



Agricultural Service Board

PRESENTATION TO GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

February 4th, 2024

WHO WE ARE

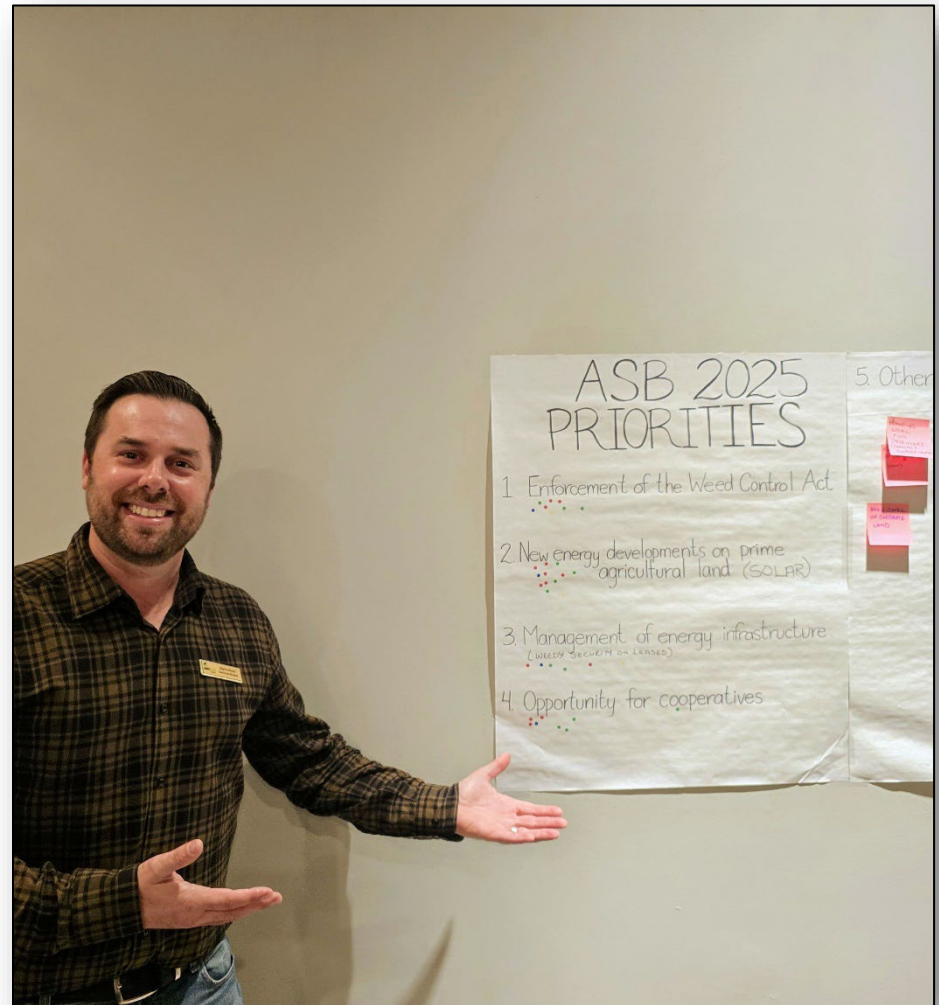
Public Members

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

Council Members

Natalie Birnie – Division 4

Kristina Kowalski– Division 2



WHAT WE DO

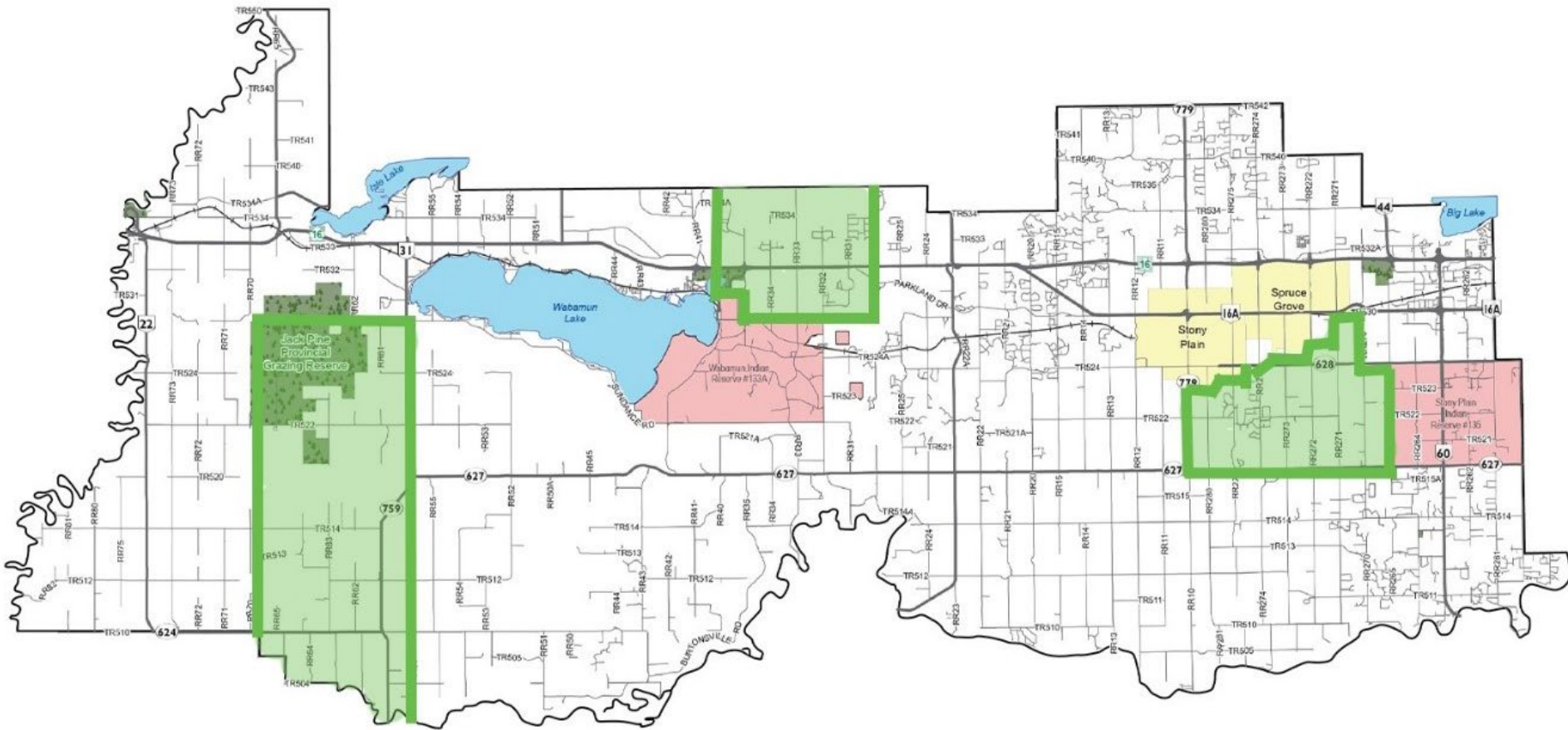
- Provide advice to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Council in matters of mutual concern,
- Advise on regulatory matters under the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act and act as an appeal body for these Acts,
- Assist in control of animal disease under the Animal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

2024 WORKPLAN

| Emergent Opportunities and Challenges | |
|--|--|
| SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS | 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. |
| EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING | Review the County's Livestock Emergency Response Plan and provide input of community partners and engaging the community during emergencies. |
| WEED ENFORCEMENTS | 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 | Investigate how co-operatives could benefit the Parkland County agricultural industry and community. |
| AFFORDABILITY/INFLATION | Develop a better understanding of the issue, how it impacts Parkland County producers and possible solutions. |
| IMPACTS OF CARBON TAX ON ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF FARMS | Keep up to date on the progress of advocacy efforts with the Federal Government. Review the Provincial Government's new plan for impact to the agricultural community. Develop factsheets for information and committee understanding. |
| INSURANCE COSTS, AVAILABILITY, & ELIGIBILITY | Discuss the impact that increasing insurance costs are having on producers, the availability of insurance for small scale and diversified agricultural and the effectiveness of available programs. Review avenues for advocacy to address the issue. |

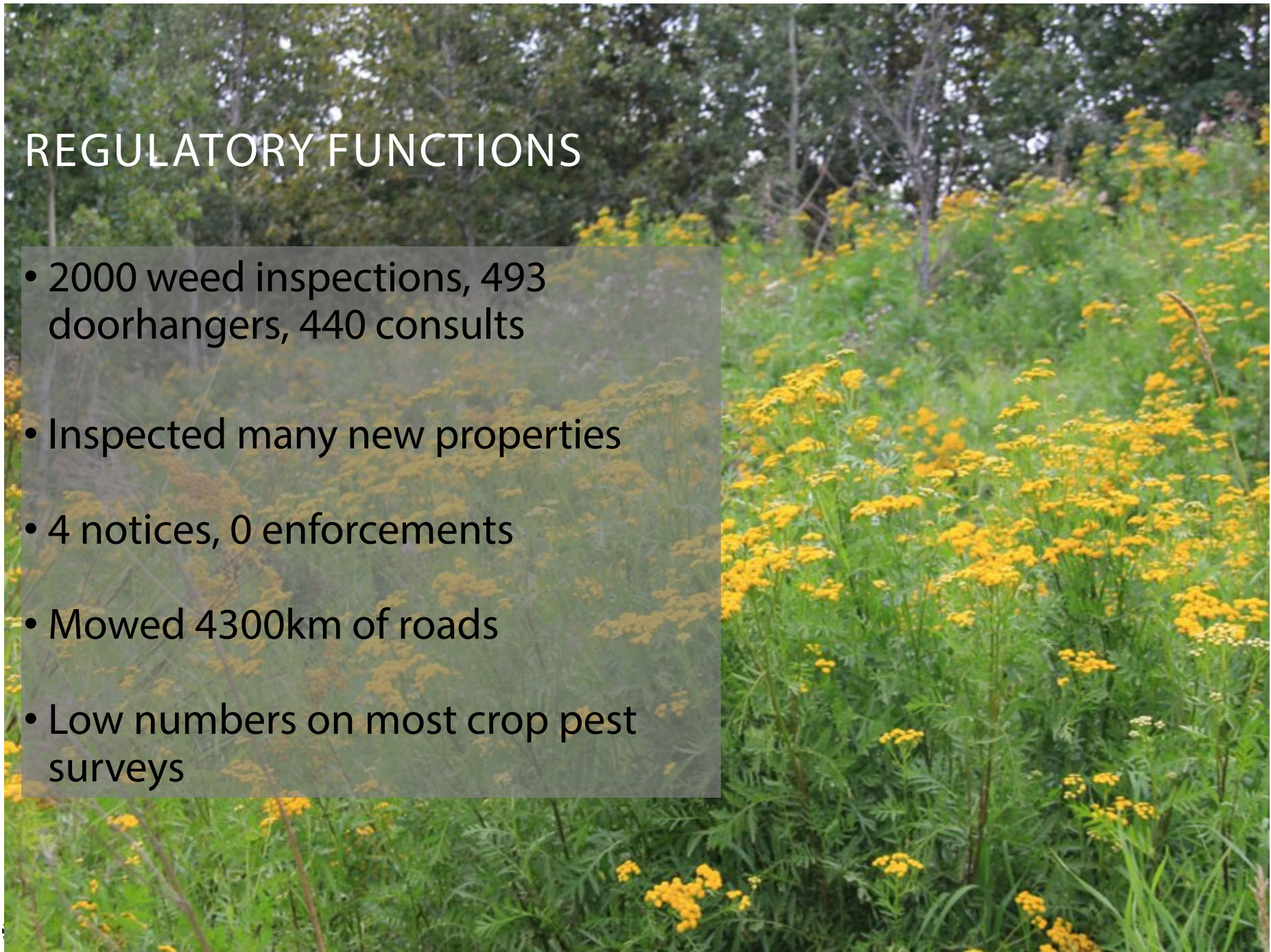
REGULATORY FUNCTIONS- Weed Inspection

2024 Focus Areas



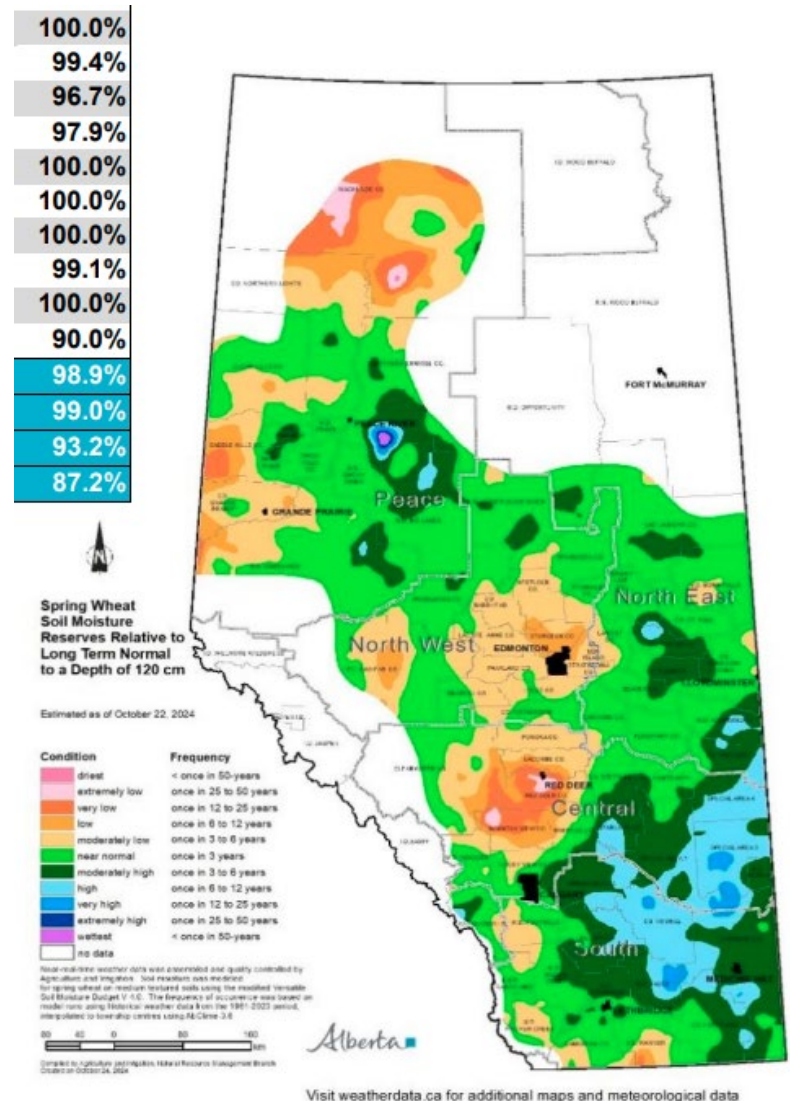
REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

- 2000 weed inspections, 493 doorhangers, 440 consults
- Inspected many new properties
- 4 notices, 0 enforcements
- Mowed 4300km of roads
- Low numbers on most crop pest surveys



2024 Growing Season Outcome

- Favorable weather Aug-Sept allowed rapid harvest
- Crop yield 102.8% 5-yr average
- Region could benefit from additional moisture at end of growing season



STRATEGIC ADVICE TO COUNCIL

- 
- AUC Pause on Renewables
 - MDP/LUB Update
 - Prime Agricultural Land
 - Emergency Response Plan
 - Drought Management Plan
 - ESA Policy Framework
 - Farm Communications
 - Extension Goals
 - Fertilizer Bylaw
 - Weed Enforcement

ADVOCACY-Regional Conference

- Hosted annual regional conference
- Over 80 attendees
- Highlighted Explore Parkland and Parkland ALUS
- Theme: Energy Development in Agriculture
 - Presentations from AER and Farmer's Advocate Office



ADVOCACY- Resolution

RESOLUTION 10-25: Farm Family Awards

WHEREAS since its launch in 1969, farm families from northern and central Alberta communities have been recognized as recipients of the Farm Family Award;

WHEREAS the farm family award honours both farming business practices and community involvement;

WHEREAS Agricultural Service Boards have traditionally been responsible for selecting families who best represent values of the family farm in their rural community;

WHEREAS in 2024 Explore Edmonton decided to suspend the Farm Family Awards Program indefinitely; and

WHEREAS the Calgary Stampede Agricultural Society continues to honour farm families in southern Alberta.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and/or the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies work to ensure an annual Farm Family Awards Program is available for all communities in Alberta with an established Agricultural Service Board.

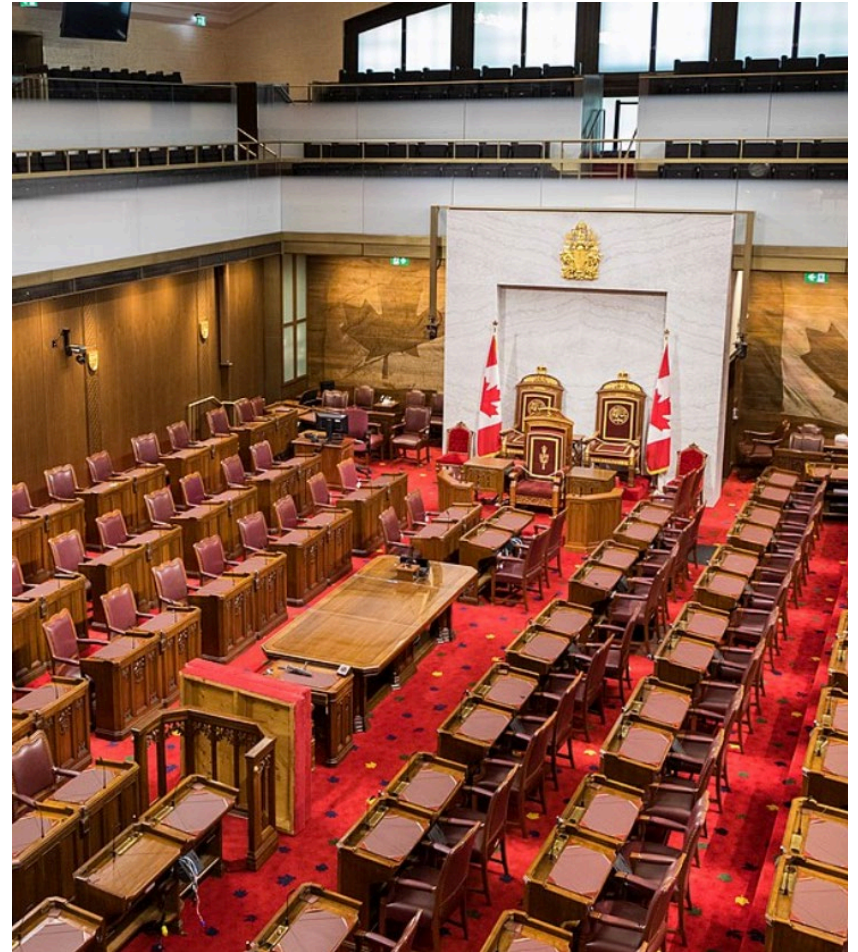
ADVOCACY-Provincial Conference

- Representatives from the ASB attended the Provincial Conference in January
- 6 of 13 resolutions supported
- Highlights:
 - Drought monitoring
 - Renewable energy
 - Weed control
 - AgKnow funding
 - Ag Education funding
 - Lobbying Inclusion



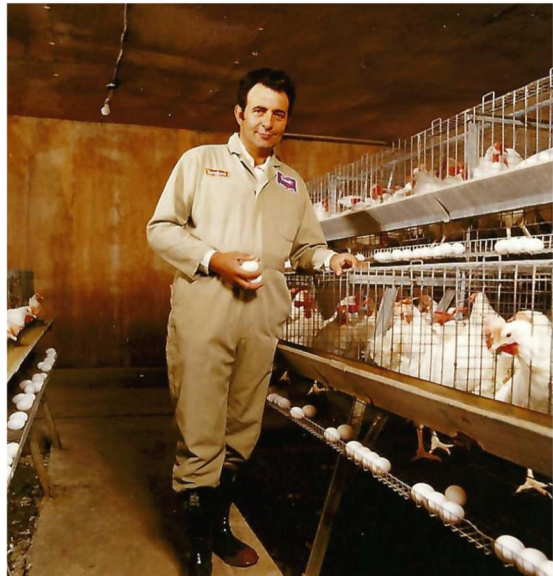
ADVOCACY- Bill C-293

- An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness
- Send letter to the Senate
- Concerns with:
 - Clarity
 - Vague language
 - Federal government overreach
 - Inconsistencies/inefficiencies with existing frameworks



Congratulations Manfred Kanehl

2024 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductee



CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE

2024 PRODUCER DINNER



EXTENSION AND OUTREACH- Survey Results

- Top rental equipment: Billion 10 Ft Seeder & Soil Sampler
- Top learning opportunities: grants, infrastructure maintenance, weed control, new tech, commercial business development
- Most important environmental feature: water, soil, biodiversity
- Clubroot notification: Split vote
- Ag Equipment sign locations



EXTENSION AND OUTREACH



Agriculture and Acreages

Parkland County is proud of our agricultural past and is committed to sustainable environmental and agricultural practices. The Agricultural Services department supports farming and rural communities with programs that include weed control, roadside mowing, and alternative land use.

AGRICULTURE NEWS:

Ag Power Session: Tax Strategies to Preserve your Farm's Legacy

Farming Forward's Ag Power Session: Tax Strategies to Preserve Your Farm's Legacy This online session is being hosted on January 22 from 9-9:45 a.m. MST. The webinar is being offered to explore tax

Monday, January 6, 2025

Program offers financial incentives towards energy-saving project costs

As noted by Parkland County's Agriculture Service Board, the SEMI* program is offering financial incentives to cover up to 50 per cent of energy-saving project costs for for-profit organizations and

Friday, January 3, 2025

Working Wells and Septic Systems

What is a Well? A well is a hole in the ground drilled to access groundwater stored in aquifers. Aquifers are underground layers of porous rock. A pipe and a pump are installed into the drilled hole

Thursday, November 28, 2024



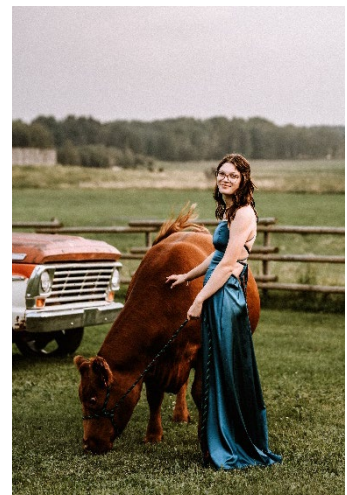
SUPPORTING 4-H

SUPPORTING RURAL YOUTH

Awarded bursaries to 5 Parkland County students in agriculture-related post secondary studies

CONGRATULATIONS!

Winners: Ayla Kendall-Price, Brody Laackman, Charlotte Fairbank, Travis Wagner, & Tyler Visser



FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Energy Development on Prime Ag Land
- Weed Enforcement
- Cooperative Opportunities
- Education & Extension
- Energy Infrastructure Impacts to Ag



A photograph of a vast field of golden wheat, with the stalks blowing in the wind. The word "Questions?" is written in a white, outlined font in the center of the image. In the background, a line of trees is visible under a clear sky.

Questions?