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Policy Title <b>Virulent Blackleg of Canola</b>	Date: <b>March 1, 2018</b>	Resolution No. <b>RC18-78</b>

## PURPOSE

To ensure that Virulent Blackleg of Canola is managed and controlled under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the Agricultural Pests Regulation (184/2001).

## SCOPE

Birch Hills County recognizes the Virulent Blackleg of Canola is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta. Birch Hills County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implant measures to control and promote proper management of the disease within the boundaries of Birch Hills County, for the protection of agricultural productivity.

## 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.

### **Control:**

To manage the spread of the disease to a level that does not hinder production or infest any land that is not infested and/or manage or destroy the disease as deemed acceptable by the Pest Inspector and this Policy.

### **County:**

The municipal corporation of Birch Hills County having jurisdiction under the Municipal Government Act and other applicable legislation.

### **Courtesy Letter:**

An informative letter to accompany the Pest Inspection Report and Pest fact sheet, sent to landowners advising of a Pest infestation observed by a Pest Inspector; intended to be an informational, not legally binding, document.



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**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*) acts as a pest Inspector.

**Infestation:**

Any property containing Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

**Notice:**

A legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline, and outlining acceptable control options issued by a Pest Inspector under section 12 of the *Agricultural Pest Act*.

**Pest Inspector:**

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

**Reported Field:**

Any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

**POLICY**

1. The Pest Inspector(s) shall attempt to conduct a pest inspection on all Reported Fields within 3 working days of receipt of the report/complaint.
2. Infestation complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services Department. The complainant's name shall not be released unless so demanded by the court of law.
3. All infestations observed during inspections of private lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be controlled by the registered landowner(s) or registered occupant(s).
4. Pest Inspector(s) shall attempt to contact the landowners. Courtesy letters shall be mailed to all landowners where the Pest Inspector has identified a disease problem.
5. Pest Inspector(s) shall encourage voluntary compliance, and shall as a last resort, take action and/or impose penalties as per the *Agricultural Pests Act*, upon the landowner(s) or registered occupant(s) in the event that the



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landowner(s) or registered occupant(s) is/are unwilling to take measures to control the infestation.

6. Pest Inspector(s) shall issue and enforce such Notices as required by the *Agricultural Pests Act*, when the Inspector is of the opinion that the property contains Virulent Blackleg of Canola and the landowner or occupant is unwilling to take measures to control and manage the infestation.
7. In order to maintain an awareness of Virulent Blackleg of Canola, the County staff shall inform (as needed) the stakeholders by:
  - i) Providing pertinent Virulent Blackleg of Canola information as it becomes available; and
  - ii) Informing County based Seed Outlets of our County Policy and concerns and requesting that canola not be brought into the area from infested areas, if possible; and/or
  - iii) Keeping Agricultural Service Board members and County staff as ambassadors to refer County residents to information on Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

**REPEAL**

Policy #20 Virulent Blackleg of Canola as well as any previous policies pertaining to Virulent Blackleg or likewise are here by repealed.

  
Hermann Minderlein  
Chief Administrative Officer

  
Gerald Manzulenko  
Reeve or Delegate

Adopted by Council:	March 1, 2018
Updated:	