



PRESS RELEASE

July 22, 2009

Woodlands County Declares Agricultural Disaster

Poor growing conditions and high pest infestations throughout the county have led Woodlands County Councilors to declare a state of Agricultural Disaster at the regular County Council meeting on July 21.

Despite the recent precipitation in the area, the soil moisture conditions remain the lowest in recent history due to below average precipitation for the past two years. In addition, very high populations of grasshoppers are also decimating both annual and perennial crops.

Hay yields are expected to be severely reduced, and many pastures are exhibiting symptoms of serious stress, and as a result their carrying capacities are greatly reduced. Cereal and oilseed crops are also experiencing stresses and are likely to have yields greatly reduced.

“Many producers in the area are going to require more feed than normal as they will be feeding their livestock early due to the poor pasture conditions,” explained Dawn Fortin, Manager of Agriculture Services. “Unfortunately, producing that feed could pose a significant problem given the current conditions.”

With this declaration Woodlands County is encouraging the Federal and Provincial Governments to expedite their respective disaster services programs. While very resilient, the Agricultural community requires assistance as a result of the stresses placed on it by these natural conditions.

Information on current moisture conditions can be obtained online at www.agric.gov.ab.ca.

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