

RURAL ACREAGE OWNER PROGRAM

Big Lakes County



For more information or to answer any questions please contact the Big Lakes County Agricultural Fieldman, Sheila Kaus at the County Administration Office.

PHONE (780) 523-5955

FAX (780) 523-4227

SKaus@BigLakesCounty.ca

BIG LAKES COUNTY

5305-56 Street

PO BOX 239

HIGH PRAIRIE, AB T0G 1E0

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Friday: 8:15am - 4pm

Closed from: 12pm - 12:30pm



RURAL ACREAGE OWNER PROGRAM

This program was initiated to ensure rural acreage owners have access to select commercial-class herbicides to control prohibited noxious and noxious weeds as identified in the Weed Control Act.

WHY A SPECIFIC PROGRAM

In June of 2020, Big Lakes County became a participating municipality to assist producers in accessing appropriate chemical controls for their weed issues.

After successfully completing the Acreage Owner Pesticide Course through Lakeland College, Rural Acreage Owners will be able to:

- Manage their property to prevent noxious and prohibited noxious weeds from growing.
- Manage these regulated weeds growing on their acreage using an integrated weed management approach.
- Safely and effectively use select commercial class herbicides provided on a cost recovery basis by their municipal agricultural fieldman.

DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta's Weed Control Act requires municipalities to identify more than 75 noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. Prohibited noxious weeds must be destroyed. Noxious weeds need to be controlled.

A weed inspector, often the agricultural fieldman, surveys their municipality to see if there are outbreaks of a particular weed. If a noxious weed or a prohibited noxious weed is found on someone's property, they are notified.

In the past, acreage owners had only 3 options to deal with these weeds:

- Use a domestic class herbicide from a garden centre you apply yourself.
- Use one of a few commercial class herbicides. These are the same product as domestic class, but in larger containers you buy from a commercial pesticide seller. These herbicides are for specific weed control in turf, non-cropland areas, shelterbelts and shrub beds.
- Hire a custom pesticide service to apply herbicides for you.
- The acreage owner program is another option. You work with your municipality to control problem weeds.

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THIS PROGRAM

- This process can be initiated by Big Lakes County Agricultural Services or by an interested Ratepayer.
- An inspection is performed on the land(s) in question to determine level of infestation and amount of chemical required. A prescription for the infestation will be completed and recorded in the application by the Agricultural Fieldman and/or Assistant Agricultural Fieldman.
- The "Rural Acreage Owner" Program application is completed, and the ratepayer is directed to enroll in the Alberta Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification Program offered by Lakeland College. The cost of the course is \$75.00.
- Upon successful completion of the course, the certificate is presented to the Agricultural Service department. Agricultural Services will then provide chemical in a handheld sprayer, trailer sprayer, quad sprayer etc. as fits the situation of the ratepayer with the amount of mixed chemical required to complete control efforts.
- Chemical costs will be charged back to the ratepayer on a cost recovery basis.
- Upon completion of control efforts, the infestation will then be re-inspected to ensure control has been achieved. This will be recorded on the application form.

