#)

ment Area 6



COMMUNICATIONS IN LACOMBE COUNTY

Lacombe County manages a robust communications strategy designed to meet the needs of all its ratepayers. If you have any suggestions or questions, you can email communications@lacombecounty.com.

Here is a look at our main communication channels.

County News newspaper

- Monthly publication that is available to all Lacombe County ratepayers (in print or online).
- Includes features on Agriculture Families/ Business Highlights, business profiles and current events impacting ratepayers..
- In a communications survey conducted in 2019, almost 90% of respondents said they accessed Lacombe County information via the County News.

Social Media Accounts

- Lacombe County actively manages several social media accounts for:
 - **Facebook** (facebook.com/LacombeCounty)
 - **Twitter** (twitter.com/LacombeCounty)
 - **Instagram** (instagram.com/lacombecounty)
- Ratepayers are encouraged to follow these accounts, which will have up-to-date information as it becomes available.

County Website (www.lacombecounty.com)

- Continually updated with news, events and changes to Lacombe County activities.
- Best place to find details information for all Lacombe County activities, events, news, etc.

Municipal Programs & Activities

- **COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORMS**
 - COUNTY NEWS
 - SOCIAL MEDIA
 - WEBSITE
 - MYLACOMBECOUNTY APP
- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- **AGRICULTURAL SAFETY CAMPAIGNS**
- **4-H CLUBS FINANCIAL SUPPORT**
- **FIRE PERMIT SEASON**
- **FARM VEHICLE SAFETY CHECKS**
- **CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN EDUCATION (CPTED)**
- **100-YEAR FARM FAMILY RECOGNITION**
- **EXTENSION EVENTS**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - AD(40)

Lacombe County believes that its success lies with the people and businesses that it serves. We see the value in engaging the public through various mediums and are committed to open, accountable and responsive decision making, including different levels of engagement with the public.

Lacombe County believes that meaningful public participation on different levels is crucial to communications between the municipality and its stakeholders, and the success of the County as a whole.

The public and stakeholders of Lacombe County:

- Are encouraged to meaningfully engage so their voices strengthen decisions, and their involvement helps to build a strong community
- Have the right to be heard, but also to listen and be open to different ideas and opposing views.
- Are encouraged to increase their understanding and knowledge about local issues, as well as their role in Lacombe County's decision-making process so that they can participate in a meaningful way.

100-YEAR FARM FAMILY PROGRAM

Lacombe County is a proud agricultural community, and celebrates the contributions of local farm families who have worked in Lacombe County through generations with the 100-Year Farm Family program.

To get your sign, contact Lacombe County (403-782-6601). You will be asked to fill in a form and provide the history of your farm and have the option of sharing your story through the County's communications channels.

AGRICULTURE SAFETY CAMPAIGNS

Traffic Safety Campaigns

Road safety is a significant concern during the spring seeding season, but is even more critical during the fall harvest season. With the start of the school year, roads will be busy with harvest operations coinciding with increased numbers of buses and commuters returning to regular schedules as summer holidays end.

Lacombe County is an agricultural community, and producers have a short window to complete the annual harvest. Both traffic safety campaigns emphasize the importance of road courtesy. Since starting this campaign in 2014, we have heard stories from both producers and



drivers alike of unsafe driving during harvest season.

Large, slow-moving equipment utilize County roads when needed. Drivers need to plan ahead and add extra time into their schedules to compensate for delays that harvest operations may cause.

Fatigue Management

Lacombe County also highlights the importance of fatigue management for local producers. By building health, wellness and safety measures into a harvest plan, producers will go a long way in injury and accident prevention.

Fatigue is a very serious risk and is a form of impairment. We want everyone to get home safely – so take the time to make a

plan, check your equipment, and take care of yourself.

AgSafe & Mental Health Care

For several years, Lacombe County has held a “Spring Tune Up” health and safety fair, which brings together health and safety organizations in an easily accessible format for producers. This event provides mental health resources for producers, as well as physical health and safety resources.

Lacombe County recognizes the efforts of organizations such as AgSafe Alberta, Agriculture for Life, and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), as well as many other organizations that focus on safety and mental and physical health concerns in agriculture.

We often share information from these organizations and others through our social media pages.

FIRE PERMIT SEASON

Beginning on March 1, online fire permits can be submitted from the Lacombe County website homepage and through the “my Lacombe County” app (iPhone users). People are also able to request permits in person at the Lacombe County Office, or by calling 403-782-8959.

Any burning done without a fire permit – including brush piles and stubble fields/crop rows – can result in a hefty fine. Fire Permit season in Lacombe County runs annually from March 1 to October 31.

Under Lacombe County's *Fire Protection*



Policy, anyone found burning without a permit will be required to pay for the fire department response fees. A flat rate of \$300 will be charged for responses to a fire when a person is in contravention of the **Forest and Prairie Protection Act** for failure to have a fire permit or any other provision of the Act, and fire suppression is not required.

Fire permits are free of charge and easy to obtain and ensure the safety of all Lacombe County residents and their neighbours.

Fires that are started by rekindled brush piles are your responsibility and you can also be charged for the fire response. Should a Fire Department respond to a fire for which a permit has not been issued, or if a permit has been issued and the permit holder contravenes any of the conditions of the permit, the property owner will be assessed costs for fire engines and additional units.

Burning in the “Off Season”

Safe burning practices are always in season. The risk of wildfire doesn't end when wildfire season does – any time there is a fire on the land, there is a risk that it can spread.

Many producers brush lands and burn brush during the winter months. It is very important to remember to check these piles as they can smolder for many months, and can be rekindled by wind. Combine this with dry spring conditions and the resulting fires can be disastrous.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL 4-H CLUBS

In the Agricultural Guide survey that was completed in 2014, it was suggested from survey participants to give funding to local agriculture related groups/ persons within the municipality. One of the initiatives is to give funding to Ag 4-H groups within Lacombe County. In 2018, the *Financial Support for Local 4H clubs AG(14)* was established, to provide support for clubs who apply at the beginning of each year. In 2020, there were 13 4-H groups active in Lacombe County.

- Gilby 4-H Beef Club
- Central Lacombe 4-H Beef Club
- Tees 4-H Wranglers Light Horse & Rodeo Club
- Nebraska 4-H Multi-Club
- East Lacombe 4-H Club
- Paws R Us 4-H Canine Club
- Utterly Unique Dairy Club
- Benalto Show Riders Club
- Blindman Valley Multi-Club
- Bashaw Canine Club
- Bashaw 4-H Multi-Club
- Lacombe Outsiders Multi-Club
- Snowy River Riders 4-H Club

Lacombe County recognizes that the agriculture industry has a long history and is by far the most prominent land use within the municipality. Council is committed to ensuring the agricultural community continues to be an integral part of and contributor to the fabric of the County's economic, social and environmental existence.

If fires aren't properly extinguished, they can spread and burn underground all winter, beneath the snow and ice. Under the right conditions, these fires can re-emerge in the spring as wildfires. Take the time to prepare your burn site properly, know the requirements you need to be successful during your burn and know how to extinguish your burn effectively.

While burning:

- Have someone monitoring the burn the entire time - if it gets away, immediately call 911.
- Only burn what you can control with the equipment and people you have available and adjust your burning according to weather conditions.
- Build it right. Brush piles or windrows should be free of soil, built to a maximum height of 3 metres, with a fireguard or cleared land around it to stop the spread of fire.
- Ensure good snow cover in the burn area (more than 15 cm).

After burning:

- Spread remaining material within the pile and soak with water as required.
- Check the area and ensure that the pile is producing neither heat nor smoke - it should be cool to the touch.
- Check your burn site multiple times in the following weeks to ensure it has not reignited.

Safe burning practices are always in season - don't let your winter burn come back to life in the spring.

VOLUNTARY FARM VEHICLE SAFETY CHECKS

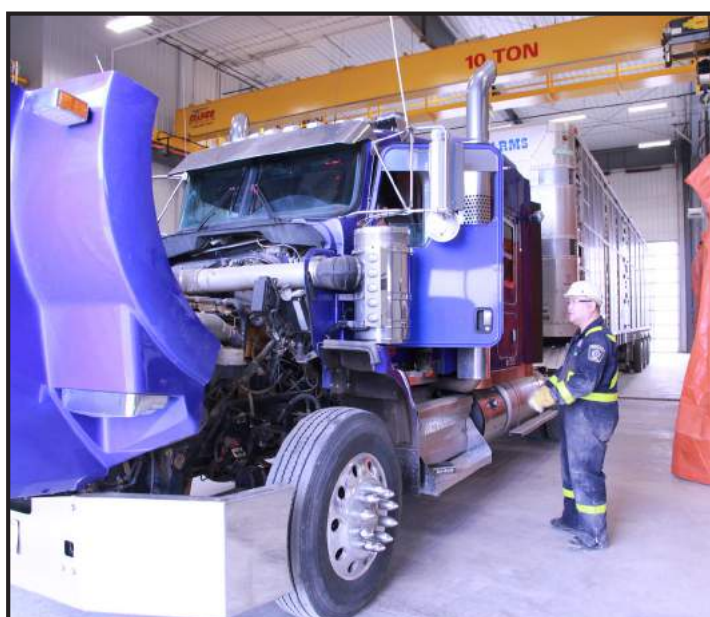
In 2016, Lacombe County began hosting a two-day voluntary farm vehicle safety check at its remote public works shops located in the County's east and west sides. The purpose of these checks is to increase awareness for our agricultural industry related to vehicle safety. This program aims to make sure farmers and ranchers are not going to breakdown on the side of the road - or worse yet, get involved in an accident because of equipment failure. It is all about education and working together to promote road safety for everyone.

Under Alberta law (Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation AR 121/2009), a farm vehicle is subject to the same vehicle equipment regulations as any other commercial vehicle. Lacombe County aims to work together with local producers to promote a positive image for our farming community.

Commercial Vehicle Inspectors will be on hand to conduct safety inspections under the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. If safety violations are found, they will be noted on a personalized vehicle inspection report and instructions given to the driver on how to proceed with repairs.

Lacombe County started its voluntary Farm Vehicle Safety Check program in 2016. This program is meant to be a safe, education-focused place where farmers can come and get their commercial farm equipment inspected, with no penalties. This program is usually offered in the spring (April - May), and is advertised through the County News, County website and through the County's social media channels.

Each year, between 11-31 vehicles are inspected through the Farm Vehicle Safety check program.



CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED) EDUCATION

Rural crime was one of the leading issues raised during the *Municipal Development Plan* and *Land Use Bylaw* review. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED, pronounced SEP-TED) sets out easy to incorporate design principles for your property which can greatly reduce the chance of a crime occurring. Lacombe County is dedicated to the safety of its residents and has therefore included policy to support and encourage developers to integrate CPTED principles into the design of their developments. The County has trained and certified CPTED practitioners who can assess and review design plans for future development and carry out site assessment for homes and businesses.

CPTED principles can be applied not only to industrial, commercial and residential multi-lot development, but also to individual developments like homes, garages and farms. Many of the principles are simple design changes such as landscaping, fencing or lighting. Homes, businesses and recreational areas should provide safe and secure environments. Applying CPTED principles to your development can make a tremendous difference and allow you to take a proactive approach to reduce crime.

What is CPTED

CPTED is based on the idea that simple and proven methods of design can be incorporated into the built environment to reduce crime. Everybody uses space in a rational way, including criminals. If a space is concealed, poorly maintained, and accessible, then it is more easily targeted as an area used for crime, loitering or other anti-social behaviour.

The CPTED principles allow anybody to easily assess their environment and apply simple and repeatable principles to their homes, neighbourhood and businesses. It enables property owners to move from



a reactive approach totally dependent on law enforcement services to a proactive approach by reducing the possibility of the crime happening in the first place.

Four CPTED Principles

1. Natural Surveillance

This is based on the premise that when a person feels like they are being watched or they can be seen then they are less likely to commit a crime because there is a much greater chance that it could be witnessed or reported. Examples of this include proper landscaping, windowed stairwells, visible parking lots and pathways that are effectively lit.

2. Access Control

The access to a property or area is something that can be controlled. People can be deterred or directed where to enter and exit buildings, areas that are not permissible. This also enables greater observation from others to possible crimes that are happening.

3. Territorial Reinforcement

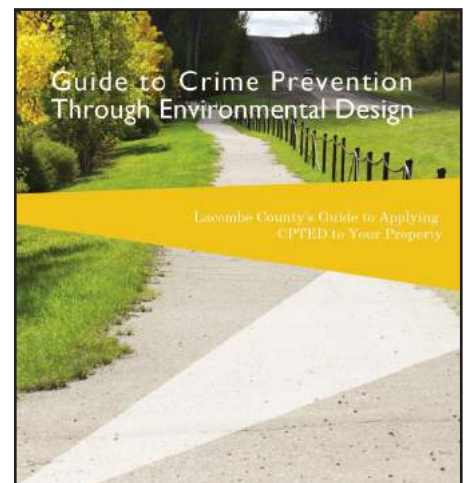
Property is a mix of public, private and semi-private spaces and by creating barrier between these spaces, it creates clearly defined property lines. This provides a cue to people on what spaces they can use and what spaces they can't.

4. Maintenance

It is natural human behaviour to treat a place as it has been treated. If a place is littered with garbage people are more likely not to use garbage receptacles. Similarly if an area is more dilapidated, it tends to illicit vandalism and criminal behaviours.

More information?

In 2018, Lacombe County authorized the [Guide to Crime Prevention through Environmental Design](#), to help residents and businesses incorporate CPTED principles around their properties.



Agricultural Extension Events

Throughout the year, Lacombe County hosts extension events to help the agriculture community stay up-to date on new programs and initiatives from non-for profit organizations or the provincial government. Lacombe County also hosts events of its own aimed to get the agricultural community together to learn about a topic or to help generate awareness beyond the ag community.

For many of these events, local Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and local government officials and senior administration are invited to attend. This gives them perspective of the agriculture industry in Lacombe County and Central Alberta.



AGRICULTURE TOUR
Semi-Annual

Lacombe County hosts an Agriculture Tour every few years. This tour is often held in conjunction with other County departments or programs that are related to agriculture. Tours are designed to showcase agriculture-related businesses and project sites to county residents, staff, and elected officials.



FARM SAFETY DAY
Annual Children's Event

Each year Lacombe County hosts approximately 250 Grade 5 students to learn about farm-related topics. Past topics have included Post Pounder Safety, Wildlife Awareness, Fire Safety, Equipment Blind Spots, Grain Safety, and Lawnmower Safety. Lacombe County values the importance of agriculture for future generations and keeping farm families safe.



SPRING TUNE-UP
Health & Safety Fair

Lacombe County recognizes that farming can be a busy and stressful business. The Spring Tune Up Health and Safety Day is an event where farmers and the public can come for health testing and/or insight on health-related topics. The purpose of this event is to assist farmers in keeping their personal and mental health at the forefront of their day to day business.



ADDITIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAMMING

Each year Lacombe County hosts events and workshops related to new up and coming agriculture and environmental topics.

Previous topics include: bees/pollinator habitats, bats (including a night walk), carbon sequestration, shelterbelts and ecobuffers, pasture principals, water well management, environmental farm plans, tree diseases, and farm succession planning.

Lacombe County is always looking for new ideas and topics for our extension program. If there is something out there that interests you, please call our office or contact us through our social media channels.

Wild About Bees Program

Over the past few years, Lacombe County has hosted extension events with native pollinators being the focal topic. Interest has been expressed by landowners within the County to create more pollinator habitat and start prioritizing the protection of native pollinators. In 2021, Lacombe County is distributing a pollinator mix to interested residents, along with a handbook detailing pollinator gardens, pollinators and more. The goal of this program is to expand knowledge and pollinator habitats throughout Lacombe County.



Agricultural Funding Workshop for Producers

Considering an improvement on your operation?
Learn about provincial funding programs and receive application assistance for Canadian Agricultural Partnership applications and Environmental Farm Plans.

February 26, 2020
Lacombe County Office
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
• Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Funding
• Environmental Farm Plan
• ALUS Program
(Alternative Land Use Services)

12 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
On-site assistance with Environmental Farm Plans and CAP Funding applications

Laptops will be available. Lunch is included. **RSVP to 403.782.8959**



LACOMBE COUNTY | CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP | Alberta | Environmental Farm Plan

LAND RENTAL RATES & AGREEMENTS

JOIN US | Ted Nibourg (former Business Management Specialist with Alberta Agriculture & Forestry)

Land value trends | Cash rent | Production & commodity prices | Calculating & negotiating fair prices (for both renters and landowners)

DATE FEB 23, 2023
TIME 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
LOCATION BLACKBELT COMMUNITY CENTRE (4810 WENLOCK RD NW)

LACOMBE COUNTY | Red Deer County

TO REGISTER:
403-782-6001 | 520+GST
<https://LandRental.eventbrite.ca>



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN WORKSHOP

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program helps you identify and address environmental risks to your operation. It will also increase your understanding of resource management practices related to environmental issues, improve your profitability and qualify for grant funding through EFP certification.

Thursday
March 23, 2023
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Blackfalds Community Centre
4810 Wenlock Road, Blackfalds

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Lunch included | 403-782-8959
<https://EnvironmentalFarmPlanning.eventbrite.ca>
(or scan the QR code on the left)



WATER WELL MANAGEMENT FOR WELL OWNERS

JOIN US AT A WORKING WELL WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP Lacombe County - Agriculture
DATE November 21, 2023
LOCATION Lacombe County Admin Building
WORK TIME 8:30 Doors Open and Workshop 9am - 3pm
PLEASE BRING 100 ml water samples
RSVP Call or 403-782-8959

WORKING WELL
Clean water. Well protected.



Appendix 1: Lacombe County Agricultural Trends

INFORMATION FOR APPENDIX 1:

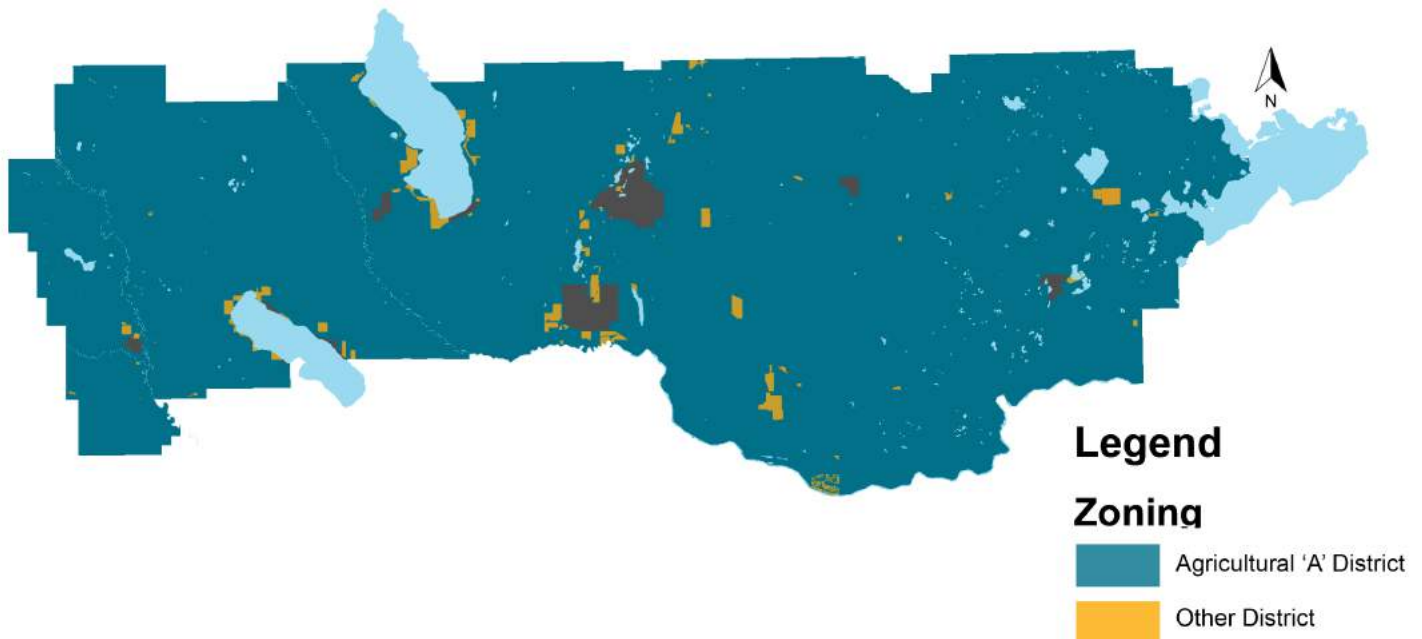
- 2001 Census of Agriculture Data
- 2006 Census of Agriculture Data
- 2011 Census of Agriculture Data
- 2016 Census of Agriculture Data
- 2021 Census of Agriculture Data

Total Land Area: 2,964 square kilometers (1,144 square miles)

Total Population⁸: 10,312

Total Number of Farms⁹: 1,034

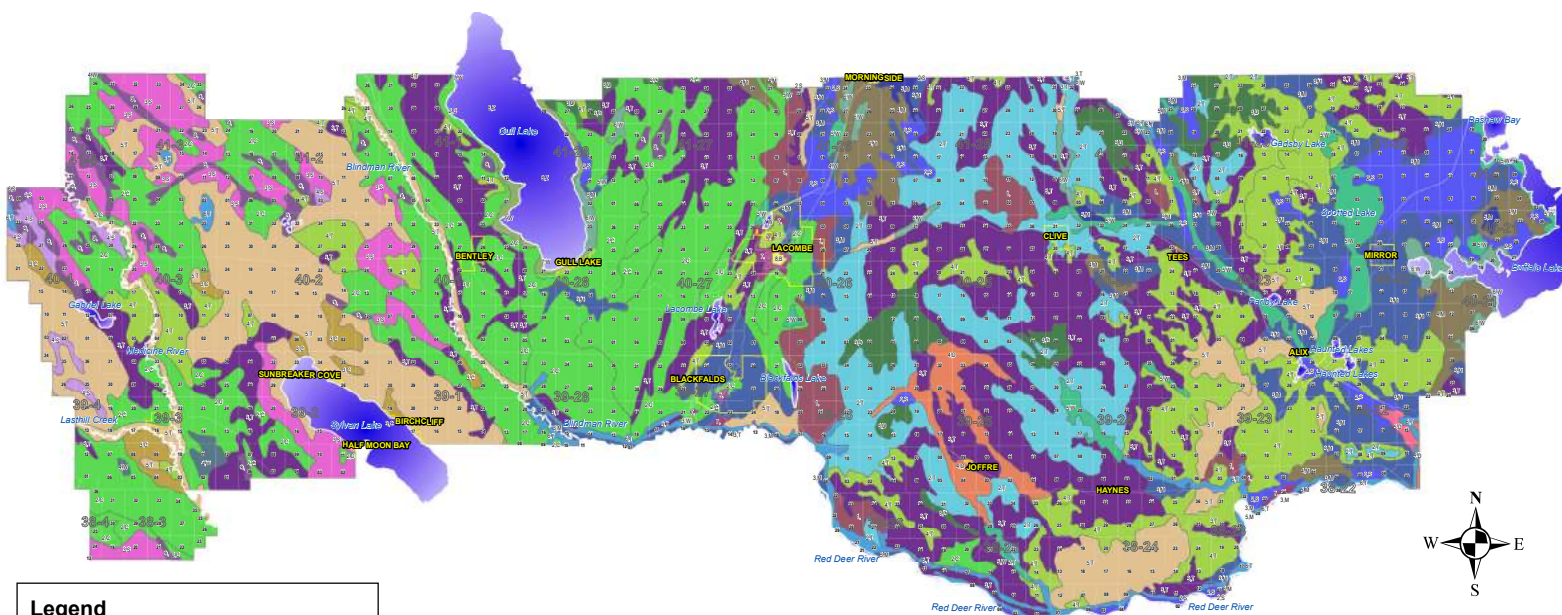
98.6%
zoned Agricultural 'A' District



Majority of Soils Capable of Agriculture Classes 1-5 of the Canadian Land Inventory

Average Agricultural Land Values by CLI:¹⁰

Canada Land Inventory Class	\$/acre Lacombe County	\$/acre Alberta Average
CLI 1	8,846.10	4,529.36
CLI 2	6,010.83	3,429.90
CLI 3	4,883.64	3,096.25
CLI 4	4,429.73	2,681.10
CLI 5	5,234.82	2,849.44
Other ¹¹	3,696.67	2,596.32



Legend

Class, Subclass	3, W	6, M
1,	4, D	6, S
2, C	4, M	6, T
2, S	4, S	6, W
2, T	4, T	7,
3, C	4, W	7, W
3, D	5, D	8, B
3, M	5, M	8, Z
3, S	5, T	O,
3, T	5, W	

Class

Description

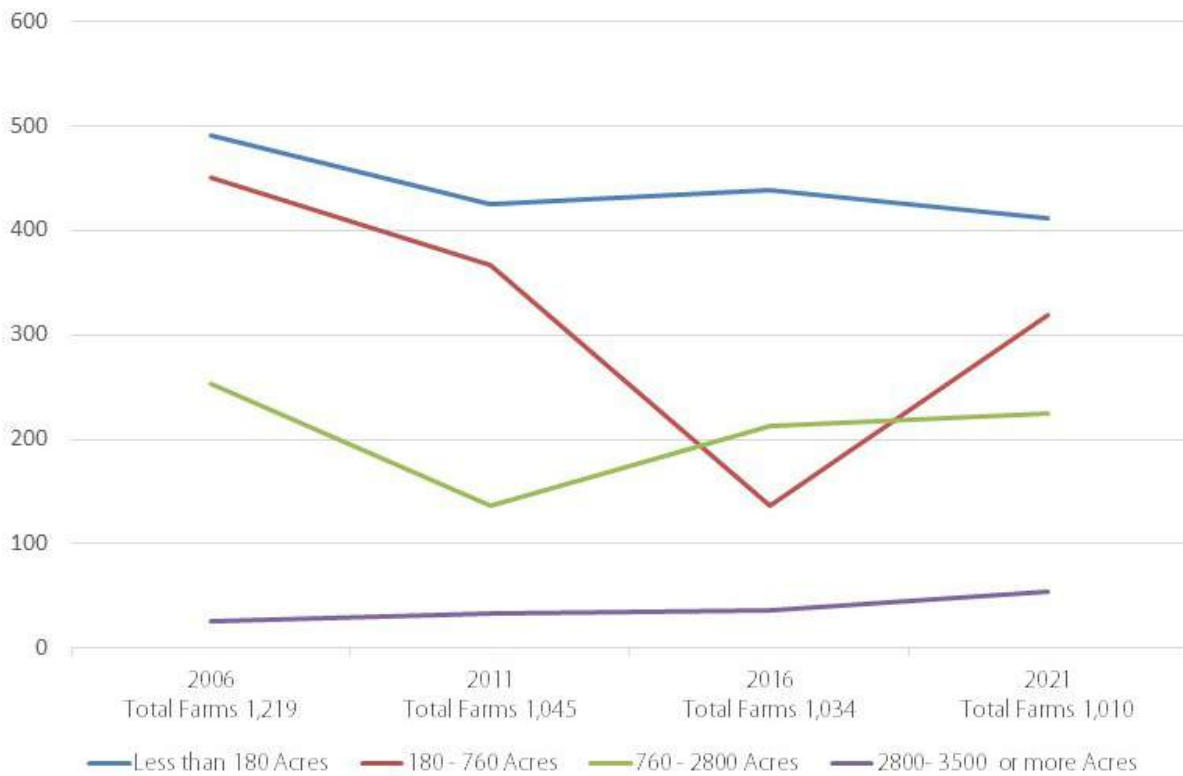
1	Soils in this class have no significant limitations in use for crops.
2	Soils in this class have moderate limitations that restrict the range of crops or require moderate conservation practices.
3	Soils in this class have moderately severe limitations that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices.
4	Soils in this class have severe limitations that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices.
5	Soils in this class gave very severe limitations that restrict their capability in producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are feasible.
6	Soils in this class are capable only of producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are not feasible.
7	Soils in this class have no capacity for arable culture or permanent pasture.
0	Organic Soils (not placed in capability classes).

Subclass

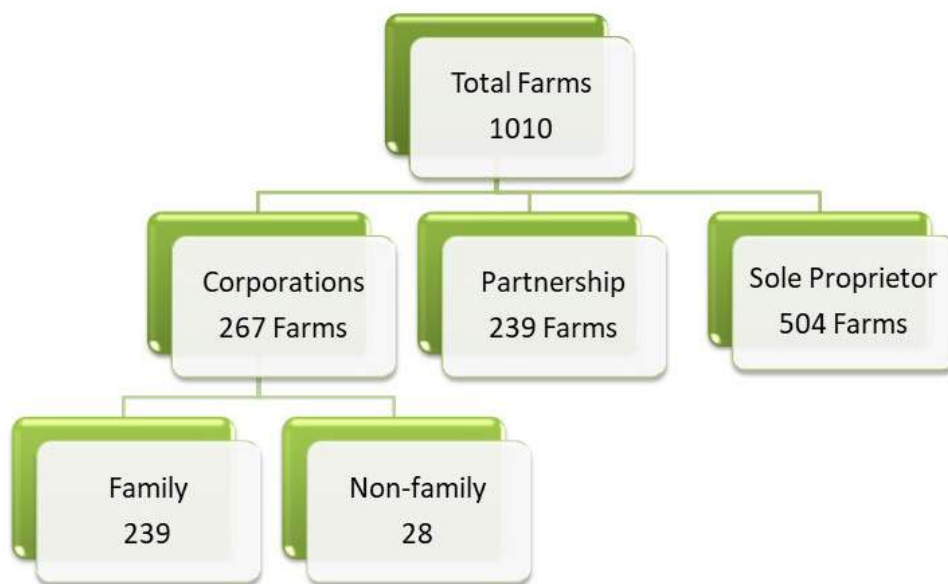
Description

C	Adverse climate
D	Undesirable soils structure and/or low permeability
E	Erosion
F	Low fertility
I	Inundation by streams or lakes
M	Moisture limitations
N	Salinity
P	Stoniness
R	Consolidated bedrock
S	Combination of subclasses
T	Topography
W	Excess water
X	This Subclass is comprised of soils having a limitation resulting from the cumulative effect of two or more adverse characteristics.

Size of Farm per Acre

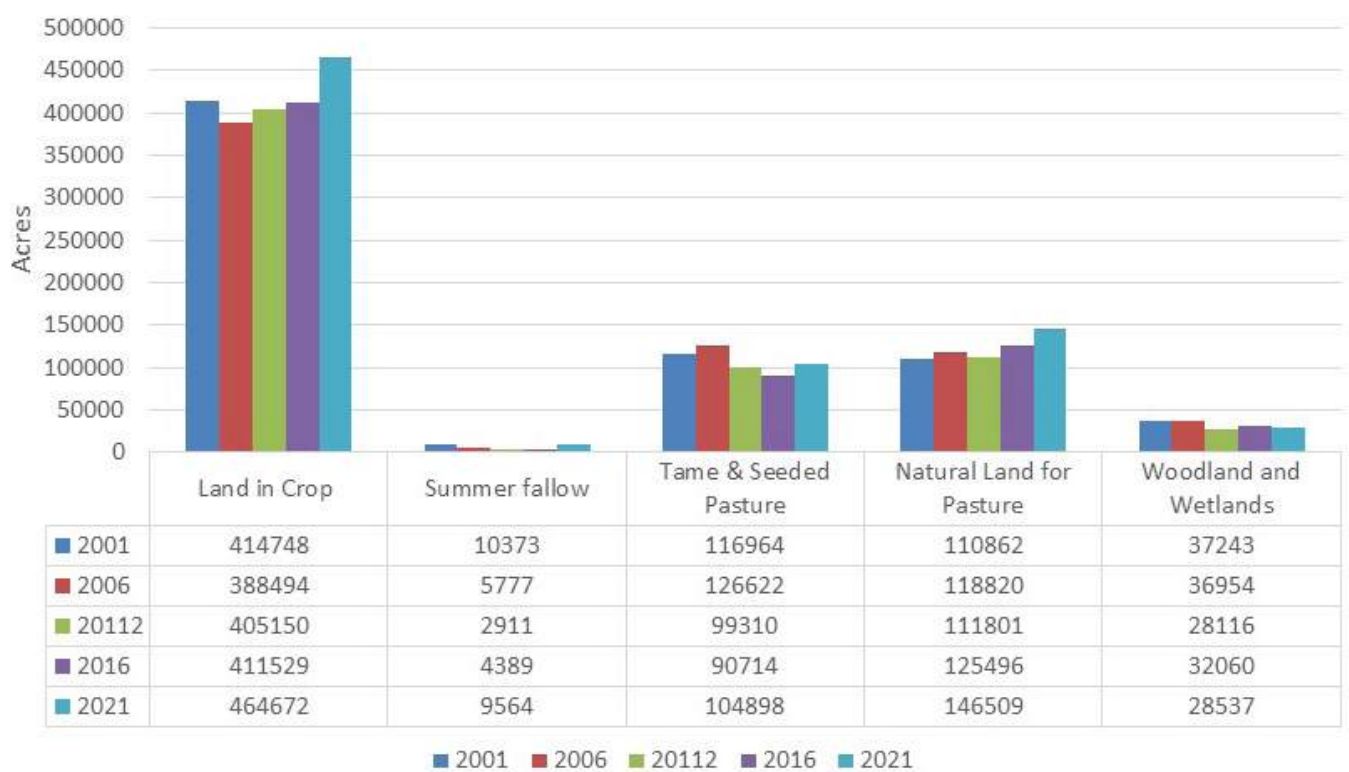


Farm Classification by Operating Arrangement (2021 Census)

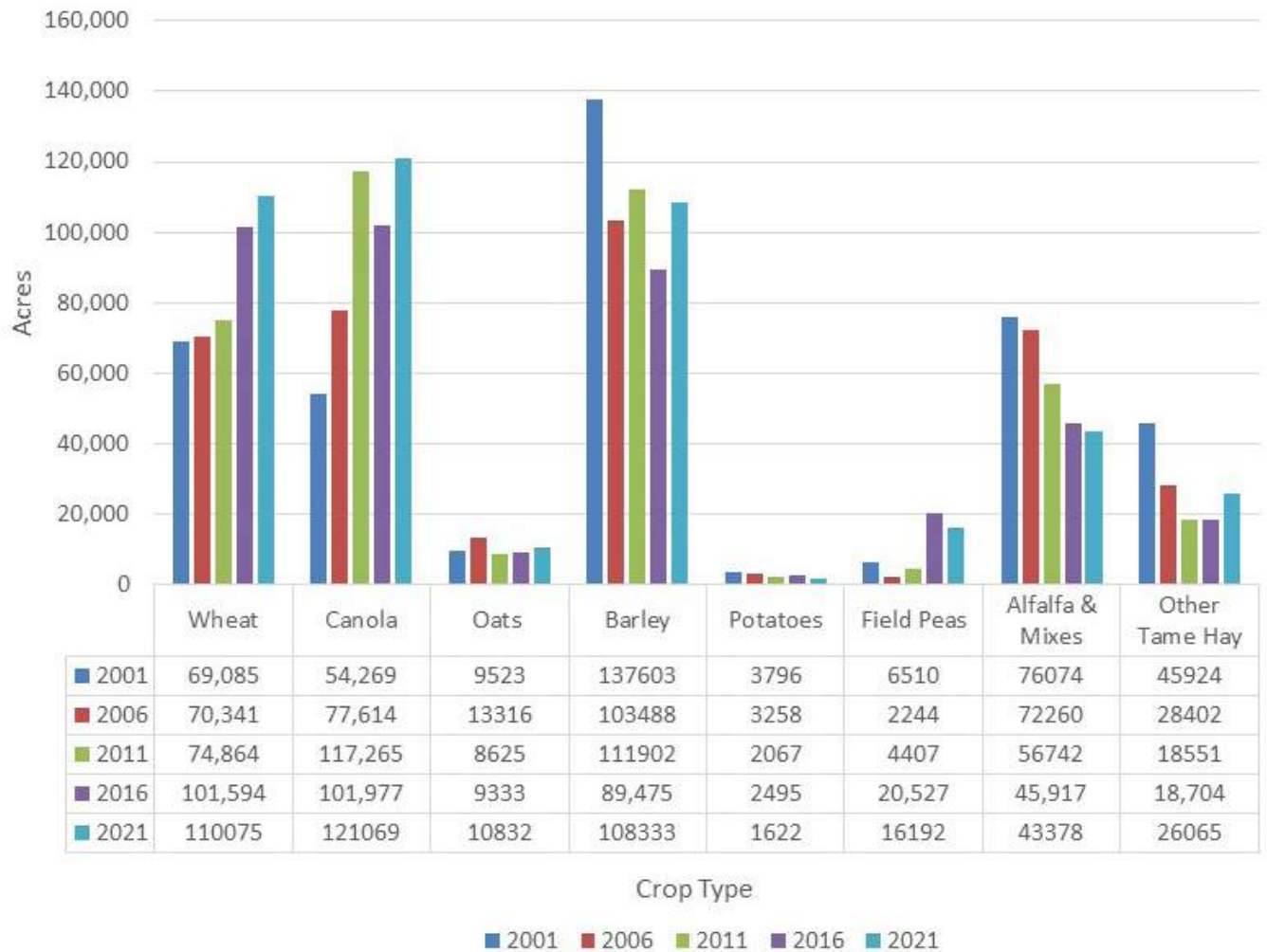




Farm Acres Organized by Use of Land

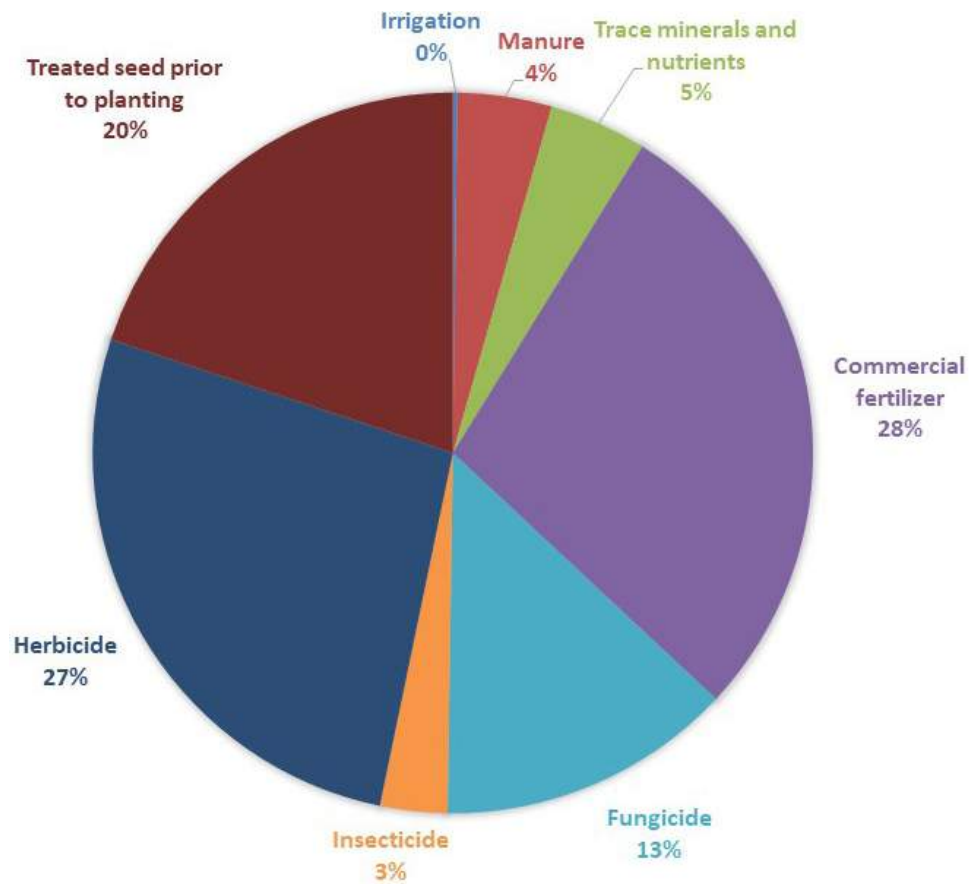


Acres of Crop Types Grown in Lacombe County





Percentage of Lacombe County Farms Using Land Inputs



Livestock Trends

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2021	
	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head
Beef Cattle	701	55,502	686	54,922	440	31,602	387	30,933	469	45,049
Pigs	103	164,821	71	203,665	27	93,684	38	83,494	29	122,294
Sheep and Lamb	104	8600	67	6621	57	5929	295	2411	44	12,530
Bison	26	3135	26	5398	17	3112	10	2330	14	3,266
Elk	21	2459	18	1460	14	678	7	644	8	793

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2021	
	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head	# of Farms	# of Head
Chicken & Hens	132	398,938	92	655,388	90	752,156	113	517,091	88	950,497
Dairy	79	7,506	75	7,871	65	9,720	55	10,459	51	11,708
Goats	61	948	33	643	28	844	34	2,104	27	3,232
Bee Colonies	5	x	6	x	8	x	17	x	12	5,856



Farms Reporting Renewable Energy Uses	
Solar Panels	72 Farms
Wind Turbines	8 Farms
Bioenergy	15 Farms

Farms Reporting Technology Use	
Automated guidance steering system	346 Farms
Geographic Information System	124 Farms
Variable-rate input application	158 Farms
Drones	36 Farms
Soil sample test	352 Farms
Slow-release fertilizer	241 Farms
Fully-robotic milkers	10 Farms
Robotic greenhouse equipment	2 Farms

Farms Reporting Succession Planning		
Written succession Plan	Verbal succession plan only	No succession plan
149 Farms	255 Farms	606 Farms

Appendix 2: Lacombe County Policies

AGRICULTURE-RELATED MUNICIPAL POLICIES

[AG\(2\) WEED AND BRUSH CONTROL - POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(3\) SPRAYER RENTAL PROGRAM - POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(4\) COYOTE CONTROL DEVICES AND CHEMICALS - POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(5\) BEAVER FLOOD CONTROL - POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(6\) VIRULENT BLACKLEG OF CANOLA – POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(7\) “NO SPRAY” REQUESTS – POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(8\) WEED NOTICE WORK – POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(9\) SKUNK TRAPS – POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(10\) MAINTENANCE OF LAND RECLAMATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS – POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#) (FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(11\) CLUBROOT OF CANOLA – POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(DECEMBER 10, 2020)

[AG\(12\) WEED SPRAYING SERVICES – POLICY AND GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(14\) FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL 4-H CLUBS](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)

[AG\(15\) TEMPORARY GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK ALONG ROADSIDE](#)
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)



ADMINISTRATION-RELATED MUNICIPAL POLICIES

[AD\(32\) ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY \(AUGUST 22, 2013\)](#)

[AD\(33\) ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT \(JULY 9, 2020\)](#)

[AD\(40\) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY \(APRIL 6, 2018\)](#)

[AD\(42\) SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - COUNCIL \(MARCH 28, 2019\)](#)

[AD\(43\) SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - STAFF \(MARCH 28, 2019\)](#)

OPERATIONS-RELATED MUNICIPAL POLICIES

[OP\(1\) ROAD DESIGNATIONS AND STANDARDS \(MARCH 12, 2020\)](#)

[OP\(2\) ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS \(MARCH 12, 2020\)](#)

[OP\(4\) GRAVEL PROGRAM \(MARCH 12, 2020\)](#)

[OP\(6\) DUST CONTROL \(FEBRUARY 28, 2019\)](#)

[OP\(16\) ROAD MAINTENANCE \(FEBRUARY 28, 2019\)](#)

[OP\(29\) APPROACHES \(MARCH 12, 2020\)](#)

[OP\(31\) FENCING UNDEVELOPED ROAD ALLOWANCES \(FEBRUARY 28, 2019\)](#)

[OP\(40\) BRUSHING PROGRAM \(MARCH 12, 2020\)](#)

[OP\(41\) CULVERTS MANURE MANAGEMENT \(MARCH 12, 2020\)](#)

RECREATION-RELATED MUNICIPAL POLICIES

[RC\(8\) USE AND MANAGEMENT OF COUNTY RESERVE LANDS \(FEBRUARY 28, 2019\)](#)

Appendix 3: Lacombe County Documents & Guides

LACOMBE COUNTY PLANS, BYLAWS AND GUIDES

[MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN \(MDP\)](#) - (APRIL 20, 2022, WITH ANNUAL REVIEWS)

OUR AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Guiding Objective
- 3.3 Supporting Agriculture
- 3.4 Subdivision
- 3.5 First Parcel Out Subdivision
- 3.6 Fragmented Parcel Subdivision
- 3.7 Agricultural Parcel Subdivision
- 3.8 Boundary Adjustments
- 3.9 Confined Feeding Operations

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Guiding Objective
- 4.3 Water
- 4.4 Rural Landscape and Natural Environment
- 4.5 Culturally Sensitive Lands
- 4.6 Reserves
- 4.7 Amenities
- 4.8 Education

[LAND USE BYLAW \(LUB\)](#) - (OCTOBER 28, 2022, WITH ANNUAL REVIEWS)

- 6.9 CORNER LOT RESTRICTIONS & SIGHT LINES
- 6.18 SETBACKS FROM COUNTY MAIN ROADS AND ROADS
- 6.32 CANNABIS PRODUCTION FACILITIES
- 6.33 CANNABIS RETAIL
- 7.1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (A)

[PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTION PLAN](#) (2020)

[COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW](#)

[LACOMBE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

[GUIDE TO CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN](#)

Appendix 4: Acts & Regulations

ACTS & REGULATIONS FOLLOWED BY LACOMBE COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL OPERATION PRACTICES ACT

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a07>

AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT & REGULATIONS

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a08>

https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2001_184.pdf

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD ACT

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/da39f74b-840f-409d-9de8-11896f9dc40f>

ALBERTA LAND STEWARDSHIP ACT

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a26p8>

ALBERTA WATER ACT

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/w03>

ALBERTA WETLAND POLICY

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460112878>

ANIMAL HEALTH ACT & REGULATIONS

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a40p2>

PUBLIC LANDS ACT

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/p40>

SOIL CONSERVATION ACT & REGULATIONS

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/s15>

WEED CONTROL ACT AND REGULATIONS

<https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/W05P1.pdf>

https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2010_019.pdf

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR FARM ANIMALS

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/emergency-preparedness-for-farm-animals-and-livestock>

FARMERS' ADVOCATE OFFICE

<https://www.alberta.ca/farmers-advocate-office.aspx>

CENSUS DATA - ALBERTA AGRICULTURE

<https://www.alberta.ca/census-of-agriculture.aspx>

