



BIG LAKES COUNTY POLICY



TITLE: Fusarium graminearum of Cereals	
POLICY NUMBER: ASB Policy 19	
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Big Lakes County Bylaw 10-2021	
APPROVED BY COUNCIL: June 9, 2021	
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 2021	REVISED DATE:

Policy Statement

Big Lakes County recognizes that Fusarium graminearum (Fg) and the negative impact the disease may have on agricultural producers. Council further recognizes that it is beneficial to the municipality to establish measures to prevent and control Fg.

Policy

Prevention

Agricultural Services staff shall

- a. Encourage all seed and feed grains transported into the Big Lakes County from outside the municipal boundaries be tested for the presence of Fg and seed be treated with a fungicide registered for control of Fg;
- b. Ensure current Fg awareness resource material is available to the public;
- c. The County will continue to educate the public on Fg and encourage producer compliance with any and all provincial Fg Management Plan;
- d. In the event of disease detection, provide additional producer awareness extension activities (informational meetings / workshops, with displays, publications and/or specialist speakers).

Surveillance

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Agricultural Fieldman, Council shall appoint individuals to serve as "inspectors" for the purposes of this policy, annual inspection and as stipulated in Big Lakes County Bylaw 10-2021
- b. The Agricultural Fieldman shall establish biosecurity protocols to be followed by inspectors while conducting inspections. Protocols shall be designed to minimize disease transferal between fields by inspectors and shall follow current Best Management Practices for the detection of Fg.
- c. Positive field totals shall be recorded and reported to the township level through public meetings and generation of a map, to Alberta Wheat, Alberta Barley and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry on an annual basis.

Control

In keeping with the Peace Regional ASB Guidelines 2.2 Fusarium:

- a. Landowners adjacent to Fg infected croplands shall be contacted and informed that Fg has been detected;



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- b. The seed source of an infested property shall be traced, and any other suspect fields shall be inspected;
- c. Upon harvest, the entire crop shall be quarantined for export outside of the Peace region. The crop shall not be utilized locally for any purposes;
- d. During transport from infected lands, all loads containing seed shall be securely covered (tarp);
- e. Crop residue and soil shall be removed from all equipment and implements before relocation from the infested lands;
- f. Infested straw shall be uniformly spread and incorporated during the harvest operation, or baled and burned on the property where the disease is detected;
- g. Crop residue shall be incorporated during the fall unless soil erosion is a concern;
- h. A non-host crop shall be seeded and / or fallow operations performed on land where Fg is detected, for a minimum of 2 consecutive years from initial infestation
- i. After the period of restriction has expired, cereals may be seeded. The land(s) in question will be sampled with each planting of cereals indefinitely. Should levels be detected, a new Notice to Remedy may be issued.
- j. Producers with a positive Fg DNA test followed by a positive Fg plate test conducted through accredited lab analysis shall be issued a notice to remedy, in keeping with Big Lakes County Bylaw 10-2021. If a producer fails to abide by the Notice to Remedy, the Agricultural Fieldman may, upon resolution of Council:
 - i. Destroy the planted crop through chemical means, if the producer does not do so themselves.
 - ii. Should the municipality destroy the crop, an invoice shall be issued to the producer for the labour, chemical and equipment costs of the crop's destruction

ASB Policy No.19 shall be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the latest scientific advancements and knowledge regarding the Fg pathogen.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Date of Final Signature