

CLUBROOT of CANOLA IMPACT CONSULTATIONS

The County of Vermilion River (CVR) greatly appreciates those producers who took the time to attend the Clubroot of Canola Producer Consultations in November, February and March. Thank you very much for your input!

This is what we heard:

Preferred Enforcement Option = 48% said Mandatory 2 years out of canola; 26% said Producer Management Plan; 16% said Mandatory 3 years out of canola

Other Recommendations: 74% said CVR should check fields for clubroot and should encourage use of clubroot resistant canola; 58% said CVR should encourage appropriate sanitation processes; 48% said CVR should encourage cleaning equipment

This is where we need to go:

CVR recognizes that clubroot of canola is and will continue to be a serious problem for County grain producers. We take our responsibility to assist with managing the spread of clubroot as per the *Agricultural Pest Act* seriously.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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AG NEWS

Newsletter from the CVR Agriculture & Environment Department

May 2018

ANNUAL RAT INSPECTIONS

Alberta is one of the few places left in the world that remains rat free – thanks to your Pest Control Officers! County of Vermilion River PCOs start annual checks of potential rat habitat sites within the County in May. Yards, farm buildings, feed bins and bale stacks within 12 miles of the AB/SK border will all be checked for signs of rats.

We understand and respect that ratepayers are concerned about vehicles and people entering their yards, and want to make sure our customers are aware and comfortable with our presence. PCOs will start spring rat inspections in May and inspections will continue throughout the summer as weather permits. Fall rat inspections will start in August and continue through the fall and early winter.

our staff will:

- Ensure vehicles are clearly marked with the County logo, unit number and Alberta Rat Control sign.
- Stop at the house and speak to residents, or leave a door hanger if no one is home. Staff will have appropriate ID visible.

We ask Ratepayers to:

- Let us know of special circumstances or conditions we should be aware of (locked gates, dogs, biosecurity, etc).
- Notify us in advance if you want to be contacted before an inspection. See contact information at the end of this newsletter.



310-RATS
CALL IF YOU SEE A RAT

In This Issue

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WE DO FIELD VISITS

As required by the County of Vermilion River *Control of Clubroot Disease Policy* and the Alberta *Agricultural Pest Act*, we will be conducting random inspections of canola fields in July, August and September 2018. County Pest Inspectors will inspect at least 3 canola fields, chosen randomly, in each township within the Municipality for a minimum of 200 field inspections this summer. To do the field survey, staff must walk into the canola field and check plant roots for clubroot galls. If suspicious galls are found, a sample will be sent to a lab for confirmation, and the Ag Fieldman will contact the landowner and/or manager to set up a meeting at the field.

County staff understand concerns about spreading clubroot from field to field, so we will take all precautions recommended by Alberta Agriculture during sampling, including wearing disposable booties and sterilization of boots and equipment before and after entering a field to avoid spreading this disease. Staff will only enter fields on foot – so you may see our truck parked in the approach or along the road.

We ask our STAFF to:

- Ensure vehicles are clearly marked with the County logo and unit number.
- Use primary approaches/laneways where possible for entry
- Our staff will have appropriate ID visible, and are happy to talk to ratepayers and explain the reason for our presence.

And we ask PRODUCERS to:

- Notify us in advance if you wish to be contacted before any inspection of your fields.
- Notify us of any special conditions or circumstances we should be aware of (biosecurity, etc).
- Feel welcome to stop and talk with Ag Inspectors when you see us out in the fields.

County Ag staff are also involved in provincial inspections for other pests under the *Agricultural Pest Act*, so we may also be inspecting fields and/or pasture lands for grasshoppers, Fusarium Head Blight and other pests as requested by the province. While our sampling process will change to match the pest, we are committed to field biosecurity and will use the clubroot biosecurity protocol for all sampling.



ROADSIDE HAY AGREEMENTS

This year, CVR will mow ditches on all Class A, C and D1 roads, as well as known school bus routes once between mid-July and mid-August. Road ditches are mowed to:

- Assist with weed control
- Enhance road maintenance
- Improve visibility and public safety
- Reduce snow drifting

Roadside mowing in CVR will be done by a contractor. If you have questions or concerns about roadside mowing please contact the CVR Ag Department. See contact information at the end of this newsletter.

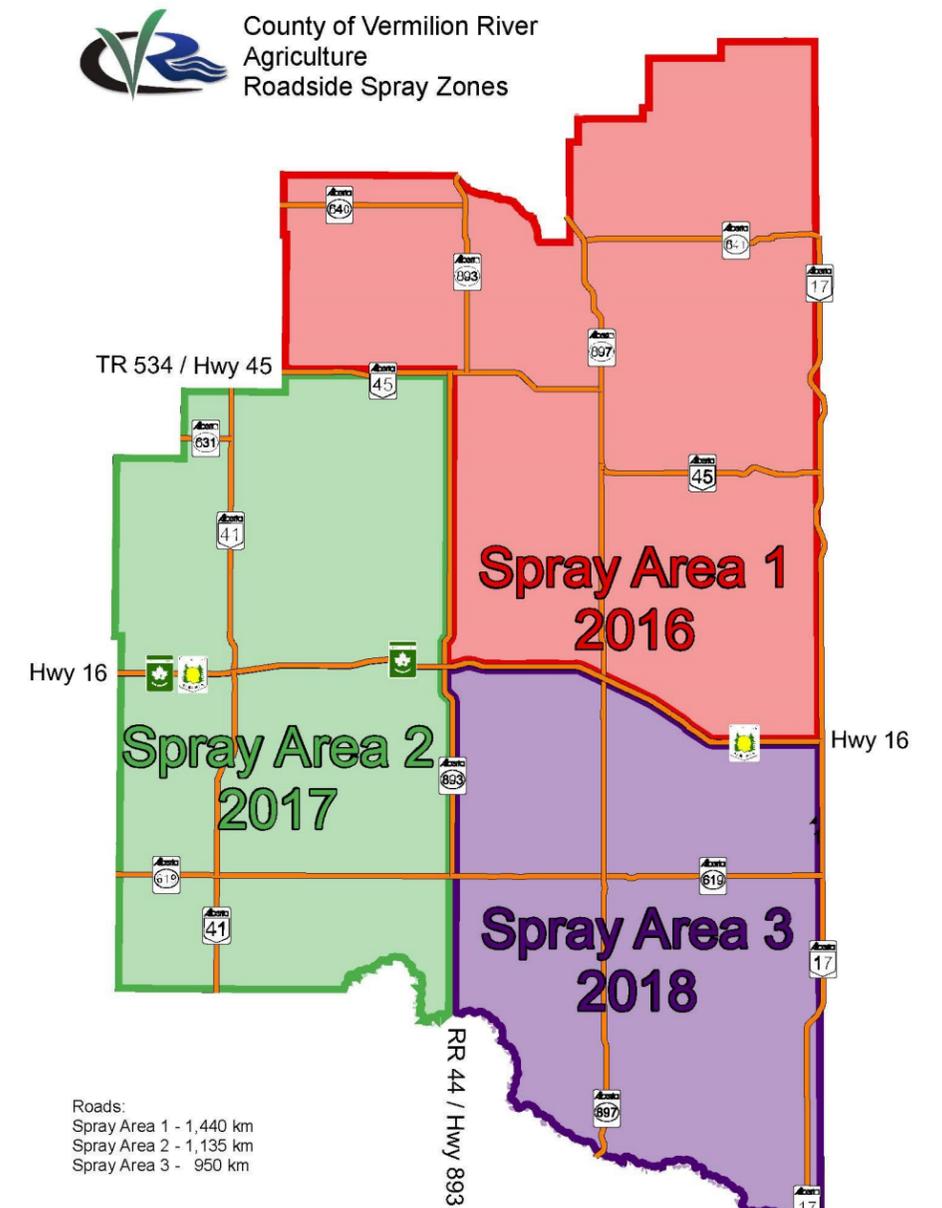
If you want to hay the road allowance adjacent to your property, please complete a Hay Agreement, available at the CVR Office, before May 31, 2018.

This allows us to leave the area unmowed (and unsprayed) until August 1. In return, the ratepayer agrees to control brush and vegetation growth on that section of road by harvesting the hay in a timely manner.



ROADSIDE SPRAY ZONES

As per the map we will be in Spray Area 3 for 2018.



NO SPRAY ZONE & HAYING AGREEMENTS

CVR will be controlling brush and weeds along road allowances starting in June. Weeds are controlled in accordance with the *Alberta Weed Control Act*. Brush is controlled to enhance public safety and maintain road integrity. Roadside spraying will focus on Area 3 for 2018, but we will be selectively spraying noxious weeds throughout the county.

If you don't want herbicides used near your property, contact the Ag Department by May 31st this year. A No-Spray Agreement is available for landowners who do not want herbicides used adjacent to their property, if the landowner is willing to take responsibility for weed and brush control in those ditches. Please note that the No-Spray Agreement does not mean that the ditches can be left unmanaged. It means that instead of herbicide application near their property, adjacent landowners agree to remove the brush and control the weeds themselves. **AGREEMENTS will need to be in place by MAY 31, 2018**