

BIG LAKES COUNTY

TITLE:	Agriculture Rental Equipment
APPROVED BY COUNCIL:	January 9, 2007
EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 9, 2007
REVISED DATE:	July 13, 2011
MOST RECENT REVISION:	March 27, 2013
	August 24, 2016
POLICY NO.	ASB-08

POLICY STATEMENT

The Council of Big Lakes County recognizes that it is sometimes difficult for agriculture operators to justify the purchase of certain types of machinery due to the equipment's cost in relation to its amount of use. It is therefore deemed appropriate for the County to establish an equipment rental program to assist with such situations.

POLICY

1. In consultation with the Agricultural Service Board, the Agricultural Fieldman shall be responsible for the establishment of an inventory of appropriate equipment to be made available for rent to ratepayers.

Rental of Equipment

2. Equipment shall not leave the Big Lakes County yard until:
 - a. A signed rental agreement has been received from the renter; and
 - b. A damage deposit has been received from the renter; and
 - c. Payment of the rental rate has been received; and
 - d. The renter has been supplied with an operator's manual or appropriate instruction as to how to safely operate the equipment; and
 - e. The equipment has been inspected and the inspection documents initialed by the renter as having been inspected.
 - f. The Tree Spade will be available for rentals from the MD of Smoky River for specific periods annually, as determined by Administration in consultation with MD of Smoky River Administration, under the terms outlined in Schedule A.
 - g. The Scare Cannons will be available for rentals from the MD of Smoky River in a shared use agreement as outlined in Schedule B.

Return of Rental Equipment

3. Equipment will be inspected upon return to ensure that it is in workable order. If it is damaged as a result of anything other than normal use, the renter shall be responsible for the costs of repair incurred by the County. The renter may choose to have this amount deducted from the damage deposit.
4. Rental equipment shall be returned in clean condition. If the cleanliness of the equipment upon return is not satisfactory, a cleaning service charge shall be applied.

Revocation of Rental Privileges

5. Privileges to rent equipment under this policy may be withdrawn if:
 - a. the equipment is not returned on the day specified in the rental agreement;
or
 - b. damage charges in excess of the damage deposit are in arrears.

Ongoing Evaluation of Equipment Fleet:

6. From time to time it is expected that equipment in the rental fleet will reach the end of its useful life. The Agricultural Fieldman shall notify the Agricultural Service Board at its regular meeting when any of the following has occurred:
 - a. The yearly repair cost to a given piece of equipment exceeds 20% of the replacement cost.
 - b. Public opinion has become unfavorable towards the equipment.
 - c. The safety of operating the equipment is in question.
 - d. The equipment is not being used.

Upon receipt of direction from the Agricultural Service Board, the Agricultural Fieldman shall bring forward a recommendation to Council to either replace the item or remove it from the rental fleet.

Purchase of New Equipment:

7. Annually, prior to the budget deliberations of the County Council, the Agricultural Fieldman shall review the rental equipment with the Agricultural Service Board. This review shall include discussions regarding the possible need to purchase new pieces of equipment for addition to the rental fleet.
8. Based upon the input from the Agricultural Service Board, the Agricultural Fieldman shall prepare a recommendation regarding the purchase of new rental equipment to Council for consideration during budget deliberations.
9. Should Council approve the financial resources required for the purchase of the proposed rental equipment, any purchase made shall be in accordance with normal purchasing practices of the County.

Maintenance and Repair:

10. Arranging maintenance and minor repairs shall be the responsibility of the Agricultural Fieldman. Major repairs may be contracted out with the approval of the Agricultural Fieldman.
11. The County shall discourage renters from repairing equipment; arrangements shall be made to ensure the equipment is repaired by qualified and competent mechanical personnel according to manufacturer's specifications.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer



Agriculture Rental Equipment Schedule 'A'

Council of the MD of Smoky River has deemed it not fiscally feasible to purchase a tree spade for their ASB Rental Equipment Fleet. A shared use of the Big Lakes County tree spade would satisfy their ratepayer need for said equipment.

- The MD of Smoky River agrees, upon a specific period to be determined by respective Administrations, that the unit will be based at the MD of Smoky River compound in Falher (approximately June 1st to 15th and October 1st to 15th each year). The MD of Smoky River will also advertise the unit availability.
- Rental contracts and bookings will be the responsibility of the MD of Smoky River and all collected rental fees will then be paid to Big Lakes County by the MD of Smoky River.
- Repairs and maintenance of the tree spade while in the MD of Smoky River will be the responsibility of the MD of Smoky River at no cost to Big Lakes County, with repair costs due to abuse of equipment (should that occur) charged back to the renters.
- Insurance coverage for the equipment while in the MD of Smoky River will be the responsibility of the MD of Smoky River.
- The equipment will be thoroughly cleaned and serviced prior to being returned and the MD of Smoky River staff will be responsible for transportation to and from High Prairie.

Agriculture Rental Equipment Schedule 'B'

In the interest of fostering cooperation with surrounding Municipalities, Big Lakes County Council and the MD of Smoky River Council have mutually agreed to the shared use of scare cannons from each municipal rental fleet. At the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldmen, ratepayers from either municipality may rent additional scare cannons from the neighbouring municipality for the same daily and/or weekend rates as per rental equipment policies and procedures.

- Ratepayers are to be given priority within their own municipality when possible.
- Reservations, rental contracts and the collection of payment fees are to be administered by the lending municipality.
- Maintenance and minor repairs are to be arranged by the lending municipality; costs incurred due to ratepayer abuse of equipment will be referred according the policies and procedures of the lending municipality.

