

# **BRAZEAU COUNTY**

## **AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING**

**March 28, 2018**



**BRAZEAU COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
AGENDA**

---

**DATE: 2018 03 28**  
**TIME: 2:00 p.m.**  
**PLACE: COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC ROOM**

---

Call to Order

Present

1. Addition to and Adoption of the Agenda **(Page 1)**
2. Adoption of the minutes of the ASB Meeting of February 21, 2018 **(Pages 2 – 6)**
3. Business Arising
4. **3:00 p.m.** Public Input Session
5. Agriculture Reports for March 2018
  - a) Agricultural Fieldman's Report **(Page 7)**
  - b) Members Report
  - c) Alberta Key Contact Report – Toso Bozic
6. Old Business
  - a) Greenhouses **(Pages 8 – 10)**
  - b) Agricultural Rental Equipment **(Pages 11 – 14)**
7. New Business
  - a) ASB 2018 Summer Tour
8. Correspondence/Items for Information
  - a) 2018 Meeting Schedule **(Page 15)**
  - b) Smart Cities Questionnaire – Survey to be filled out **(Pages 16 – 18)**

Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD  
MEETING DATED WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018, HELD AT  
BRAZEAU COUNTY EOC ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER** M. Schwab, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**PRESENT** M. Schwab, Chairperson  
S. Wheale, Vice-Chairperson  
W. Compton, Acting Community Services Director  
C. Rochon, Acting Agricultural Fieldman  
W. Noga, Acting Assistant Agricultural Fieldman  
T. London, Recording Secretary  
B. Guyon, Reeve  
A. Heinrich, Councillor  
B. Gabrielson, Member at Large  
L. Wentland, Member at Large  
T. Bozic, Key Contact, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

**ABSENT** D. Movald, Member at Large

**ADDITIONS TO  
AND ADOPTION  
OF AGENDA**

**Additions and Adoption of Agenda**

**New Business**

- f) Noise Bylaw
- g) Fragmentation

**08/18** Moved by B. Gabrielson to adopt the agenda with the additions.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADOPTION OF  
MINUTES**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**09/18** Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of December 20, 2017 as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10/18** Moved by S. Wheale to adopt the minutes of the Special meeting of January 10, 2018 as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11/18** Moved by S. Wheale to ratify the Special meeting of January 10, 2018.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**Public Input Session – 11:00 a.m.**

None

**AGRICULTURE  
REPORTS**

**Agriculture Reports January and February 2018**

**Agricultural Fieldman's and Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report**

C. Rochon and W. Noga reviewed their submitted reports verbally to the committee.

**12/18** Moved by L. Wentland to accept the Acting Agricultural Fieldman's report for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13/18** Moved by A. Heinrich to accept the Acting Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's report for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MEMBERS' REPORT**

**Members' Reports**

Member at Large B. Gabrielson reported on:

- 2018 ASB Provincial Conference

Councillor S. Wheale reported on:

- 2018 ASB Provincial Conference
- Farming

Member at Large L. Wentland reported on:

- 2018 ASB Provincial Conference
- Calving

Reeve B. Guyon reported on:

- 2018 ASB Provincial Conference
- Greenhouses and Shelterbelts
- Bovine Tuberculosis Policy

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Interim Chief Administrative Officer hired
- Selling cattle

Chairperson M. Schwab reported on:

- 2018 ASB Provincial Conference
- Reviewed submitted report verbally

**14/18** Moved by A. Heinrich to accept members' reports for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Toso Bozic, Alberta Government – Key Contact**

T. Bozic verbally reviewed his submitted report.

**15/18** Moved by B. Guyon to accept T. Bozic's report for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Old Business**

**Proposed Agriculture Budget**

**16/18** Moved by B. Gabrielson to receive Agriculture budget for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Rental Equipment Pricing**

**17/18** Moved by B. Guyon to direct Administration to provide prices for a land roller, fertilizer spreader and aerator to the board at the next meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

M. Schwab, Chairperson, called for a short break at 10:58 a.m., meeting resumed at 11:04 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**New Business**

J. Whaley, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, joined the meeting at 11:05 a.m. and the board members introduced themselves.

**Agricultural Fieldman Job Description**

W. Compton reviewed the submitted update regarding the Agricultural Fieldman's job description and role. The board had a roundtable discussion and gave their input regarding the job description.

**18/18** Moved by B. Guyon to submit criteria suggestions for the Agricultural Fieldman job description to Council for their next meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

J. Whaley, Interim Chief Administrative Officer left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

**AG-30 Policy Review**

The board reviewed Administrations' recommendation and discussed the best way to recognize acts of goodwill by residents such as mowing.

**19/18** Moved by S. Wheale to recommend to Council that AG-30 has no changes and that Council utilizes Council-10 to recognize ditch mowing and other goodwill initiatives i.e. "picking up trash".

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Greenhouses – Food Forests – Shelterbelts**

The board discussed greenhouses, food forests and shelterbelts and their potential within the county.

**20/18** Moved by S. Wheale to table this topic to the next meeting and have C. Rochon collaborate with T. Bozic to gather information about energy efficient Greenhouses for use in a workshop.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Accommodation Arrangements for Board Members**

T. London gave a verbal report regarding the booking process for board members to conferences and events.

**Protocol for Entering Private Property**

Board had a discussion about the best way to inform landowners about Weed Inspectors.

S. Wheale left the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

**Noise Bylaw**

**21/18** Moved by B. Gabrielson to recommend to Council that all Agricultural references be removed from Noise Bylaw and follow applicable provincial and federal legislation.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Fragmentation**

**22/18** Moved by L. Wentland to recommend to Council that there be consistency across the County regarding placement of subdivisions and that every effort be made to preserve agricultural parcels.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**CORRESPONDENCE/ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**2018 Meeting Schedule and Letter to Farm Safety Centre regarding funding request**

**23/18** Moved by A. Heinrich to receive 2018 meeting schedule and letter to Farm Safety Centre regarding 2018 funding for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular ASB Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**, in the EOC Room, Brazeau County Building, 7401 – TWP Road 494.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**24/18** Moved by B. Gabrielson to adjourn the regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting of Wednesday, February 21, 2017, at 12:54 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

**A.S.B. CHAIRPERSON**

---

**A.S.B. FIELDMAN**

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT  
FEBRUARY – MARCH 2018  
BRAZEAU COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

---

Administration

- Day to day operations (planning, calls, staff meeting);
- Interviewing/hiring summer staff;
- Update herbicide program forms;
- Responding to resident requests;
- Rental equipment;
- Creating/Approving POs;
- The Seed distribution;
- Organizing Workshops;
- Contact local vendors regarding purchasing agricultural equipment;
- Speak with Provincial Government regarding greenhouse information.

Pest Management

- Emerald Ash Borer workshop – Red Deer;
- MuniSight training – Sherwood Park.

Soil Conservation

- N/A

Roadside Vegetation

- Mulching & mowing tenders;
- Research application equipment.

Weed Management

- Reviewing spray data;
- Spray calculations.

Rural and Community Services

- Spoke with P&D regarding fragmentation, P&D will address this as part of their update regarding the MDP.

Crop and Forage

- Submit cereal samples for Fusarium testing;
- Submit forage samples for testing.

Parks and Recreation

- Assist with site and facility inspections.





## BRAZEAU COUNTY UPDATE REPORT TO ASB

---

**SUBJECT:** Alberta Greenhouse Industry Update

**DATE TO ASB:** March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**PREPARED BY:** Warren Noga

**UPDATE** The following motion was made at the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 ASB meeting:

**INFORMATION:** **19/18** Moved by S. Wheale to table this topic to the next meeting and have C. Rochon collaborate with T. Bozic to gather information about energy efficient Greenhouses for use in a workshop.

### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Attached is an update from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry on the greenhouse industry in Alberta. Administration has also received information on Best Management Practices and self-assessment tools for greenhouse operators.

While many people know Alberta as a province of beef and canola, fewer are aware of the province's history in greenhouse production. Alberta's ample sunshine, history of natural gas production and abundant energy resources have attracted greenhouse development and production in the province for well over 50 years.

As of 2016, Alberta's greenhouse industry was tagged as the fourth largest in the country at approximately 373 acres. This is made up of approximately 171 acres of vegetable production (cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, lettuce, etc.), 48 acres of tree seedlings, and 154 acres of floriculture production (bedding plants, cut flowers, and foliage plants). In the same time period, Statistics Canada's 2016 Census of Agriculture estimated farm cash receipts (FCR) for the industry at \$293,158,000. To put this in context, this is equivalent to only 74% of the FCR of the hog industry (\$395,833,000) but over 11.5x more than that of lamb (\$25,047,000) and more than 3x that of eggs (\$91,784,000)

Greenhouse structures in the province are primarily comprised of solid acrylic, polyethylene (poly) or glass sidewalls and typically a double poly roof. Glass is used as a roof glazing material on occasion but can be expensive and difficult to replace in a province that is often hit with hail. Vegetable greenhouses in the province are typically 1 acre or more while floriculture greenhouses in the province are most often under an acre in size with a couple of large exceptions. Production area of the greenhouse is largely related to the market channels used by the operation; most vegetable growers focus on wholesale markets such as food service, grocery stores, or supplying a producer cooperative. On the other hand, floriculture growers typically market their product directly to the consumer or sell through some small wholesale accounts.

Vegetable production in Alberta is typically done on rockwool or coconut coir blocks in a hydroponic matter where all nutrients and water the plants need to survive are dripped to them at the appropriate time and rate. This results in a very efficient use of water and nutrients and can optimize crop production. Most floriculture in the province however is done using peat-based soilless medium and while still technically hydroponic, has substantially more room for error than those operating in a more porous medium (rockwool or coir).

Alberta continues to see growth in the greenhouse industry as low energy costs and comparatively cheap land make it an excellent place to set up a satellite or subsidiary operation. 2016 saw unprecedented growth in the industry with nearly 70 acres being erected in that year alone with substantial investment from companies outside of Alberta. Potential growth areas in the industry include season extension for floriculture producers (producing crops other than bedding plants through the other 8-9 months of the year that the operation is not being used for spring crops) to ethnic vegetables (eggplant, bittermelon, string beans, etc.) in vegetable production for an increasingly diverse population.

When considering an opportunity to invest in or develop a greenhouse business, there are some critical questions that should be answered prior to proceeding:

- 1) Where will the operations labour come from? Labour is the single biggest cost in greenhouse production so how far is the potential operation away from a labour pool? How skilled is that labour pool and what level of compensation will be needed in order to attract and retain good employees?

- 2) Greenhouse crops require significant resources in terms of water, natural gas, and electricity. Does the potential site have sufficient capacity to use and expand these resources?
- 3) What crops will be produced and how will they be marketed? Regardless of the crop, if producers are interested in selling into a wholesale market, investors/business owners must be aware these crops are treated as commodities in much the same way as wheat, canola and beef. Wholesalers compete in a global marketplace alongside areas like Mexico, California, Almeria (Spain) and the Netherlands. Producers selling into wholesale markets need to be able to produce for lower and lower prices while maintaining consistency, quality, and safety throughout. On the opposite end of the spectrum, farm direct or direct to consumer market channels often command a higher price but have a commensurately higher cost in marketing, staging of product, and labour in order to sell product.
- 4) Do you have access to sufficient capital and cash flow to build and operate? Greenhouses are notoriously capital intensive operations and historically financial institutions have not been supportive of starts up, primarily because of the lack of value in the capital assets. Currently, the first acre of greenhouse built will cost approximately \$1-1.5 million, depending on the level of technology incorporated, and decrease slightly for every acre after that to the point where new infrastructure is needed to service the additional size. Contrast that to the value of a second hand greenhouse, which may cost 10-40% of new construction and the numbers can be difficult to make work.
- 5) Do you have both the business and technical knowledge to operate? Greenhouses are often thought of as an “easier” place to produce as you are able to control all aspects of crop production. The fact that you must control all aspects of crop production including disease and pest management means growing in a greenhouse is notoriously difficult as the crop is completely dependent on the grower for all aspects of its survival. The slightest delay in watering, fertilizer or pest control can cripple the yield of a crop or damage it irrevocably for the remainder of the crop cycle. It’s critical that a grower with an appropriate level of experience is employed or a credible consultant retained in order to be successful.

Success is achievable in the Alberta greenhouse industry if potential producers employ due diligence to understand their chosen market requirements and put in place all of the resources needed to properly manage the operation. Information is available from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry through resources on the website ([http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop14946](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop14946)) which includes newsletters, webinars, reports etc, and services such as 310-FARM, the Brooks Greenhouse Research Branch, and Growing Forward 2/ Canadian Agriculture Partnership program.

For further information:

Dustin Morton

Commercial Horticulture Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

[dustin.morton@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dustin.morton@gov.ab.ca)



## BRAZEAU COUNTY UPDATE REPORT TO ASB

---

**SUBJECT:** Agricultural Rental Equipment  
**DATE TO ASB:** March 28, 2018  
**PREPARED BY:** Warren Noga, Community Services Lead Hand

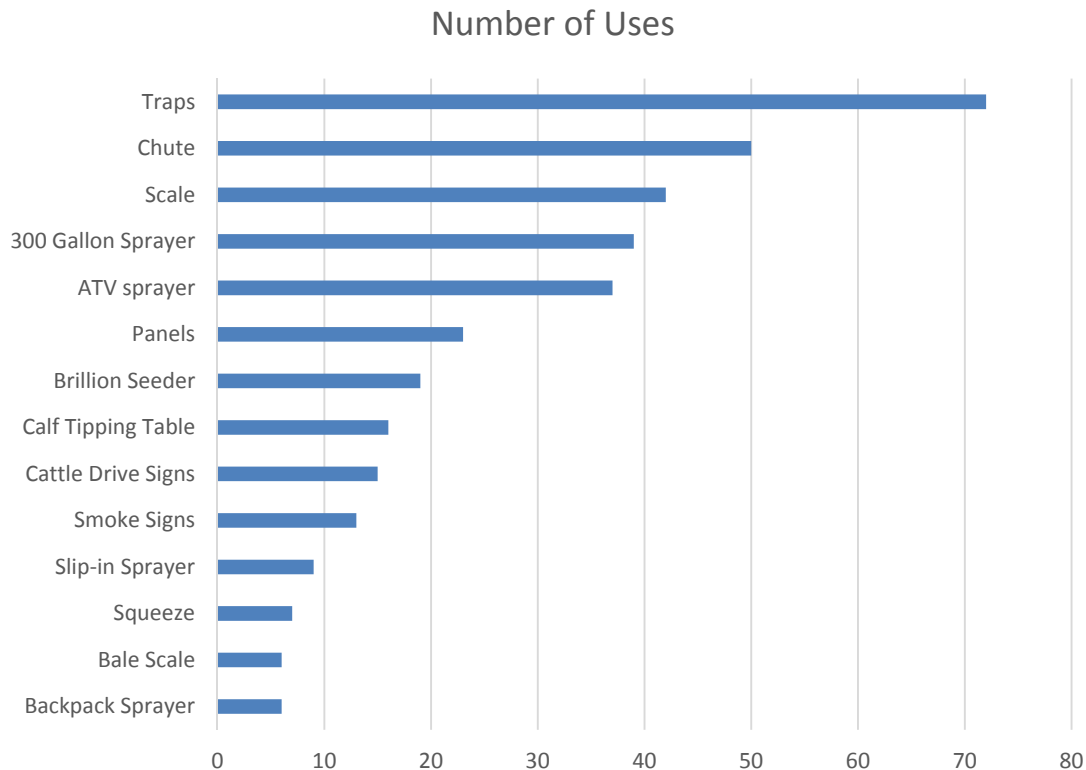
**UPDATE INFORMATION:**

At the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 ASB meeting the following motion was made:

**17/18** Moved by B. Guyon to direct Administration to provide prices for a land roller, fertilizer spreader and aerator to the board at the next meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

In order to provide ASB members with information on Agricultural Services' current rental equipment usage, the following graph was created:



The numbers in the above graph are rentals since 2014, or the year the equipment was acquired if it was purchased after 2014. Rental equipment that has been used two or fewer times is not included. Items in this category are: brain bait applicator, agricultural haul route signs, tag reader, feed probe, soil probe, and hand seeder.

The following information was received from Flaman to purchase the requested equipment:

- 16' Roller with swing hitch and second aerator drum (see Image 1) (interchangeable) FOB Nisku \$32 500 - Manufactured ETA as of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April
- 16' Roller with swing hitch (standalone) FOB Nisku \$17 300 Manufactured ETA as of March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April
- 16' Aerator with swing hitch (standalone) FOB Nisku \$19 300 Manufactured ETA as of March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 2<sup>rd</sup> week of May (extra time to fabricate the second frame)

As for the spreaders they are as follows:

- Agra Maxx 6000 (see Image 2) - \$36 720

Optional equipment:

Tarp Cover - \$1585

Hydraulic Disc control - \$2530

Hydraulic Deflector - \$1565

- Agra Maxx 10000 (see image 3) - \$56 925

Optional equipment:

Tarp Cover - \$2195

Hydraulic Disc control - \$2690

Hydraulic Deflector - \$1675

Image 1 – 16' Aerator



Image 2 – Agra Maxx 6000



Image 3 – Agra Maxx 10000



## BRAZEAU COUNTY

### 2018 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Schedule

(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

Location: County Administration Building | 7401 – TWP Road 494 | EOC Room

Meeting time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Ratepayer Concerns heard at 11:00 a.m.

<del>January 17, 2018</del>	cancelled	July 18, 2018
February 21, 2018		August 15, 2018
March 28, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.		September 19, 2018
April 18, 2018		October 17, 2018
May 16, 2018		November 21, 2018
June 20, 2018		December 19, 2018

#### Per Diem Rates:

Up to 4 Hours = \$170.00

From 4 - 8 Hours = \$271.00

Conference Rates = \$349.00 per day

Mileage Rate = \$0.54



---

## BUILDING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING

---

### PARKLAND COUNTY & PARTNERS - SMART CITIES CHALLENGE QUESTIONNAIRE

---

Parkland County, Lac St Anne County, Yellowhead County and Brazeau County are partnering to submit an application to the Smart Cities Challenge. We expect our proposal to be unique. Our rural focus, the link to issues that affect our communities, and the application of technology to provide solutions may position our application as very distinct. Over the next several weeks a “Design Team” will collect data, consult with community leaders on the challenge, and draft a submission.

*The Smart Cities Challenge is a pan-Canadian competition open to communities of all sizes, including municipalities, regional governments and Indigenous communities (First Nations, Métis and Inuit). The Challenge encourages communities to adopt a smart cities approach to improve the lives of their residents through innovation, data and connected technology.*

- One prize of up to \$50M open to all communities, regardless of population;
- Two prizes of up to \$10M open to all communities with populations under 500,000 people; and
- One prize of up to \$5M open to all communities with populations under 30,000 people.

One of the goals is to create a “Challenge Statement” for our communities. Some examples of Challenge statements from other communities are:

**Example 1: “Feel safe and secure”**

Challenge Statement: The neighbourhood in our community with the highest crime rate will become safer than the national average.

**Example 2: “Earn a good living”**

Challenge Statement: After years of decline, our community will transform a former industrial neighborhood into one of the top locations in Canada for Economic growth.

We feel that being agricultural communities we could form our “Challenge Statement” around the answers you provide in the survey.

The answers you provide will also help us come up with a list of potential projects and activities that use technology and innovation to advance agriculture in our communities.

We have engaged Integral Strategy Network (ISN) to help develop the proposal. They will collect the information, lead community discussion, and compile results. Their recent work helped the City of Lethbridge build a strategy to become an “Intelligent Community”.

**Thank you for participating!**

---

## Canada's Smart Cities Challenge

---

### Minister's Message

---

It is with great excitement that we have kicked off the Smart Cities Challenge.

Across the country, communities large and small are bursting with new ideas. As Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, I have been privileged to meet with leaders from coast-to-coast-to-coast and hear their bold and innovative plans to improve the quality of life for their residents. Through the Smart Cities Challenge, we will help bring these ideas and plans to life, and find solutions that achieve real and positive outcomes.

As a former city councillor, I know first-hand that local leadership understands best what their communities need. They are the first to hear about traffic congestion, trouble accessing services, or challenges with public transit. The Smart Cities Challenge will ask those leaders to team up with pioneering businesses, academia, and civic organizations to **design innovative solutions to their most pressing challenges using data and connected technologies.**

Canada's diverse and inclusive communities are the ideal place for new ideas to flourish. By bringing together different perspectives and diverse backgrounds it becomes easy to look at problems from a different angle. And when those talented people come together in pursuit of a common goal, they can come up with inspired solutions that will have a real and tangible impact.

I am challenging leaders to be bold and think outside-the-box. I want you to approach the challenge through a lens of transparency, experimentation, inclusiveness, empowerment, and knowledge-sharing. And above all, I want you to think about what will have the biggest impact on the people who call your communities home.

I cannot wait to see what you come up with.

Amarjeet Sohi

Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.



**SMART CITIES – DESIGN QUESTIONNAIRE**

	<b>POOR</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>(NA)</b>
<b>Rate the cellular service coverage across your community / municipality:</b>	1	2	3	4	
<b>Rate your internet service:</b>	1	2	3	4	X
	<b>Computer</b>	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>Tablet</b>	<b>Other:</b> _____	
<b>How do you connect to the internet?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>The Smart Cities Challenge will improve the lives of residents through innovation, data and technology. Below is a list of potential areas that could be incorporated into our Smart Cities Application.</b>					
<b>Please rate each one by importance. AND check 2 that are the most important</b>	<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>			<b>HIGHLY IMPORTANT</b>	<b>CHECK THE TOP 2</b>
<b>Improve community food security</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Create more effective farm succession planning</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Attract more youth to agriculture</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Capitalize on precision agriculture</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Improve AG marketing to the world</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Expand local employment</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Improve soil resilience &amp; management</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Improve animal health</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Understand market trends in real time</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Receive more reliable weather forecasting</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Understand changing consumer demand for product (ag, manufacturing, etc.) sooner</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Deliver improved Ag education &amp; extension</b>	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other – please describe</b>					<input type="checkbox"/>

**If you could describe the single overriding challenge for your community and region for Agriculture, what would it be?**

<b>Community:</b>	
<b>Name / email / phone (optional)</b>	