

**Effective Delivery of the
*Agricultural Operation
Practices Act***

Report of the September 27, 2010
Accountability Session

Natural Resources Conservation Board and
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

December 14, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	1
Mandate of the Natural Resources Conservation Board and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development	1
Purpose of the accountability session	1
Summary of PAG member submissions	2
Response from NRCB	4
Open forum with Ministers and Deputy Ministers	5
Conclusion	6

Appendices

Appendix 1 Participants	7
Appendix 2 Accomplishments	9

Background

The *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) applies primarily to the province's approximately 2400 confined feeding operations. Before January 1, 2002, regulation of confined feeding operations was a municipal responsibility. Standards varied throughout the province. AOPA places requirements on manure storage and manure application in order to protect ground and surface water and minimize odour nuisance.

Mandate of the Natural Resources Conservation Board and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

The operational divisions of the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) are responsible for delivery of AOPA, including reviewing and issuing decisions on applications, enforcement and compliance, and policy development in support of the delivery of AOPA. The board of the NRCB is an appeal body under the act for decisions made by approval officers and inspectors.

The act and regulations are the responsibility of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD). Agriculture and Rural Development also supports delivery of AOPA through research, public literature and three extension specialist positions.

The Chief Executive Officer, NRCB and Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Environment Sector, ARD, co-chair the Policy Advisory Group (PAG). The co-chair function for ARD is currently delegated to the Executive Director, Environmental Stewardship. PAG is a multi-stakeholder body comprised of representatives appointed by the confined feeding industry, and municipal and environmental non-government sectors to provide advice on important policy and regulatory issues.

Purpose of the accountability session

The requirement for an accountability session is set out in the May 2006 memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the NRCB, ARD and Sustainable Resource Development (SRD).

The session is intended to assess how effectively AOPA is being delivered. The purpose of AOPA is established by the MOU:

"To ensure that the province's livestock industry can grow to meet the opportunities presented by local and world markets in an environmentally sustainable manner."

The 2010 accountability session was held on September 27 in conjunction with a meeting of PAG. It was co-chaired by John Knapp, Deputy Minister, ARD, and Eric McGhan, Deputy Minister, SRD. PAG members provided written submissions and were invited to speak on behalf of their sectors.

Peter Woloshyn, PAG co-chair and Chief Executive Officer, NRCB, opened the session by acknowledging the positive dialogue and strong relationships that have developed between the NRCB and all PAG members. He noted that advice from PAG members has resulted in effective policies and programs, including the NRCB's focus on using objective, science-based assessments for its approvals and compliance functions. A list of accomplishments achieved with the benefit of advice from PAG is provided in Appendix 2.

Summary of PAG member submissions*

1. Progress made/successes in the delivery of AOPA

Key accomplishments outlined by PAG members focused on the positive relations with the NRCB and stakeholders, and the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) process.

A. Relationships with the NRCB

- The NRCB has participated in numerous livestock producer meetings to answer questions about AOPA or NRCB processes. Members noted that its participation at industry events has been well received.
- Members feel that the NRCB has openly consulted with them on policies and programs, and that their contributions are valued and reflected in the final products. *“The NRCB has been successful in carrying out consultations on initiatives related to the delivery of AOPA, such as the risk management framework and the compliance policy. In both instances, the NRCB took the time to fully discuss with stakeholders, revise and seek as complete a consensus as possible.”*
- NRCB staff and management were mentioned on numerous occasions as being accessible and helpful in both the application process and dealing with compliance issues. *“There have been unlimited opportunities for direct conversations with NRCB staff, especially senior management.”* Municipalities and industry appreciate the openness and willingness of the NRCB to meet with them on issues.

B. NRCB Delivery of AOPA

- Members value the positive relations developed with other stakeholders through their participation on the Policy Advisory Group. Members feel that they better understand each others' issues and concerns, and that discussion is open and constructive.
- Members support the risk based compliance program and feel that it is the right approach to be taking. Members feel that their input was heard and that the NRCB was open and honest with them during the program development. *“NRCB’s risk based compliance program offers an objective and practical approach to solutions for the industry.”*
- The NRCB’s role as the regulator rather than the promoter of agriculture has created confidence in the regulation of confined feeding operations. *“Such an approach gives support to the integrity of the AOPA regulatory system and enhances public confidence in the NRCB and its administration and delivery of AOPA.”*
- Members support the NRCB’s emphasis on using science-based evaluations to support its decisions. *“The leak detection program and the risk based compliance program are important recent accomplishments and confirm the need for and value of NRCB and industry’s commitment to science-based and outcome-based evaluation tools.”*
- The new odour complaint protocol implemented by the NRCB is generally working well. *“Public concerns have been dealt with in a timely and effective manner.”* One member organization felt that response time could still be shortened. The NRCB is utilizing the Government of Alberta toll free response call centre to forward public calls to NRCB staff.

* Italicized text is directly quoted from submissions provided by PAG members prior to the accountability session.

- NRCB policies have been strengthened since 2006 and are effective in providing clarity for staff and operators. Policy development is seen as an important delivery mechanism for the legislation. *“The NRCB has made significant progress over the past few years in bringing a good balance of environmental, operational and economic considerations in its policy development process.”*
- AOPA and its delivery have provided added consistency to permitting across the province and have benefited municipalities. *“AOPA has taken a lot of stress off local municipal councils. Now much of the tough decision making is done by the NRCB rather than local councillors.”*

2. Concerns

A. Legislation

- Concerns addressed the need to both protect existing provisions in AOPA, in particular grandfathering, and to provide further clarity on the definition of grandfathering. The definition of grandfathering in the legislation needs to be upheld; there is a perception that it has been subject to different interpretations by external parties. *“Clarifying the definition of ‘grandfathered operations’ for unambiguous interpretation.”*
- Concern was raised that participation in a board review is limited by lack of financial assistance for parties and the requirement for directly affected party status, which can put additional pressures on municipalities to participate in reviews on behalf of constituents.
- Some issues were raised concerning the need for changes to AOPA, including manure management, air quality and minimum distance separation calculations.

B. Extension services

- Some members perceive that the NRCB may be stepping beyond the role of regulator and providing extension services. *“The NRCB role is one of a regulator and should not venture into the realm of providing extension services; that should be the responsibility of Alberta Agriculture.”*

C. Permitting

- Concerns were raised that when permits include conditions requested by operators that exceed AOPA requirements, other operators may also feel that they need to include similar conditions in their application. *“Approvals must be based on AOPA standards and there is a perception being expressed that there remains some tendency to raise the bar as an easy way to satisfy local concerns.”*
- The NRCB was encouraged to ensure that the basis of issuing approvals is consistently applied across the province. *“A challenge in any province-wide program is consistency of application or implementation at the field level.”*
- A concern was raised that there is a perception among some operators that meeting AOPA is not enough to obtain an approval or avoid compliance action. *“I am not convinced that producers feel confident that meeting AOPA is a satisfactory standard that will allow them to receive an approval or avoid compliance actions.”*
- A caution was raised that NRCB staff need to remain vigilant in remaining arms length from operators and neighbours in order to preserve the NRCB's role and mandate as a regulator.

D. Auditor General influence on NRCB policy and programs

- The Auditor General's role and influence on NRCB policy and programs was discussed at length. Some members expressed concern that the Auditor General may be over stepping its mandate in its recommendations to the NRCB. *"There is some perception that NRCB may be directed into further compliance activities by the Auditor General. This perception of (direct) influence from a third party requires further consultation."*

E. Other Issues

- The potential impact of the Land Use Framework, Water for Life and cumulative effects policies on the confined feeding industry, municipalities and AOPA were raised as concerns.
- Municipalities would like the NRCB to provide additional consultation with them when permit conditions are amended.
- One member organization suggested that additional compliance work is warranted, in particular for repeat offenders, including the ability to issue fines. *"By developing a specific process to deal with these repeat non-compliance issues, not only is the environment protected, but also those producers who operate in a responsible manner."*
- There is a potential cost implication for confined feeding operations as a result of programs such as the risk based compliance program, in particular for operations that existed before 2002. An industry and multi-agency approach was recommended to provide targeted education and financial support for corrective action for these operations. *"As NRCB moves forward with its risk based approach to identifying older problematic facilities there is a need to ensure education and financial support can be obtained to make the potential change requirements...especially in economically troubled times. Therefore, an industry/multi-agency approach to corrective action is required to derive a more overall beneficial outcome."*
- Municipalities would like information materials on the regulation of confined feeding operations that they can distribute to their constituents. *"Educating landowners is paramount."*

Response from the Natural Resources Conservation Board

The NRCB responded in writing to the PAG member submissions and provided its response in advance of the accountability session to all participants. The NRCB response is summarized below:

- The NRCB values the input and feedback it receives from PAG members. It is committed to responding to issues raised by members. PAG members' open communication and feedback have helped create effective NRCB policies and programs to support delivery of AOPA. Honest, thoughtful and constructive discussions have built positive bridges between PAG members and led to well considered advice.
- In consultation with PAG, important policies and programs have been developed and implemented: the Risk Management Framework; the Approval Policy and supporting collateral; the Environmental Risk Screening Tool; the Leak Detection Program; the Risk Based Compliance Program; and the 2010 Compliance and Enforcement Policy.
- The NRCB agrees that caution must be used to ensure that implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations is within scope of the NRCB's mandate. The NRCB values the input received from PAG members and believes that the risk based compliance program and revised compliance policy are appropriate tools within the AOPA framework. The NRCB is committed to ensuring that PAG

members remain advised of Office of the Auditor General's recommendations and the current systems audit.

- The NRCB agrees that some aspects of AOPA would benefit from additional clarity. As the regulatory body that is responsible for the delivery of AOPA, the NRCB deals with the legislation on a day in, day out basis and has identified elements within AOPA that would benefit from further clarification. The NRCB has not identified standards or regulations that require change and appreciates its advisory role in the amendment process for AOPA.
- The NRCB recognizes industry's concern that operators should not be expected to meet standards that exceed AOPA. NRCB applications and compliance policies are aligned with AOPA requirements. As outlined in the approval policy, approval officers are required to advise the operator if and when the operator chooses to include conditions that exceed AOPA requirements. Decision summaries indicate where the operator has requested conditions that exceed AOPA. The NRCB will ensure that approval officers consistently include this information in decision reports and in operators' permits.
- The NRCB agrees that continuous improvement of operations is the responsibility of the livestock industry and has removed references to continuous improvement from its compliance and enforcement policy.
- The NRCB believes it has made significant progress in delivering consistency in approvals and compliance decisions, and will continue to strive for excellence in the consistent application of the approval policy and the compliance and enforcement policy.
- The NRCB is committed to providing operators with appropriate regulatory information related to applications and compliance functions. Extension services are the responsibility of ARD. NRCB staff and management are unable to identify instances in which NRCB staff have provided extension services to clients. However, NRCB field staff often invite ARD extension specialists to accompany them on site visits and some operators may confuse their roles, given that the public often views both ministries and agencies as "government."

Open forum with Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Ministers Knight and Hayden and deputy ministers McGhan and Knapp asked for follow up discussion and clarification of the concerns raised about inconsistent application of the regulations, and regulatory creep. It was noted that similar concerns are raised in other resource industries. Members were asked whether, overall, the consistent application of the regulations is getting better.

- Members noted that the approval policy was developed in consultation with PAG to create consistency. It may require some fine tuning to ensure it is being applied consistently. However, this is not viewed as increasing regulation. Municipalities feel that the situation has improved but there are still some inconsistencies, and they have not always been notified of recent approval officer amendments.
- Environmental non-government organizations look for whether the regulation is effective for the environment, rather than for more regulation. However, it was indicated that they perceive some gaps in the current legislation – for example, manure storage and application.
- Industry members are concerned that when operators choose to include conditions in their permits that exceed AOPA, some other operators may feel that they need to follow suit in their application.
- The policy development has added clarity and provided operators with flexibility, and is appreciated. There was a caution expressed that "continuous improvement" should be the responsibility of the agricultural industry, and not be ventured into by the regulator. In order to obtain financing, industry needs permits that provide the financial institution with certainty.

Minister Knight advised PAG members that the Government of Alberta is working on a competitiveness review of every industry in the province. PAG members' discussion and comments on these issues are appreciated. The competitiveness review does not diminish government's commitment to the environment.

Minister Hayden noted that he is pleased to see the progress made since 2002, and that PAG's advice is helpful for the continuous improvement of delivery of AOPA.

Conclusion

The members' many positive comments about the NRCB's staff and management, and their ongoing accessibility to all stakeholders, were noted with appreciation by Vern Hartwell. He added that the NRCB will continue to strive for excellence by focusing on efficiencies and effective delivery of the act.

Ministers Knight and Hayden expressed their appreciation for the constructive and productive dialogue. They also noted that they were very pleased with what they heard, with the way the NRCB and PAG members are working together, and the progress being made in the delivery of AOPA by the NRCB. Their summary comments included:

- ARD will conduct a livestock industry competitiveness review in spring 2011. The discussion with PAG highlighted the need to ensure that industry is not regulated out of business, while at the same time ensuring it is producing safe, high quality food.
- The tension between public expectations and the realities of food production is difficult but is also consistent with that of other regulated industries. It is recognized that AOPA for the most part has been reasonably successful in balancing environmental protection and allowing industry to grow.
- A positive relationship between the NRCB, operators and other stakeholders is encouraged, while ensuring that integrity is maintained. The current situation appears to be working well. A high level of comfort was expressed for the current relationships.
- Member comments about the impact of the Land Use Framework on the CFO industry were noted. The framework will guide activities in Alberta on a go forward basis, and the seven regional plans will address air, water and land use. Water allocations are part of the discussions taking place. Members are encouraged to get involved in the consultation process as industry representatives.
- Members are also encouraged to discuss the issue of water and water allocations at the PAG table, and to provide their input through the co-chairs.
- Confidence was expressed that outstanding issues will continue to be resolved through the constructive dialogue at the PAG table.
- There was a level of agreement that continuous improvement can be achieved by identifying efficiencies, not through tougher regulations.

Deputy Minister McGhan complimented the NRCB and its partners on their commitment to collaboration and the excellent meeting. Deputy Minister Knapp advised the session participants that a report of the session would be provided to them and posted on the NRCB website.

The meeting was concluded at 10 a.m., September 27, 2010.

Peter Woloshyn
*Chief Executive Officer
Natural Resources Conservation Board
Co-chair, Policy Advisory Group
December 14, 2010*

Brenda Brindle
*Executive Director, Environmental Stewardship
Agriculture and Rural Development
Co-chair, Policy Advisory Group
December 14, 2010*

Appendix 1 - Participants

Guests: Honourable Mel Knight, Minister, Sustainable Resource Development
Honourable Jack Hayden, Minister, Agriculture and Rural Development
Vern Hartwell, Chair, Natural Resources Conservation Board

Co-chairs: Eric McGhan, Deputy Minister, Sustainable Resource Development
John Knapp, Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Rural Development

Policy Advisory Group participants:

Co-chairs

Peter Woloshyn	Chief Executive Officer, NRCB
Brenda Brindle	Executive Director, Environmental Stewardship, ARD

Government:

NRCB	Jim Turner	Board Member, NRCB
AENV	Ernie Hui	Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Assurance
AENV	Keith Leggatt	Director, Climate Change, Air and Land Policy

Agricultural industry:

Beef sector	Rich Smith	General Manager, Alberta Beef Producers
Beef sector	Page Stuart	Director, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association
ILWG	Martin Van Diemen	Chair, Intensive Livestock Working Group
Dairy sector	Albert Kamps	Director, Alberta Milk
Dairy sector	Tim Hofstra	Director, Alberta Milk
Pork sector	Darcy Fitzgerald	Executive Director, Alberta Pork
Pork sector	Will Kingma	Director, Alberta Pork
Poultry sector	Scott Weins	Chair, Alberta Chicken Producers

Municipal:

Rural	Don Johnson	President, AAMD&C
Rural	John Whaley	Director, AAMD&C
Urban	Linda Osinchuk	Director, AUMA

Environmental non-government:

Cindy Chiasson	Executive Director, Environmental Law Centre
Ann Baran	Representative, Alberta Environmental Network

Regrets: Ashley Rietveld, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers
Bryan Walton, CEO, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association
David Hyink, Vice Chair, Alberta Chicken Producers
Jim Haggins, Chair, Alberta Pork
Mike Hart, Regional Director, Alberta Egg Producers
Stuart Thiessen, Alberta Beef Producers

Observers: Warren Singh, EA to Minister, Sustainable Resource Development
Brett Sparrow, EA to Minister, Agriculture and Rural Development
Donna Tingley, Board Member, NRCB
Jodi Stevenson, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister, ARD
Jacinta Rodrigues, Director, Corporate Services, NRCB
Mike Slomp, Manager Industry & Member Services, Alberta Milk
Ron Axelson, General Manager, ILWG
Russ Evans, staff, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association

NRCB and ARD technical support to Policy Advisory Group:

Andy Cumming, Director, Field Services, NRCB
Anne Kelly, Administrative Assistant, NRCB
Brian Koberstein, Section Head, AOPA/CFO Extension, ARD
Jean Olynyk, Communications, NRCB
Mike Wenig, Counsel, NRCB
Nora Earl, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer, NRCB
Sandi Jones, Branch Head, Agri-Environmental Management, ARD
Walter Ceroici, Director, Science and Technology, NRCB

Appendix 2 - Accomplishments

Policy and Program Development 2006-2008

Between 2006 and the first accountability session, held in January 2008, the NRCB reviewed and developed the following policies and programs in consultation with the Policy Advisory Group:

1. **Risk management framework** – in consultation with industry the framework was initiated in 2006, but was brought forward for discussion with the Policy Advisory Group and was adopted in early 2007. The framework document informs the development of all further policies and programs that are intended to manage environmental risk at confined feeding operations.
2. **Approval policy** – the policy involved a comprehensive, in-depth review and consultation with the Policy Advisory Group on the concepts underlying the review of an application, and the procedures required for consistency, transparency and timeliness. The policy was completed in 2007 and implemented January 2008.
3. **New application forms, courtesy letters and fact sheets** – the NRCB created user-friendly, plain language forms, letters and fact sheets to stream-line and improve the application process for operators, and improve communication with neighbours and other members of the public. The new forms, letters and fact sheets were implemented in 2007.
4. **Study on impact of manure on groundwater in Alberta** – NRCB collaborated with ARD in 2007 on contracting Dr. James Hendry of the University of Saskatchewan to conduct a literature review of the impact of manure storage on Alberta's groundwater. (Dr. Hendry is a former Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Industrial Chair in Environmental and Aqueous Geochemistry.) Dr. Hendry concluded that groundwater contamination risks associated with manure storage is relatively low in Alberta, due to the layer of clay that covers most of the province. The study was used to inform the design of an environmental risk screening tool and programs recommended by the Office of the Auditor General to proactively address environmental risk.
5. **Environmental risk screening tool (ERST)** – in consultation with ARD, Alberta Environment and industry experts, and following a recommendation from the Policy Advisory Group, the NRCB led the design of a tool to clearly, consistently and objectively document specific site conditions and the potential for groundwater and surface water contamination from manure storage. The tool was designed and field tested in 2007 and was used in 2008 for the NRCB's leak detection program.
6. **Mediation policy/alternative dispute resolution** – the NRCB developed a mediation policy for use by field staff to help resolve disputes between operators and neighbours. In consultation with the Policy Advisory Group, a decision was made at the October 2007 meeting to use informal alternative dispute resolution processes rather than formal mediation. This decision reflected industry concerns that a formal mediation process may require commitments from an operator that exceed the legislated requirements under AOPA.

Policy and Program Development 2008-2010

1. **Leak detection program** – the leak detection program is a one-time program to ensure that groundwater monitoring requirements at confined feeding operations that have a groundwater monitoring condition in their AOPA permit are appropriate for the environmental risk at the site. The NRCB screened 359 facilities, involving a total of 257 operations. Nearly 80% of the facilities posed a low risk to groundwater, and monitoring could be suspended. The program should be complete in fall 2010.

2. **Risk based compliance program** – the risk based compliance program is part of the revised compliance and enforcement policy. Operations that meet specific risk criteria for groundwater are screened using the ERST. The criteria are: the operation uses an earthen liquid manure storage facility constructed before 2002, and is situated in an area that is identified by Alberta Environment maps as having high groundwater vulnerability. Operations that have already been screened under the leak detection program are excluded from the program. The risk based compliance program was field tested in late 2009 and full implementation was introduced in the spring of 2010. To date no significant issues have been identified and operator response to the program has been favourable.
3. **Compliance and enforcement policy** – an updated policy was reviewed by the Policy Advisory Group in fall 2009 and implemented in 2010. The policy includes the new risk based compliance program. The policy continues to emphasize education and prevention as the first steps in an escalating series of enforcement activities, with the objective of achieving voluntary compliance with AOPA, its regulations, and individual permit conditions. Under the updated policy, the NRCB will continue to respond to complaints from the public. The NRCB receives complaints about approximately 250 operations each year.
4. **CFO pilot study** – the NRCB is participating with ARD and the University of Saskatchewan on a long term pilot study to track the impact of manure on groundwater. This study is still in its initial stages.
5. **Technical Advisory Committee (TAG)** – the NRCB and ARD co-chair TAG, which was established in 2009 pursuant to the 2006 memorandum of understanding, and is responsible for identifying, prioritizing and developing technical guidelines to assist in the delivery of AOPA. TAG does not report to the Policy Advisory Group, but keeps it informed. As the result of a PAG recommendation, TAG has included industry representatives on its steering committee. TAG has made significant progress on developing guidelines for installation and operation of groundwater monitoring wells, and reclaiming monitoring wells. Both guidelines are expected to be finalized and made available to operators in fall 2010.
6. **Recommendation on linking permit applications under the Water Act and AOPA** – the NRCB consulted with the Policy Advisory Group on the merit of re-linking applications under both acts. Because of significantly different legislated requirements for public notification and different appeal bodies, PAG recommended that the application process not be formally linked. The NRCB continues to forward an operator's application for a permit under the *Water Act* if asked to do so by the operator. Most prefer to apply separately.
7. **New memorandum of understanding** – An MOU between Agriculture and Rural Development (Regulatory Services) and the NRCB was signed in May 2010. The memorandum of understanding outlines Regulatory Services' role in the delivery of the Animal Health Act and compliance and enforcement of the disposal of dead animal regulations.
8. **Collaboration with ARD extension specialists** – Three Agriculture and Rural Development extension specialists have been working closely with NRCB staff in assisting operators with applications and determining appropriate responses to compliance issues. The extension specialists are located in Lethbridge, Red Deer and Morinville.

Stakeholder relations

The NRCB focuses on building open relationships and strong communication with its stakeholders, based on consultation, one-on-one communication, commitment to dialogue and an open-door policy. The following meetings and events were attended by NRCB staff, management and board members since the last accountability session in January 2008.

1. Meetings with municipal districts and counties

- Big Lakes MD
- Birch Hills County
- Cardston County
- Clear Hills County
- Fairview MD
- Foothills-Little Bow Municipal Associations
- Grande Prairie County
- Greenview MD
- Kneehill County
- Lac St. Anne County
- Lacombe County
- Lakeland County
- Lamont County
- Lesser Slave River MD
- Lethbridge County
- Mackenzie County
- Mountain View County
- Northern Lights County
- Paintearth County
- Parkland County
- Pincher Creek County
- Ranchlands MD
- Red Deer County
- Smoky River County
- Spirit River MD
- St. Paul County
- Stettler County
- Strathmore County
- Sturgeon County
- Thorhild County
- Two Hills County
- Vermilion River County
- Vulcan County
- Wainwright County
- Warner County
- Westlock County
- Wetaskiwin County
- Wheatland County
- Willow Creek County
- Woodlands County

2. Stakeholder member meetings

- AAMD&C Fall and Spring Conventions
- Action for Agriculture
- Ag-Expo
- Air and Waste Management Association Annual Conference
- Alberta Agricultural Economics Association Conference
- Alberta Airsheds Zone Association Conference
- Alberta Beef Industry Conference
- Alberta Beef Producers Annual General Meeting
- Alberta Beef Producers Regional Meetings (Breton, Fort Macleod, Grimshaw, High Prairie, Sundre, Westlock)
- Alberta Beef Producers Semi-Annual Meeting
- Alberta Dairy Congress
- Alberta Environmental Farm Plan
- Alberta Farm Animal Care Conference
- Alberta Milk Annual General Meeting
- Alberta Milk Dairy Conference
- Alberta Milk Regional Meetings (Innisfail, Lethbridge)
- Alberta Pork Annual General Meeting
- Alberta Pork Congress

- Alberta Pork Regional Meetings (Fort Saskatchewan, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Red Deer)
 - Alberta's Environment Conference
 - American Water Resources Association Conference
 - Aquitard Hydrogeology Symposium
 - Banff Pork Seminar
 - Bow River Basin Council Watershed Monitoring Forum
 - Canada Water Network - Pathogens in Groundwater Workshop
 - Canadian Association of Farm Advisors
 - Canadian Cattlemen's Semi-Annual Meeting
 - Canadian Water Resources Association Conference
 - Clean Air Strategic Alliance Workshop
 - Clear Hills Agricultural Trade Show
 - Clearwater County Cattlemen Conference
 - International Livestock Congress
 - Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency
 - Medicine River Watershed
 - Midwest Manure Summit
 - National Cattlemen's Beef Association Conference
 - Oldman Watershed Council Science Forum
 - Parkland Airshed Management Zone Annual General Meeting
 - Peace Airshed Zone Association
 - Peace Country Classic Agri Show
 - Peace Region Livestock Producer Workshop
 - Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
 - South Saskatchewan River Basin Plan Stakeholder Workshop
 - Southern Region Nutrient Management Initiative
 - Swine Technology Workshop
 - Tri-Provincial Manure Management Conference
 - Water, Agriculture and the Environment Conference
 - WaterTech Symposium
 - Western Canadian Dairy Seminar
 - Western Canadian Grazing Conference and Trade Show
3. Other meetings
- Alberta Environment – meeting with water licensing staff
 - Alberta Agriculture Regulatory Services – meeting with inspectors
 - Capital Health Authority – meeting with health inspectors
 - Chinook Regional Health Authority – meeting with health inspectors
 - David Thompson Regional Health Authority – meeting with health inspectors
 - Environment Canada – treatment of catch basin contents for release into the environment
 - Environmental Law Centre – presentation on leak detection and risk based compliance programs
 - Joint meetings with approval officers, inspectors and Agriculture and Rural Development extension specialists
 - Lakeland College – presentation to swine technology students
 - Olds College – presentation to agriculture production and business students
 - University of Alberta – speak to engineering students
 - University of Calgary – lecture to environmental science students

4. Tours of confined feeding facilities
 - Erskine Colony
 - Morsan Farms
 - Vermeer Dairy
 - William Wyntjes
 - Albion Ridge Colony
 - Rockport Colony
 - Remington Ranches
 - Kasko Feelot
 - Vandamien dairy and poultry facilities
 - Keeler feelot
 - Nelson Ranches
 - Wolf Creek Colony
 - Plainsview Colony
 - Milford Colony
 - Veurink farms
 - Sunnyside Hatcheries
 - den Broeder sheep facilities
 - Van Loon feedlot
 - NBI Feedyards
 - Mellowdale Dairy

Contacts

Natural Resources Conservation Board

4th Floor, Sterling Place
9940 - 106 Street
Edmonton AB T5K 2N2
T (780) 422.1977 F (780) 427.0607
(toll free 310-0000)

NRCB Response Line: 1.866.383.6722
Web Address: www.nrcb.gov.ab.ca

Agriculture and Rural Development

3rd fl JG O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton AB T6H 5T6
T (780) 427.2439 F (780) 422.6317
(toll free 310-0000)

Ag-Info Centre: 310 FARM (3276)
Web address: www.agric.gov.ab.ca

Copies of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* can be obtained from the Queen's Printer at www.qp.gov.ab.ca or through the NRCB or Agriculture and Rural Development websites.

December 14, 2010