

BRAZEAU COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

November 1, 2017



**BRAZEAU COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
AGENDA**

DATE: 2017 11 01
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC ROOM

Call to Order

Present

1. Nominations and Voting for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
2. Addition to and Adoption of the Agenda **(Page 1)**
3. Adoption of the minutes of the ASB Meeting of September 20, 2017 **(Pages 2 – 9)**
4. **11:00 a.m.** Public Input Session
5. Old Business
 - a) Letter to Town regarding burdock infestations and follow-up information **(Pages 10 – 13)**
6. Agriculture Reports for October and November 2017
 - a) Agricultural Fieldman's Report **(Page 14)**
 - b) Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report **(Page 15)**
 - c) Members Report
7. New Business
 - a) ASB Bursaries (separate handout)
 - b) 2017 NW Regional ASB Conference **(Page 16)**
 - c) Farm and Ranch Consultations – OHS recommendations **(Pages 17 – 20)**
Reply due January 15, 2017
8. Correspondence/Items for Information
 - a) 2017 Meeting Schedule **(Page 21)**
9. Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING DATED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017, HELD AT
BRAZEAU COUNTY EOC ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER R. Ennis, Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT R. Ennis, Chairman
M. Thompson, Vice-Chairperson
D. Movald, Member at Large
B. Guyon, Reeve
A. Heinrich, Councillor
A. Goddard, Member at Large
S. Wheale, Member at Large
L. Chambers, Director of Community Services
C. Rochon, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
S. Allen, Agricultural Fieldman
T. London, Recording Secretary

OTHERS L. Williamson, Agriculture for Life, Delegation
C. Anderson, Resident, Public Input

**ADDITIONS TO
AND ADOPTION
OF AGENDA**

Additions and Adoption of Agenda

- 6. d) Toso Bozic's Activity Report – Alberta Government Key Contact
- 7. b) Update Report submitted – 2018 Agriculture Planning
- 6. b) Map submitted – Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report
- 8. e) Wheatland County – Draft 2017 ASB Resolution Report Card

115/17 Moved by D. Movald to adopt the agenda as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

Adoption of Minutes

116/17 Moved by B. Guyon to adopt the minutes of the
Agriculture Service Board Meeting of August 16, 2017 as
amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING Roundtable Introductions

DELEGATION Luree Williamson – Agriculture for Life

PRESENTATION

Alberta based charity, operating for 7 years. 95% of Albertans live in urban centers. Agriculture for Life works to connect Albertans to where their food comes from. This fall they are having the first teacher conference to help teachers deliver accurate agriculture education to students. Working with Alberta Transportation and municipalities to erect signage to educate people on where their food comes from. The signs provided are 8ft x 4ft and the farmer erects them in the field so people can visually connect with what is in the field. They run a green certificate program, working with junior and senior students (young farm workers), earning credits for bringing their safety program to middle and high schools. This fall, Ag for Life is launching a mobile safety trailer dedicated to farm safety. This trailer is configured to provide a mobile classroom with eight stations. The mobile trailer is a travelling billboard for rural and farm safety and is a proactive approach to engage people. Ag for Life has \$1.1 million dollar budget with 95% of funding coming from private donors and corporate sponsorship. They are looking for funding, speakers, farms to participate, and other connections to help develop agriculture knowledge and safety. Future projects include a video series and podcasts since this is the way people are consuming information.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Are you trying to incorporate Agriculture opportunities when delivering farm safety and education programs?

We deliver a Think Agriculture Careers program. Currently working with schools to talk to kids about careers in Agriculture. We have partnered with Ad Farm – Agriculture dedicated ad agency – working to develop a provincial strategy around agriculture careers. Part of the project will include working with groups promoting Agriculture.

What is your annual budget?

About \$1.1 million per year. Most donations are private or from corporations. We have a Harvest magazine, it's a report to the community, on the back it shows current funding partners.

Do you have a mailing list?

We do, we are currently building a better database.

How many municipalities are currently providing funding to Ag for Life?

About 10 municipalities are currently funding Ag for Life.

What is your relationship or how do you work with Agriculture Forestry?

We are open and collaborative about what we are doing, looking for opportunities. We have received funding from them in the past. Their funding priorities have changed. Since we have good communication we can ensure there is not duplication of programs or services.

Are you a not for profit or charity?

Ag for Life is a registered charity.

Will the mobile safety trailer be able to adapt to the rollout of Bill 6?

Since the components of the trailer are digital, the stations can be adapted.

What is Ag for Life's role in classroom education?

They are a coordinating body for classroom Agriculture programs. Ag for Life is the Board Chair for the Agriculture Classroom Program, we provide \$100,000 to the program so they don't have to worry about funding, and put the focus on the delivery of Agriculture education.

What is the cost of having Ag for Life to come to an event?

It depends on the event, the type and role Ag for Life plays. Ag for Life's participation are gifts-in-kind, however, a recommended donation amount is given once we know the scope of the event.

Where are your Offices?

We are based out of Calgary, however, we have staff all over the Province.

Do you wait for invites or do you seek opportunities?

We go out there and seek opportunities.

L. Williamson left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

117/17 Moved by B. Guyon to accept L. Williamson's presentation for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OLD BUSINESS

Aerator Equipment

S. Allen informed the board that he was unable to coordinate an Aerator demonstration this year. In talking with the equipment dealer and WCFA they are recommending spring time would be a better time for a demonstration.

118/17 Moved by B. Guyon to direct Administration to pursue an opportunity to demonstrate an Aerator in Brazeau County this season.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC)

S. Allen contacted AISC and a representative was to unable schedule a date for a presentation. They will be coordinating a date in the near future.

119/17 Moved by A. Heinrich to accept S. Allen’s verbal report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**AGRICULTURE
REPORTS**

Agriculture Reports September 2017

Agricultural Fieldman’s Report

S. Allen reviewed his submitted report verbally to the committee.

120/17 Moved by M. Thompson to table to Ag Fieldman’s report until the close of public input.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC INPUT

Public Input Session – 11:00 a.m.

C. Anderson presented a burdock noxious weed. Reported there are two infestations on the south side of Drayton Valley. C. Anderson is concerned about burdock spreading onto their land and into the County.

C. Anderson asked, “Since the County is appointed as Weed Inspectors for the Town of Drayton Valley, can the County do something about it?”

Brazeau County does not have power to enforce the Weed Act with the agreements with Town of Drayton Valley and Breton. Brazeau County’s role is to inspect, identify weeds and notify the Town of problems. It’s within the Town’s jurisdiction to issue and enforce weed notices. The County Weed Inspectors provide weed reports to the Town for information. Brazeau County has notified the Town of Drayton Valley about the burdock infestations. The County Weed Inspector did try to coordinate with the Town Bylaw to meet at the properties where the infestations are located, however, the Town was unable to meet. The County Weed Inspector hand delivered weed

notices to land owners and educated them on how to eradicate it from their property.

C. Anderson left the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

121/17 Moved by M. Thompson to direct Administration to write a letter to the Town of Drayton Valley from the Agricultural Service Board to action the burdock weed infestations in the Town, and to follow-up with Nicole Kimmel, Provincial Weed Specialist about the issue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

122/17 Moved by B. Guyon to direct Administration to include burdock weed information on Brazeau's website.

D. Movald offered a friendly amendment "to also include information in the next issue of 'The Seed' on burdock."

B. Guyon accepted the amendment

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

123/17 Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report

C. Rochon reviewed his submitted report verbally to the committee, including the map which indicates the properties that were inspected for weeds.

124/17 Moved by D. Movald to receive the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MEMBERS' REPORT Members' Reports

Vice-Chairperson/Councillor M. Thompson reported that:

- The pests on her wild willows is a willow leaf minor.

Member at Large S. Wheale reported on:

- In Newfoundland recently, talked to the Agriculture Minister about Hemp.

Member at Large D. Movald reported on:

- Extreme moisture conditions caused late planting, and now the moisture and frost is making harvest problematic.

Councillor A. Heinrich attended:

- Hemp Tour

Reeve B. Guyon reported on:

- Shortage of hemp fibre
- Agriculture Recycling – will send S. Allen some pictures and a contact from a tour B. Guyon attended a few years ago.

Chairman R. Ennis reported on:

- Using abandoned wells to generate electricity – through geo-thermal technology.

B. Guyon added that well sites are optimal locations to re-configure to generate geo-thermal electricity, plus the added benefits to landowners.

125/17 Moved by A. Goddard to accept members' reports as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Toso Bozic Report – Alberta Government Key Contact

T. Bozic reviewed his submitted activity report verbally to the board.

126/17 Moved by M. Thompson to accept T. Bozic's report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

New Business

Citizen Appointment Application

127/17 Moved by A. Heinrich to accept the Citizen Appointment Application for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2018 Agriculture Planning

S. Allen reviewed his submitted update report on Agricultural Division Planning – some of the discussed changes for 2018 included:

- Memory Card
- Farmers Pesticide Training Certificate
- Contractor Education

- Re-vamping the Weed Report
- Reports for Weed Complaints
- Hawkweed Program

128/17 Moved by D. Movald to accept S. Allen’s Agricultural Division Planning update report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NW Regional ASB Conference

S. Allen asked the board which dates members could attend. Board recommended Nov 20, 22, and 27th.

129/17 Moved by A. Heinrich to accept S. Allen’s verbal report on the NW Regional ASB Conference as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

130/17 Moved by D. Movald to authorize ASB members to attend the NW Regional ASB Conference.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

131/17 Moved by B. Guyon to authorize ASB members to attend the ASB Provincial Conference in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

CORRESPONDENCE/ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

132/17 Moved by B. Guyon to cancel the October 18, 2017 ASB meeting and re-schedule the meeting for November 1, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

133/17 Moved by B. Guyon to add the topic of shelter belts and the potential to add fruit bearing trees to shelter belts to the next ASB Agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

134/17 Moved by A. Goddard to accept memo from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry regarding Livestock Traceability Premises Identification (PID) Starter Outreach Kit as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

135/17 Moved by M. Thompson to accept letter from Alberta Transportation regarding response to ASB about brush vegetation management as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

136/17 Moved by A. Goddard to accept letter to resident regarding weed control in Brazeau County as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

137/17 Moved by A. Goddard to accept letter by Wheatland County regarding draft 2017 ASB Resolution Report Card as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT MEETING

The next regular ASB Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 1, 2017**, in the EOC Room, Brazeau County Building, 7401 – TWP Road 494.

ADJOURNMENT

138/17 Moved by A. Heinrich the regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 20, 2017, adjourn at 1:24 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A.S.B. CHAIRMAN

A.S.B. FIELDMAN



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A-1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

September 22, 2017

Town of Drayton Valley
5120 – 52 Street, Box 6837
Drayton Valley, AB
T7A 1A1
Attention: Sonya Wrigglesworth, Infrastructure Manager

Dear Sonya,

RE: Noxious Weed - Common Burdock Infestations on the South Side of Drayton Valley

During the September 20, 2017, Agricultural Services Board (ASB) meeting, a Brazeau County resident showed the board a specimen of common burdock during the public input session. The resident explained that common burdock, a noxious weed, was found on Town land and there are two common burdock infestations on the south side of Drayton Valley. The resident explained that they had visited the Town Office to inform about the noxious weed infestation of common burdock on adjacent Town land that has the potential to affect their land, however, Town Bylaw was unavailable. The resident did leave a phone number but never received a phone call back. Upon conclusion of the public input session the following motion was made:

121/17 Moved by M. Thompson to direct Administration to write a letter to the Town of Drayton Valley from the Agricultural Service Board to action the burdock weed infestations in the Town, and to follow-up with Nicole Kimmel, Provincial Weed Specialist about the issue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) is a troublesome plant that is difficult and costly to eradicate once it is established. The burrs attach themselves to clothing, equipment, and livestock which allows common burdock to spread quickly and to unexpected areas.

According to Article 2, Services and Term, of the Weed Inspection Services agreement between Brazeau County and Town of Drayton Valley, the County Weed Inspectors provide prohibited noxious weed and noxious weed inspection services within the Town, and when required, advise landowners on control options. ***The Town is responsible to provide any enforcement activity in the Town.***

On August 23, 2017, Curt Rochon, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, contacted Pam Balke, Town Bylaw Officer to accompany him to visit a Town land owner for enforcement services; however, Pam declined to meet. Curt hand-delivered a weed report to the Town land owner and explained



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A-1R1

PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770

www.brazeau.ab.ca

how to control and eradicate common burdock from their properties. The second infestation of common burdock is located on Town land and a weed report was sent to Pam Balke. Following the Agriculture Services Board meeting, the County Weed Inspector visited both locations and re-confirmed that the infestations of common burdock remain.

Given the nature of the noxious weed common burdock, the County is very concerned about the potential to infest neighboring County lands. If the problem is addressed swiftly the Town and County can prevent the infestation of common burdock including the costly measures required to control it, the damage to plants, animals, and the environment.

Please contact the Agricultural Fieldman, Sean Allen, to set a meeting and discuss common burdock weed control solutions at 780-542-7777 or sallen@brazeau.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Rick Ennis
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board

RE/tl

Cc: Nicole Kimmel, Weed Specialist, Alberta Government
Tom Thomson, Fire Chief, Town of Drayton Valley Brazeau County Fire Services
Pam Balke, Bylaw Officer, Town of Drayton Valley
Brazeau County Council

Enc. 7

Tamara London

From: Tamara London
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 4:14 PM
To: 'Sonya Wrigglesworth'
Subject: RE: Noxious Weed - Common Burdock Infestations on the South Side of Drayton Valley

Thanks Sonya

Tamara London
Administrative Assistant
Community Services

Brazeau County
Tel: 780-542-7777 Fax:780-542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

From: Sonya Wrigglesworth [mailto:swrigglesworth@draytonvalley.ca]
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 3:57 PM
To: Tamara London <TLondon@brazeau.ab.ca>
Cc: nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca; Fire Chief <firechief@draytonvalley.ca>; Pam Balke <bylaw@draytonvalley.ca>
Subject: RE: Noxious Weed - Common Burdock Infestations on the South Side of Drayton Valley

Hello Tamara,

We have reviewed the letter concerning the common burdock. We have also discussed the infestation with Nicole Kimmel and have addressed the concerns accordingly.

Regards,



Sonya Wrigglesworth, C.Tech., EP
Acting Director of Engineering and Development

Town of Drayton Valley
5120-52 Street, Box 6837 Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1A1

Office 780-514-2200

Mobile 780-621-7563

Fax 780-542-5753

Email swrigglesworth@draytonvalley.ca



"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them" – Albert Einstein

From: Tamara London [<mailto:TLondon@brazeau.ab.ca>]
Sent: September-22-17 3:34 PM
To: Sonya Wrigglesworth
Cc: nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca; Tom Thomson; Pam Balke
Subject: Noxious Weed - Common Burdock Infestations on the South Side of Drayton Valley

Hi Sonya,

Please see the attached letter from the Agricultural Services Board Chair, Rick Ennis, regarding common burdock noxious weed infestations in Drayton Valley.

If you have any questions please direct them to Sean Allen, Agriculture Fieldman, at 780-542-7777 or sallen@brazeau.ab.ca.

Regards,

Tamara London
Administrative Assistant
Community Services

Brazeau County
Box 77 – 7401 Twp Rd 494
Drayton Valley, Alberta
T7A 1R1
Tel: 780-542-7777 Fax:780-542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

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MEMORANDUM

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER - 2017 BRAZEAU COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

Administration

- Day to day visits/calls
- Attended AISC Board meeting Lacombe, AB, Oct. 11
- Attended AAAF meeting Nisku, AB, Oct. 13
- Prepared The Seed Newsletter
- Rental equipment
- Budget

Pest Management

- Several traps have been rented for pest management
- Organizing workshops
- Pocket Gophers

Soil Conservation

- N/A

Roadside Vegetation

- Mowing program finished up

Weed Management

- N/A

Rural and Community Services

- N/A

Crop and Forage

- Organizing workshops

MEMORANDUM

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER – 2017
BRAZEAU COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

Administration

- On-going training;
- 30% Herbicide Rebate payouts;
- Day to day operations;
- Organize the chemical shed & inventory;
- The seed articles, Assistant Ag fieldman introduction, clubroot and common burdock articles;
- ASB grant reporting;
- Three month probation meeting;
- Self-study pesticide applicator course landscape, industrial & agricultural;
- AAAF Northwest regional meeting in Nisku.

Pest Management – N/A

Soil Conservation – N/A

Roadside Vegetation

- Finished mowing the entire County;
- The contractor finished up fence line mowing;
- Added new spill kits, tools/supplies to the spray truck;
- Spray truck modifications; add water inlet, and steps with a handle;
- Winterize and store spray equipment.

Weed Management

- Hand deliver weed inspection binders to Drayton Valley and the Village of Breton;
- Follow up with common burdock infestations in Drayton Valley.

Rural and Community Services

- Volunteered with the Drayton Valley Ag society.

Crop and Forage – N/A

Parks and Recreation – N/A



NW Regional ASB Conference

AGENDA

November 30, 2017 ~ Athabasca Regional Multiplex

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Election of Regional Chair

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Doug Macaulay
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Update

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Nicole Kimmel
Weed Control Update

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Refreshment Break

10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

David Feindel
Pest Surveillance Branch Update

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Perry Abramenko
Wild Boar Eradication Program

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Joel Bokenfohr
Federal Tax Structure Changes

1:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Don George
Classroom Agriculture Program

1:50 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Luree Williamson
Ag for Life

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Resolution Session

Safe Drive Home!

<https://www.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch-consultations.aspx>

Farm and ranch consultations

Government has consulted with the agricultural community to draft workplace amendments that reflect the unique nature of farms and ranches.

Status: Open until Jan. 15, 2018

Ministry responsible: [Labour](#)

Overview

The goal of these consultations was to review how best to apply Alberta's workplace standards to the agricultural sector while recognizing its unique characteristics.

Get involved: Occupational health and safety

The technical working groups studying occupational health and safety have submitted their recommendations outlining how provincial legislation could apply to farms and ranches.

You're encouraged to review the recommendations and provide feedback in writing by Jan. 15, 2018.

- [Summary of recommendations](#) (0.4 MB)
- [Technical Working Group 3: Existing requirements and exceptions](#) (1.8 MB)
- [Technical Working Group 4: Existing requirements and exceptions](#) (8.7 MB)
- [Technical Working Group 5: Best practices in agriculture](#) (0.4 MB)
- [Technical Working Group 6: Education, training and certification](#) (0.5 MB)

Written comments can be sent to:

Farm and TWG recommendations feedback
Occupational Health and Safety branch
Alberta Labour
8 Floor Labour Building
10808-99 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 0G5

FarmandRanch@gov.ab.ca

Your feedback will be used in conjunction with the technical working group recommendations to inform any changes made to regulations. As we've done all along, all changes made to regulations will be done with those in the farm and ranch industry as we work to ensure worker safety and protect the family farm way of life.

Outcomes: Employment standards and labour relations

The technical working groups reviewing employment standards and labour relations have submitted their reports, which included a number of recommendations. These reports were posted online and the public had an [opportunity between March 6 and April 3, 2017, to provide feedback](#) on the recommendations. Nearly 200 responses were received.

Bill 17: *Fair and Family-Friendly Workplaces Act*, was tabled in the Alberta Legislature on May 24, 2017. It included a number of proposed amendments to the Employment Standards Code and Labour Relations Code that would apply to the farm and ranch sector in Alberta. These proposals were based in part on the input from the technical working groups. Many of the recommendations were accepted as presented, while others were accepted with modifications. A few were rejected.

- [Employment standards recommendations](#)
- [Labour relations recommendations](#)

The *Fair and Family-Friendly Workplaces Act* passed on June 5, 2017 and received Royal Assent on June 7, 2017. Changes to the *Employment Standards* and *Labour Relations* codes that apply to the agricultural sector will come into effect on January 1, 2018, with the exception of the availability of Public Emergency Tribunals, which took effect on June 7, 2017.

Technical working groups

Six working groups developed recommendations on how employment standards, occupational health and safety, and labour relations requirements should be applied given the unique needs of employers and employees in the agricultural sector.

Working group members include representatives from the agricultural sector, labour groups, and technical experts. Each technical working group was chaired by an independent and impartial individual with demonstrated mediation, consensus, and board governance experience.

Summary of Recommendations from Technical Working Groups' Reports

The Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry and Labour established six technical working groups with membership representing employers, workers, and other stakeholders to make recommendations for the application of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code, *Employment Standards Code* and *Labour Relations Code* as well as OHS best practices and training. Labour has reviewed and analyzed all consensus recommendations. These consider the objectives of the process, which were to:

- enhance the protection of waged, non-family farm and ranch workers;
- bring Alberta in alignment with the practices in the farm and ranch industry in other Canadian jurisdictions; and
- find ways to address the unique needs of the industry while balancing the interests of workers and employers.

In the cases where the technical working groups did not reach consensus on application of the OHS Code, the government will determine the next steps.

The OHS technical working groups provided a total of 142 recommendations, common themes include:

- the need for government to provide financial support to the industry to help comply with OHS Code requirements;
- the need for the creation of an industry-led health and safety association to act as a coordinating body;
- the need for a comprehensive communications strategy; and
- the importance of education and training to help employers comply with the OHS Code, and that these resources should be extended to family farms that are not covered by the OHS legislation.

The recommendations from these technical working groups are divided into categories. Some recommendations were made at a high level in regards to entire parts of the Code and others were made on specific sections.

1. Technical working group recommendations that include adopting the existing standard or was already captured in current OHS legislation.

In these cases, the technical working groups recommended that the OHS Code requirement be applied to the farm and ranch industry. For example, the technical working group requested the definition of worker to be changed to exclude neighbours providing unpaid assistance, but the definition already excludes this. Another example is a hazard assessment must be done to address a particular issue. Since there are already mandatory requirements for hazard assessments in Part 2 of the OHS Code, there is no need to repeat this requirement. Lastly, some recommendations included suggestions or activities that are already part of current practice and therefore Labour recommends no changes because legislation or practice reflects the intent of the recommendation.

2. Technical working group recommendations that require changes to the OHS Code. There are two sub-categories:

- i. Recommendations not unique to farming and ranching. These include updating the provisions for tobacco use to include other means of use and substances and including harassment in the definition of violence.
 - ii. Recommendations unique to farming and ranching. An example is a recommendation for an exemption from prohibiting used needles from being recapped. On farms and ranches, specialized equipment is used to provide inoculations to animals; this equipment is designed for multiple uses.
3. Technical working group recommendations that are outside the scope of OHS legislation or Labour's mandate .

These are generally within the scope of other legislation or are activities/services that are not within the mandate of Labour. An example would be the technical working group recommendation to combine the OHS legislation and the OHS Explanation Guide into one document. The OHS legislation is a legal document and the OHS Explanation Guide is not. The guide is intended as a companion document to give examples and to help explain technical sections.

4. Technical working group recommendations that requested a best practice, educational resources, training or certification .

All four technical working groups affirmed the importance of best practice guides and resources to help employers and workers comply with the OHS Code and create a healthy and safe work environment; these made up half of these recommendations. A quarter were around communication and training needs. A quarter were around health and safety management systems and the health and safety association creation. Examples of recommendations include updating FarmSafe Alberta (FarmSafe Alberta is a tool to help farmers and farm managers implement a health and safety management system), new industry-specific resources that include equipment and work activities, and increasing awareness and dissemination of resources to rural areas.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD - MEETING SCHEDULE

EOC ROOM

7401 – TWP Road 494

From 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rate Payer Concerns heard at 11:00 am

January 18, 2017

~~July 19, 2017~~

February 15, 2017

August 16, 2017 Field Visit

March 13, 2017

September 20, 2017

April 19, 2017

~~October 18, 2017~~ November 1

May 17, 2017

November 15, 2017

June 21, 2017

December 20, 2017

Per Diem Rates:

Up to Four Hours = \$170.00

From Four to Eight Hours = \$271.00

Conference Rates = \$349.00 per day

Mileage Rate - \$0.54