Big Lakes County Policy

Agriculture Rental Equipment

Policy Number:	ASB-08
Legal Authority:	*Agricultural Services Board Act; Municipal Government Act*
Approved by Council:	January 9, 2007
Effective Date:	January 9, 2007
Revised Date:	May 8, 2024

1. Policy Statement

The Council of Big Lakes County desires to support County producers in achieving adherence to Provincial legislative requirements under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, the *Alberta Soil Conservation Act*, the *Animal Health Act*, and the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. Council desires to provide tangible resources towards improving outcomes regarding weed management, soil conservation practices, riparian and wetland protections, improved management of forage land, emergency livestock preparedness, and economic sustainability of agricultural activities. One manner of providing these supports is in provision of a purposeful selection of agricultural rental equipment where the primary intent of usage is towards the outcomes listed above.

2. Policy Direction

In consultation with the Agricultural Service Board, the Agricultural Fieldman shall be responsible for the maintenance of an inventory of equipment—towards achieving the aforementioned outcomes listed in Section 1—which is made available for rent to ratepayers. Recognizing the availability of agricultural rental equipment by private industry in the County, the program will be run at full cost-recovery and items slated for acquisition or replacement must be evaluated for achievement of the desired outcomes, for continued relevance, and for undue or unnecessary competition with private industry that these items may represent.

3. Rental of Equipment

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.

4. Return of Rental Equipment

a) Equipment will be inspected upon return to ensure that it is in workable order. If it is damaged because 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.
b) 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.

5. Revocation of Rental Privileges

a) Privileges to rent equipment under this policy may be withdrawn if: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

6. Ongoing Evaluation of Equipment Fleet:

a) 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:
    - The yearly repair cost to a given piece of equipment exceeds 20% of the replacement cost.
    - Public opinion has become unfavorable towards the equipment.
    - The safety of operating the equipment is in question.
    - The equipment is not being used.
b) Upon 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.

7. Purchase of New Equipment:

a) 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.
b) 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.
c) 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.

8. Maintenance and Repair

a) 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.

b) 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 specifications.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

June 25, 2025

Date of Final Signature