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Policy Title <b>Fusarium Graminearum</b>	Date: <b>March 1, 2018</b>	Resolution No. <b>RC18-77</b>

## **OBJECTIVE**

To Provide direction for Birch Hills County to reduce the impact of Fusarium Graminearum.

## **PURPOSE**

To minimize the impact of Fusarium Graminearum in Birch Hills County and the Peace Region.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Agricultural Pests Act:**

The *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.

### **Agricultural Service Board (ASB):**

Appointed by Birch Hills County's Council to address agricultural concerns.

### **Agricultural Township:**

An area as defined by Alberta Township System (ATS) that contains a field currently in agricultural production.

### **Director of Agriculture (DOA) (Agricultural Fieldman (AF)):**

Appointed as such through motion by Birch Hills County's Council and by virtue of position (*Agricultural Service Board Act*) and acts as a pest Inspector.

### **Field:**

A plot of land capable of growing a crop susceptible to Fusarium Graminearum.

### **Municipal Policy:**

Policy established by the Municipality.

### **Pest Inspector:**

An Inspector appointed by Birch Hills County or by the Minister to carry out the Agricultural Pests Act and the regulations.



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### **Reported Field**

Any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of *Fusarium Graminearum*.

### **AUTHORITY**

*Fusarium Graminearum* is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta. The Agricultural Pests Act Requires the municipality to “take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality” (Sec. 6) The Municipality shall appoint Pest Inspector(s) 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.”

### **POLICY**

#### **Awareness:**

1. The stakeholders will have access to information as the region will:
  - a. Use available information as handouts;
  - b. Inform municipally-based Seed Outlets of Municipal Policy and concerns.
  - c. Request that seed, preferably of a more tolerant variety, from non-infected area be utilized;
  - d. Keep Regional Agricultural Service Board members as ambassadors to inform producers and industry about *Fusarium Graminearum*;
  - e. Advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be a more tolerant variety and treated with a product registered to control *Fusarium Graminearum* if the disease has been found in the immediate area;
  - f. Advocate longer rotations between the host crops;
  - g. Inform all Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen when *Fusarium Graminearum* is confirmed within a municipality;



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- h. Work with seed cleaning plants offering services within their municipality to ensure all cereal crops are tested and certified *Fusarium Graminearum* free prior to entering the plant. In addition work with the area seed plants to ensure they share information regarding positive test results for cereal samples submitted to the plants;

### **Inspection:**

2. In order to inspect for *Fusarium Graminearum*, Director of Agriculture shall:
  - a. Keep staff informed of the symptoms;
  - b. Supervise surveys (if any) according to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Guidelines;
  - c. Inform farmers of symptoms and, through increased knowledge, garner their assistance for inspection & sampling purposes;
  - d. Work with area Seed Cleaning operations to collect random samples of cereals being cleaned, to be analyzed for *Fusarium Graminearum*.

### **Guidelines**

3. Inspectors will inspect a minimum of 50 individual fields for *Fusarium Graminearum* in the Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure the cereal fields inspected are spread equally as possible throughout the Municipality.
4. Priorities for inspected fields may include:
  - a. Symptoms are observed through other inspections (i.e. weed inspections);
  - b. The possibility that infected seed was utilized (i.e. seed was imported from outside the Peace Region);
  - c. Cereals grown in succession, short rotation and particularly those that includes corn in the rotation; or



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- d. Reported Fields.
- 5. All materials brought into Seed Cleaning Plant (including mobile plants) for cleaning, must have a certificate indicating that it has been tested and found to be free of *Fusarium Graminearum*.
- 6. The County shall:
  - a. Reimburse the costs for seed testing to a maximum of 2 tests per producer; and
  - b. Encourage producer to submit all samples for *Fusarium Graminearum* testing.

**Action:**

- 7. When *Fusarium Graminearum* is found within the boundaries of Birch Hills County,
  - a. the landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:
    - i. Harvest the crop with the total crop being sold or fed, but **not** sold to keep for seed;
    - ii. Tarp any loads being transported from the infested land;
    - iii. Clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land;
    - iv. Test any grain which is to be fed for mycotoxins & adjust feed ratios to ensure livestock are not affected, severely infected grain may need to be disposed of;
    - v. Chop and spread straw uniformly during the harvest operation;
    - vi. Treat all seed of a susceptible crop being farmed by the producer with a product registered to control *Fusarium Graminearum*.



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- vii. Incorporate residue in the fall unless soil erosion is considered to be a concern;
  - viii. Seed a non-host crop and/or perform summer-fallow, for 2 or more consecutive years from initial infestation; and
- b. Birch Hills County will consider implementing the following:
- i. The Pest Inspector shall ensure that the operating producer follows the Alberta Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan and Municipal Policy;
  - ii. Landowners in an area where an infestation is found shall be contacted and informed that Fusarium Graminearum has been found;
  - iii. The seed source of the infested field shall be traced and any other suspect fields shall be inspected;
  - iv. The ASB shall be informed of any Fusarium Graminearum infestations found, and any enforcement actions will be directed by the ASB.

**REPEAL**

Any previous policies related to Fusarium Graminearum are here by repealed.

*Original signed by*  
Hermann Minderlein  
Chief Administrative Officer

*Original signed by*  
Gerald Manzulenko  
Reeve or Delegate

Adopted by Council:	March 1, 2018
Updated:	



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