



POLICY NO. 11.03.1

JUNE 9, 2015

TITLE: TANSY INCENTIVE PROGRAM POLICY

PREAMBLE:

Westlock County recognizes the benefits to establishing an incentive program for controlling Tansy and supporting land owners in their efforts to do so.

Tansy has been designated as a noxious weed by the Province of Alberta (*Alberta Weed Control Act, Weed Control Regulation, Alberta regulation 19/2010*). It can cause significant economic losses to agricultural producers if this weed establishes itself in agricultural lands. It is very difficult to control once established in agricultural lands due to their extensive root systems and seed production.

PURPOSE:

- To facilitate a co-operative, proactive approach with landowners to reduce or remove Tansy from agricultural lands.
- To raise awareness of Tansy infestation issues in the County via communication programs with the public and co-operation with land owners.
- To reduce the levels of existing Tansy infestation on agricultural lands and to prevent the growth and spread of Tansy onto non-infested lands.

DEFINITIONS:

Agricultural Land is land that is used primarily for agriculture and is within an Agricultural District.

ASB refers to the Agricultural Services Board of Westlock County. In the absence of an appointed board, Westlock County Council will stand in its stead.

County refers to Westlock County.

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Council refers to the Council of elected officials of Westlock County.

Land Owner is a person who owns land in accordance with Alberta's *Land Titles Act*.

Noxious Weed means a plant designated in accordance with provincial regulations as a noxious weed and includes the plant's seeds (*Weed Control Act*, Section 1(j)).

Site Visit is when the ASB or their appointee(s) visits a site specified by a landowner as having Tansy.

Site is the property that the landowner states to have Tansy on it.

Tansy refers to Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) which has been designated as a *noxious weed* by the Province of Alberta (*Weed Control Act*, *Weed Control Regulation*, *Alberta Regulation 19/2010*, Schedule 2).

1. PROCEDURE:

- 1.1.** The land owner contacts the ASB to request participation in the Tansy Incentive Program.
- 1.2.** The ASB or their appointee(s) accesses County records to ensure the landowner's ownership of the property and confirm that their land is a minimum of 20 acres.
- 1.3.** The ASB or their appointee(s) visits the landowner's site, and confirms the presence of Tansy.
- 1.4.** If the ASB confirms the presence of Tansy, the ASB approves the landowner's participation in the Tansy Incentive Program.
- 1.5.** The ASB reviews the registered herbicides with the landowner, the landowner chooses a herbicide and is advised to follow the label, and applicable provincial regulations.
- 1.6.** The ASB provides the landowner with a list of herbicide application equipment for rental and the landowner selects the equipment that he or she

thinks is best for controlling the Tansy infestation on their land.

1.7. The land owner consents to participation in the Tansy Incentive Program, and signs the Tansy Incentive Program Application / Claim Form (Schedule A). The application form includes a clause stating that they will use herbicides in accordance with Federal and Provincial legislation.

1.8. If Control of Tansy requires herbicide, the landowner provides a legal land description and signs off when purchasing herbicide at an outlet.

1.9. The ASB or their appointee(s) inspects the site after the control work is done to ensure control of Tansy has been achieved.

1.10. The landowner submits the receipts to the ASB no later than September 30th to receive a rebate.

2. ELIGIBILITY:

Landowners who satisfy all of the following are eligible for this program:

2.1. The land they are requesting treatment on has Tansy growing.

2.2. The land which they are requesting treatment for is agricultural land of a minimum of 20 acres.

2.3. The land owner is the registered owner of the land.

3. EXTENSION SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT:

3.1. For small patches of a few plants, a canister with herbicide will be provided to the landowner at no charge.

3.2. If the landowner deems that the use of hand held sprayers of herbicide are necessary for the control of Tansy on their property, the County will lend these to the landowner free of charge provided that the landowner completes the relevant Application / Claim Form (Schedule A) and the Acknowledgement Form (Schedule B).

3.3. The County has three quad tank sprayers and one 200 gallon sprayer available for use by landowners.

3.4. Sprayers outlined in 3.3 will be rented to the landowner free of charge, upon receiving a completed Application / Claim Form (Schedule A), and a damage deposit.

4. COMMUNICATION PLAN:

4.1. The Tansy Incentive Program will be advertised on the County's website and in local newspapers.

4.2. The ASB will host Tansy Incentive Program Information Sessions for landowners to attend. They will be held a minimum of once annually at different locations within the County.

5. REBATE:

5.1. The Incentive Program is capped at \$1200 per landowner or farm unit per year for a maximum of three years. After three years, it is the landowner's sole financial responsibility to ensure the control of Tansy in accordance with provincial legislation.

5.2. Rebates will only be paid out once the:

- a)** ASB or their appointee(s) has visited the site and confirmed that control of Tansy has been achieved.
- b)** Landowner has submitted the relevant receipts.

5.3. Herbicide rebates will be calculated based on a 50/50 landowner/County cost-share formula using the spring price of registered residual herbicides on a per acre basis.

5.4. Approved Registered herbicides include Grazon, Restore II, and Reclaim.

5.5. Tillage is eligible for a \$5 per acre rebate per year up to three years. However, Tansy must be prevented from growing in the landowner's field and along the fence line throughout the season for three years to be eligible

for the tillage rebate. The ASB or their appointees will inspect the landowner's fields and fence line at least once annually during the growing season to ensure effective control of Tansy from tillage.

5.6. Mowing, cutting, swathing, burning, and grazing will not be eligible for the rebate.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

6.1. Agricultural Service Board:

6.1.1. Will annually:

- a) Review the Tansy Incentive Program Policy,
- b) Recommend a budget for the Tansy Incentive Program, and
- c) Forward the budget request to Council.

6.2. Agricultural Service Board or Their Appointees:

6.2.1. Will administer, supervise, direct and monitor the Tansy Incentive Program.

6.2.2. Will act in accordance with this policy, other County policies, and all relevant legislation of the Province of Alberta.

6.2.3. Will ensure that registered herbicides in canisters and rental equipment approved by the ASB are available for landowner use.

6.2.4. Will advise landowners of their responsibilities under Alberta's *Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, Section 163, and any other applicable legislation.

6.2.5. Will inspect sites prior to and after control work is complete.

6.2.6. If the landowner has opted to carry out Tansy control work by tillage, the ASB or their appointee(s) will inspect the site and the fence line at least once annually during the growing season.

6.3. Landowner

- 6.3.1.** Must contact the ASB for a site visit and participation in the Tansy Incentive Program.
- 6.3.2.** Must complete and submit the Application / Claim Form (Schedule A).
- 6.3.3.** If 3.2 and/or or 3.3 of this policy applies, the landowner must complete the Application / Claim Form (Schedule A) and the Acknowledgement Form (Schedule B) prior to starting Tansy control measures.
- 6.3.4.** Is responsible for the application of herbicide and or tillage operation.
- 6.3.5.** Must apply herbicide according to Alberta's *Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides*, any applicable provincial legislation, and follow the directions on the label of the herbicide, if they use herbicide to control Tansy.
- 6.3.6.** Submitting the relevant receipts to the ASB by September 30th in order to receive a rebate.

7. MISCELLANEOUS:

- 7.1.** The incentive Program will be funded by the County.
- 7.2.** The rebate component of the Tansy Incentive Program budget will be reviewed and set annually by Westlock County.
- 7.3.** Unused amounts in the budget will be rolled back into the County's overall operating budget.

MOTION: _____

DATE: _____

Peter Kelly
Chief Administrative Officer

SCHEDULES:

Schedule A: Application / Claim Form

Schedule B: Acknowledgement Form