



## AGENDA ITEM

Lacombe County

Agricultural Guide – 2021 Revision

April 22, 2021

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### **BACKGROUND**

In January of 2005, Lacombe County Council and Administration developed a Strategic Plan that would help chart the course of Lacombe County in years to come. In 2012, it was identified from Lacombe County's Strategic Plan for the Community Services Department to investigate the development of an Agricultural Master Plan, now known as the Lacombe County Agricultural Guide. The goal of this Guide is to contribute to the sustainability of the Agricultural Industry and ensure that Agriculture has a voice in future land use planning and policy development within the County.

The first draft of the Lacombe County Agricultural Guide was released in October 2016.

The Agricultural Guide is intended to be a living document, 2021 is the first update.

### **ANALYSIS**

The Vision and Mission for Agriculture, its Guiding Principles, and Priority Areas have remained consistent with the 2016 version.

Updates include:

- Further collaborative input from both internal departments and outside organizations
- Easy to read format including graphics and flow charts
- Provincial and federal legislation have been added and summarized along with municipal policies
- The online platform will have links to policies, bylaws, and legislation
- Detailed information on internal and external programming
- Development of comprehensive agricultural trends



## **ALTERNATIVES**

- 1) That Council adopt the *2021 Revision of the Agricultural Guide* as presented,
- 2) That Council direct Administration to make changes or additions to the *2021 Revision of the Agricultural Guide*,
- 3) Other action(s) as determined by Council.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no implications to the current budget for the Agricultural Guide revision.

## **LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) to provide services, facilities, or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

Section 5(b) of the MGA states that a municipality has the duties that are imposed on it by the MGA and other enactments and those that the municipality imposes on itself as a matter of policy.

Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item, the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform*: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News



## STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of Lacombe County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: "An attractive, balanced, and progressive community".

Our Mission: "To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships".

Our Key Principles: "Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork."

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the 2021 Lacombe County Agricultural Guide.

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**REVIEWED BY:** Tim Timmons, County Manager

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