



Agricultural Service Board Update

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

February 10th, 2025

WHO WE ARE

Public Members

- Susan Schafers, Chair
- Chett Wild
- Julie Burger
- Sarah Leteta
- George Greenhough
- Trevor Weiss

Council Members

Ben Jespersen– Division 3

John McNab– Division 6



WHAT WE DO

- Meet requirements of the Agricultural Service Board Act
- Provide advice to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Council in matters of mutual concern
- Advise on regulatory matters under the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act and act as an appeal body for these Acts
- Assist in control of animal disease under the Animal Control Act
- Promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view of improving the economic viability of the agriculture producer
- Advise on agriculture policies to meet the needs of Parkland County

ANNUAL DELIVERABLES

Deliverables

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Standing Annual Deliverables	
REGIONAL/ PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE POLICY AND ADVOCACY	Review, discuss and determine support or non-support on resolutions to be considered at the regional and provincial levels. Propose resolutions on matters affecting Parkland County producers.
CANADIAN AG PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT	Provide input on the priorities and programs for the federal-provincial agriculture partnership framework as opportunities arise
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	Advise on education priorities and support the agricultural industry analyze feedback to improve service advocacy efforts. Hear updates from organizations that deliver agricultural and provide feedback on programs that would best support Parkland County
AGRICULTURE DISASTER DECLARATION	Monitor the impacts of weather and pests on production to provide recommendations to Council on agriculture disaster for portions of County when required.
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND SERVICES	Provide advice and recommendations on agricultural services. Provide input on planning activities and bylaw changes that have an impact on agriculture in the County as listed under Related Projects.
HOST ANNUAL PRODUCER DINNER	Host annual dinner to capture feedback and provide education opportunities to the agriculture community.
ASB TOWN HALLS	Participate in Provincial ASB town halls to stay informed on and provide input to provincial programs.
CONDUCT APPEAL HEARINGS	Hear delegated appeals, evaluate evidence, and issue decisions.
AGRICULTURAL BURSARIES AND AWARDS	Select bursary recipients, nominate Farm Family Award recipients and support nominations for Hall of Fame recipients.
WORK PLANNING	Review work plan and provide advice and feedback for Councils consideration and decision. Review and verify board metrics of success to develop advice and recommendations on board direction.
EMERGENT ITEMS FROM COUNCIL	Apply member expertise to develop advice and recommendations on emergent items Council seeks input on.

2025 EMERGENT ITEMS

Emergent Opportunities and Challenges	
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND	Develop strategies for dispersing information to producers. Support provincial advocacy measures to reduce impact of developments on agricultural land. Provide input into ongoing County projects and policies that support prime agricultural land.
MANAGEMENT OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE	Discuss impacts of energy infrastructure on agricultural land. Gauge local concern on issues such as weeds on well sites or landowner disputes with energy/oil and gas companies. Identify possible areas of advocacy or clarification that can be provided to producers in the County.
WEED CONTROL ACT ENFORCEMENT	Provide input to administration on weed control programming effectiveness and areas of improvement, including new technologies. Review the enforcement process and consider drafting a resolution for the regional conference to improve weed enforcement under the Act.
CO-OPERATIVES OPPORTUNITIES	Investigate how co-operatives could benefit the Parkland County agricultural industry and community.

STRATEGIC ADVICE

- MDP/LUB Update
- Provincial ASB Priorities
- Road Safety
- Extension Goals
- Ag Plastics Recycling
- Farm Saved Seed
- RMA Resolutions
- County Ag Services



STRATEGIC ADVICE- Policy

MDP Outcomes

Sub-Outcomes

Proposed Goals

Economically Competitive
Agricultural System



Agricultural Value
Chain System
Developed



Support Agricultural
System Economic
Development



Contiguous
Agricultural Land Base



Avoidance of
Agricultural Land
Fragmentation



High-quality
Agricultural Land
Conversion is
Avoided



Quality Agricultural
Land is Valued



Social and Environmental
Contributions of
Agricultural Land



Employment and
Cultural Values
Supported



Protect and Enhance
Social Attributes of
Agricultural Landscape



Environmental
Contributions of
Agricultural System
Maintained or Enhanced



Protect and Enhance
Environmental Attributes
of Agricultural Landscape

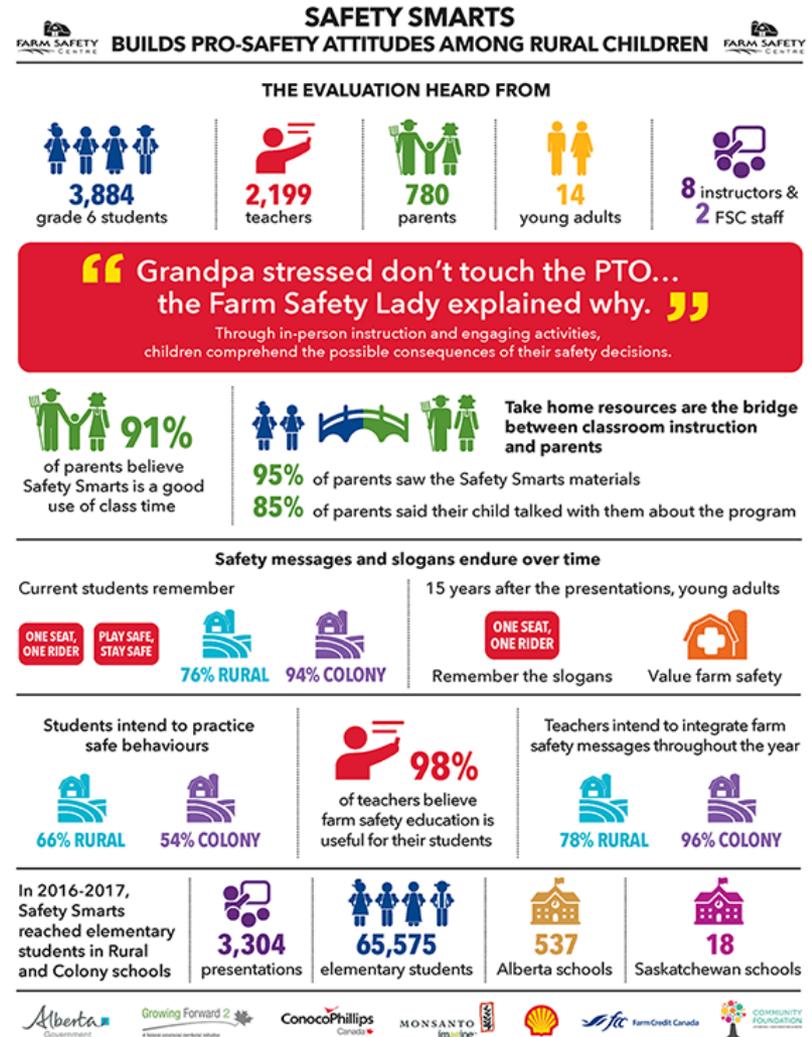


STRATEGIC ADVICE- Funding

Heartland Training and Support Hub

- Request for additional funding per student reached in Parkland
- Safety Smarts delivery during the 2024–2025 school year within Parkland County included:
 - 53 Safety Smarts presentations
 - 1218 students reached
 - 6 schools visited

Recommendation: To increase funding to HTSH as allowable within current budget



We also gratefully acknowledge the generous and consistent support from Counties, MDs and Colonies

ADVOCACY- Resolution Success!

- Farm Family Award resolution presented at 2025 provincial conference
- Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies announced the fall that they will renew the award program
- Award will be presented every other year starting in 2027 for Parkland County



**The
Northern
Alberta
Farm Family
Awards**

We're excited to bring back the Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards! This program celebrates the incredible farm families who are the heart of Northern Alberta's agricultural communities.

Shaping Alberta's Future

ADVOCACY-Provincial Conference

- Representatives from the ASB attended the Provincial Conference in January
- 8 resolutions passed
- Highlights:
 - Strychnine Emergency Use
 - Rural Water Infrastructure Funding
 - Emissions Limits Exemption
 - Rat Control Program Modernization
 - On-Farm Meat Processing Review
 - CFIA & PMRA Reforms
 - Vacant Biological Control Scientist Position
 - Livestock Traceability Regulation Changes



ADVOCACY- Co-operative Agribusiness Grant



- A letter was sent to Minister Sigurdson on June 23, 2025
- expressed support for the development of a grant program aimed at sustaining and modernizing Alberta's network of cooperative seed and grain processing facilities.
- The proposed grant would enable:
 - equipment and processing line modernization;
 - facility expansion or new builds to increase capacity;
 - adoption of technology to improve productivity; and
 - enhanced services to meet local and export market needs

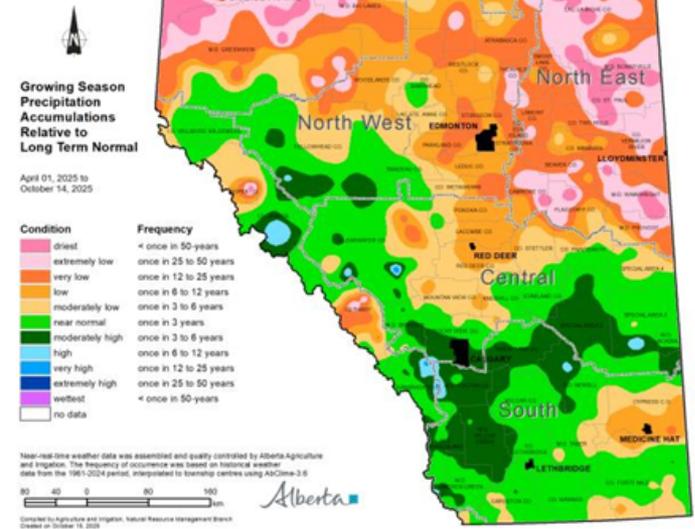
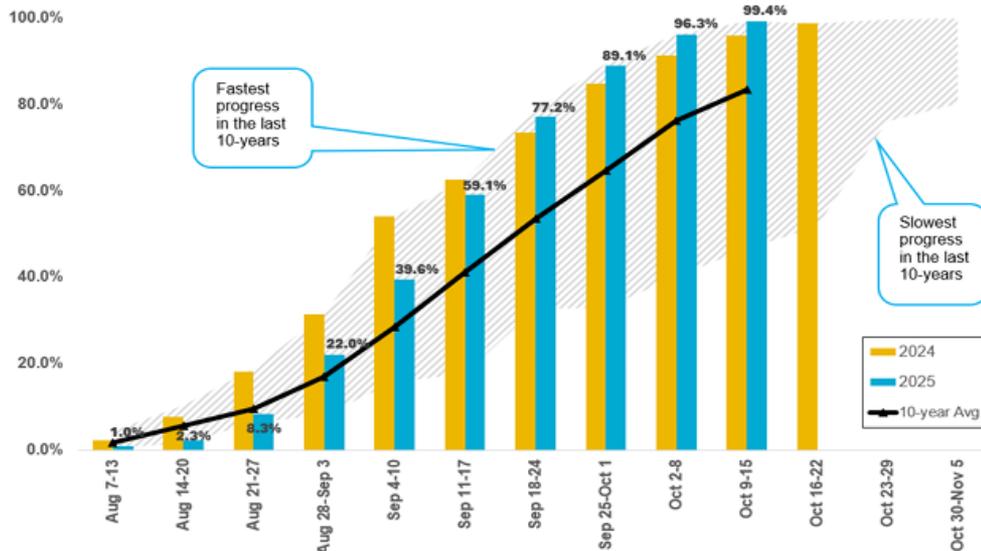
2025 Growing Season Outcome

Table 1: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of October 14, 2025

	Estimated Per Cent of Major Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	99.8%	99.8%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%
Barley	99.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%
Oats	99.4%	98.7%	99.6%	100.0%	99.5%	99.6%
Canola	98.4%	96.7%	98.5%	99.9%	99.4%	98.5%
Dry Peas	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Major Crops, October 14	99.4%	98.9%	99.4%	100.0%	99.7%	99.4%
Major Crops, October 7	95.9%	95.4%	96.4%	96.7%	97.9%	96.3%
5-year (2020-2024) Avg	99.5%	97.7%	96.4%	94.3%	94.8%	97.0%
10-year (2015-2024) Avg	93.6%	81.3%	80.8%	75.5%	80.8%	83.4%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: Harvest Progress of Major Crops as of October 14, 2025



Agricultural Tour

- Successful tour provided to Council, committee members, and senior administration to showcase agricultural services and ALUS projects



CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE

2025 PRODUCER DINNER



PRODUCER ENGAGEMENT- Survey Results

- Surveyed producers on:
 - Learning opportunities
 - Pest surveillance interest
 - Service level satisfaction
 - ALUS incentives
 - Communications tactics
 - Future speakers and booths
 - Provincial resolution support

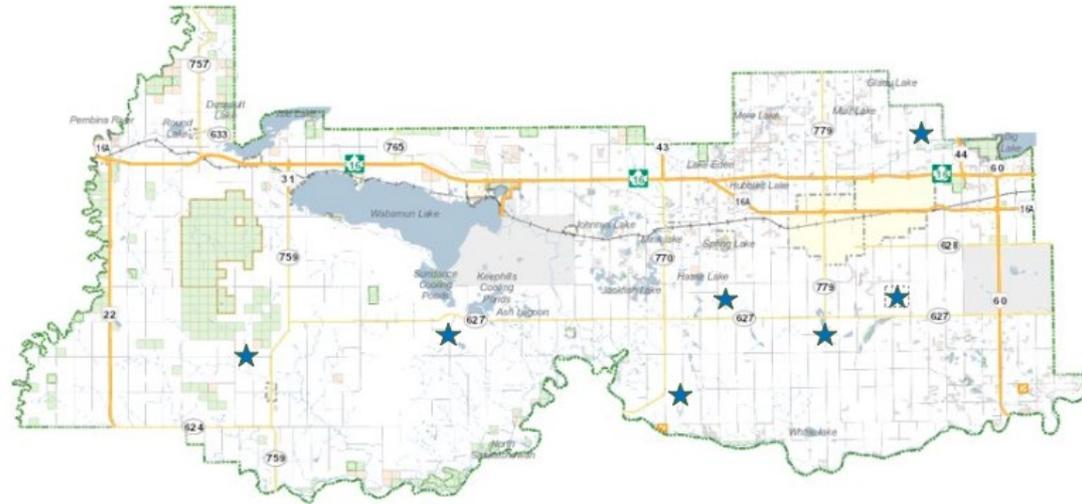


PRODUCER ENGAGEMENT- Survey Results

- Results indicated:
 - Interest in learning more about grants, farm transition planning and new technologies
 - Interest in tracking herbicide resistance, clubroot and fusarium
 - High satisfaction (over 50%) with mowing, and agricultural communications service levels
 - Support for increased weed enforcement, weed management on municipal reserves, pest survey diversity



ROAD SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS



EXTENSION AND OUTREACH



DIG INTO HORTICULTURE a roadmap series program

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Animal Health: Responsible Livestock Ownership and EHV-1 Alert

Owning livestock or horses comes with important responsibilities that help protect animal health and prevent the spread of disease.

Dec 11, 2025

[Agriculture News](#)

Fighting Drought: Silvopasture Solutions

Join the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) for an informative webinar on silvopasture in Alberta on November 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Nov 13, 2025

[Agriculture News](#)

Bursary Winners Announced - Producer's Dinner

On November 5, Parkland County's agricultural community gathered at Keephills Community Hall for the annual Producer Dinner, hosted by the Agriculture Services Department and Agricultural Service Board.

Nov 06, 2025

[Agriculture News](#)





SUPPORTING 4-H

SUPPORTING RURAL YOUTH

Awarded bursaries to 4 Parkland County students in agriculture-related post secondary studies

CONGRATULATIONS!

Winners: Rylee Rogers, Blake Klein, Peta Kendall-Price, And Levi Leteta



2026 WORK PLAN

- Impacts of Energy Development on the Agricultural Industry
- Management of On Farm Energy Infrastructure
- Agricultural Value Chain System Development
- Agriculture First Policy Development
- Impacts of Water Challenges on Producers



A vast field of golden wheat, with the word "Questions?" overlaid in the center. The wheat is in full bloom, and the field extends to the horizon under a clear sky. The text is white with a black outline, centered horizontally and vertically.

Questions?