

**BRAZEAU COUNTY**  
**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**  
**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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**DATE:** August 15, 2018  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Brazeau County Administration Building  
Drayton Valley, Alberta  
EOC Room

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1. Request for ASB Recommendation – Tall Buttercup in Brazeau County

# BRAZEAU COUNTY

## REQUEST FOR ASB RECOMMENDATION



SUBJECT:	Tall Buttercup in Brazeau County		
DATE TO COUNCIL:	August 15, 2018		
SUBMITTED BY:	Dawnia McCann, Agricultural Fieldman <i>DM</i>		
ENDORSED BY:	Jocelyn Whaley, Chief Administrative Officer <i>JW</i>		
REVIEWED BY CAO:			
FILE NO:			
Report/Document	Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Available <input type="checkbox"/>	Nil <input type="checkbox"/>

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

That ASB recommend to Council to develop a budget for a Tall Buttercup Control Program.

#### 1. TOPIC DEFINED

##### **Executive Summary/Key Issue(s)/Concepts Defined:**

Tall Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) is a noxious weed under the Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulations. As a noxious weed, this species must be controlled. This means landowners and occupants are responsible to prevent the spread of Tall Buttercup. This perennial is a concern because it outcompetes forage species and can cause blistering in the mouths and digestive tracks of grazing animals.

Tall Buttercup is wide spread throughout Brazeau County. It is an issue in yard sites, roadsides, industrial leases, and hay/pasture. There were over 1300 cases of Tall Buttercup recorded in the 2017 inspection season alone.

Administration is looking for ways to alleviate the burden off of landowners and find a way to gain control of the massive infestation within our borders. Similar to the Hawkweed Program, a program for spraying tall buttercup on land within Brazeau County could give administration the ability to control the weed across the county. The program would include private land and public land (including highway roadsides). Landowners would sign up for it and county staff would go out to do the control work. The major difference in the Tall Buttercup program would be that there would not be a limit to the number of acres sprayed.

In order for this program to be developed, Council must approve a budget to carry out the increased service level.

**Relevant Policy:**

New policy would need to be developed to cover details of the program.

**Strategic Relevance:**

Showing appreciation to residents helps promote good culture within Brazeau County.

**2. RESPONSE OPTIONS**

Option	Analysis
a. That ASB recommend to Council that they develop a budget for a Tall Buttercup program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tall Buttercup control within Brazeau County increases</li><li>- Weed control improves within Brazeau County</li><li>- Service levels are increased to landowners</li></ul>
b. That the ASB does not recommend to Council to develop a budget for a Tall Buttercup program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tall Buttercup continues to spread in Brazeau County</li><li>- Service levels are maintained</li></ul>
c. ASB requires more information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- As per the ASB's request.</li></ul>

**3. IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Organizational:**

At least one new seasonal sprayer operator would need to be hired to carry out Tall Buttercup control work.

**Financial:**

Budget for a pasture sprayer, herbicide, and additional seasonal staff would be required.