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| POLICY NO: | AG 003 |
| POLICY TITLE: | GRASSHOPPER CONTROL |
| DEPARTMENT: | AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT |
| APPROVAL DATE: | ASB 03-07-92 |
| REVISION DATE: | 21-05-02; 32-06-03; 53-03-04; 76-06-15 (June 23, 2015) |
| REVIEW DATE: | |

Background:

Under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, grasshoppers have been declared a pest, therefore they require control action. Roadsides are of particular concern because they tend to be the source (or the refuge) for prolonged infestation since the grass provides a good food source and the area is undisturbed from year to year (good egg laying conditions).

County of Vermilion River ASB conducts a grasshopper survey annually to determine population levels.

Objective:

Provide a means of effective control for grasshopper infestations.

Procedure:

1. Generally, the decision to control grasshoppers for crop protection is the responsibility of farmers that are affected; therefore they should initiate any control measures. (**The County does not anticipate being directly involved**).
2. Specifically, when there is a concern for crop damage by grasshoppers, a farmer is expected to pursue the appropriate advice, recommendations and techniques to prevent damage and enable protection of the crop. Costs incurred by a producer in controlling grasshoppers on County roadsides can be recovered. The following guidelines need to be followed:
 - a. A copy of paid invoices for control work done is forwarded to the Agricultural Fieldman's Office. (This must include cost of purchased insecticide, hired services, etc. The costs submitted for recovery will be considered for accuracy, expediency and in all cases must be reasonable according to acceptable grasshopper control methods.
 - b. The County shall provide a one time annual rebate to producers completing control work on County roadsides, up to a maximum of \$12 per acre.
 - c. Applications for County rebate must be received by November 30 of the year in which control work was completed.

- d. In the event that the province implements a grasshopper control program, the payment provided by the provincial program, shall be deducted from the County's rebate.
3. In the event that grasshopper control is required on a County road allowance (roadside). The following criteria will be used to define that area:
 - a. Five (5) acres per one-half mile of roadside on both sides of the road.