

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES

TITLE:	<u>FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM POLICY</u>
APPROVED BY COUNCIL:	June 25, 2003
EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 25, 2003
POLICY NO.	ASB-04
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	

OBJECTIVE:

To establish the MD of Big Lakes as a Zero tolerance jurisdiction for Fusarium Graminearum (FG).

PURPOSE:

To minimize the impact of FG on the Municipal District of Big Lakes and the Peace Region.

AUTHORITY:

FG is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta (1984).

The Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta requires the municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6).

The municipality must appoint Inspectors under the Act who are authorized to:

- enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may;
- issue notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

ACTION:

If FG is found within the boundaries of the Municipal District of Big Lakes, the landowner will be required to undertake the following measures:

- Upon harvesting, the entire crop will be quarantined for export outside of the Peace region. The crop should not be utilized locally for any purposes;
- All loads must be tarped during the transport from the infested lands;
- Clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before removing from the infested lands;

- Infected straw be uniformly spread and incorporated during the harvest operation, with any baled straw being burnt;
- Incorporate residue in the fall unless soil erosion is a considered to be a concern;
- Seed a non-host crop and /or perform summer-fallow, for a minimum of 2 consecutive years from initial infestation.
- The MD contributes annually a maximum \$5,000 to the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Plant for FG grain testing expenses.
- The MD to allow a subsidy/reimbursement of 50% of the FG testing costs for up to 4 samples per producer annually.
- Any mobile seed cleaning plant looking to operate within the MD are required to abide by the same conditions as the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Plant.
- That all patrons of the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Plant that reside within the MD of Big Lakes, MD of Smoky River, MD of Greenview be eligible for the FG testing subsidy.

The Municipal District of Big Lakes will undertake the following preventative measures:

- All seed and feed grains brought into the MD from outside of it borders are to be tested for the presence of FG;
- Landowners adjacent to FG infected croplands shall be contacted and informed that FG has been found;
- The seed source of the infested field shall be traced and any other suspect fields shall be inspected;
- The A.S.B. shall be informed of any FG infestations found, and any enforcement actions will be as directed by the A.S.B.
- In event a positive tested grain load is discovered within the MD the neighboring municipalities will be notified of the situation to prevent establishment in the Peace region.
- The MD to provide cost subsidizing funding, to producers, through agencies that promote the FG testing of cereal grains (ie Local Seed Cleaning Plant, etc.)

INSPECTION:

In order to inspect for FG, the Agricultural Fieldman shall:

- Keep agricultural field staff trained in identifying FG symptoms in crops;
- Coordinate field surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture guidelines;
- Inform farmers of symptoms and, through increased knowledge, garner their assistance for inspection & sampling purposes.

AWARENESS:

In order to raise awareness of the potential impact and problem:

- i) Make available to the public current FG awareness resource material
- ii) Periodically publish articles on FG in the M.D. Newsletter
- iii) Consider holding FG informational meetings, or having displays and/or speakers available for additional extension activities at events and meetings.

The above procedural guidelines are effective June 25, 2003.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer