



Foothills County ASB Update



Check this out: **AFSC 2026 Women in Ag Award**

The Agriculture Financial Service Corporation (AFSC) Women in Ag Award is open for nominations. This is an annual recognition program in Alberta that celebrates women contributing to agriculture and agribusiness.

If you know any women who are leading, innovating and inspiring in all corners of agriculture, send in a nomination!

Nominations close November 17th, 2025. **For more information go to:**

AFSC's Women in Ag Award - Agriculture Financial Services Corporation



Alberta's Rat Control Program

In 1950, Alberta established its Rat Control Program to help keep the province rat-free. The Norway rat, the most common species of rat on the Canadian prairies, was first discovered in Alberta in 1950 along the eastern border. This discovery raised many concerns, as rats are one of the most destructive vertebrates in the world. They destroy property, can transmit more than 35 different diseases to humans and cause major economic losses to stored and infield crops.

As a result, rats were declared a pest under the Agricultural Pest Act. In Alberta, the Norway Rat and any other species from the genus *Rattus* are considered pests. Both individuals and municipalities have the responsibility to actively prevent rat establishment on their properties. Under this Act, it is illegal to import, sell rats or to have them as pets.

While rats are occasionally found in Alberta, the province works quickly to isolate and eradicate rats to prevent populations from establishing. Many rat occurrences in Alberta are due to "hitchhiker rats" in cars, trucks and trailers that come from other provinces. When returning from an out-of-province visit, check your vehicle for rats and look for signs of rat activity. Rats create cylindrical holes about 5 to 7.5cm in diameter, they have a distinctive odor, and leave droppings have blunt ends that are the shape and size of an olive pit.

Alberta's Rat Control Program has been incredibly successful and kept Alberta virtually rat-free for over 70 years. This success wouldn't be possible without the help of vigilant Albertans reporting signs or sightings of rats. Report sighting or signs to rats@gov.ab.ca, 310-FARM, EDDMapS app or to your Agricultural Services.

References

- 1) History of rat control in Alberta | [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca)
- 2) How to identify a rat | [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca)
- 3) Rat prevention and control | [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca)

Invasive Species Highlight

Norway Rat- *Rattus norvegicus*

Norway rats are thought to have originated in Asia but were brought to North America in the 1700's from Ships that Travelled from Europe. They live in places that offer food, water and shelter in the winter and are commonly found in landfills, grain bins, hay bales and basements of buildings. Their tail is hairless and leathery and about 17cm long. They have coarse sandy brown to grey hair on their body and grey to yellowish belly hair.



Figure 1 Alberta Invasive Species Council,
<https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/norway-rat/>

Agricultural Services Survey

We want your feedback! Take our short survey.



Fall 2025 Working Well Workshop Series

Water Well Management for Well Owners

Get information and resources on how to manage and protect your water well. The key to a safe, secure water supply is proper well management - learn how at these free virtual workshops.

Workshop 1:

Getting to know your well

October 22, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Groundwater 101, How Your Well Works and Understanding your Drilling Report/Draw Your Well

Workshop 2:

Maintaining and managing your well

October 29, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Common Well Problems, Identifying Contamination Risks and Shock Chlorination

Workshop 3:

Sampling, testing and treating well water

November 5, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Taking Water Samples, Testing and Water Treatment Options

Register here: [Working Well - Resources | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/working-well-resources)



Harvest Sample Program

The Harvest Sample Program is a voluntary program run by the Canadian Grain Commission that provides an unofficial grade and quality result of your grain. There is no charge associated with this program, and it tests for falling number for wheat and rye, vomitoxin levels in wheat corn, barley and oats, dockage assessments on canola and mustard seeds and more. The samples that are received contribute to scientific research projects that relate to mitigating grain quality and grain safety issues. Samples must be mailed by November 30th.

For more information, go to Harvest Sample Program: About the program

Roadside Spraying and Mowing



Roadside spraying and mowing have come to an end. The dedicated team of only three operators have mowed over 2,000 km of roadside to improve traffic safety, prevent drifting snow and assist with vegetation control. The brushing crews and brush mowers will be active throughout Foothills County. Make sure to slow down and pass when safe.



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP) WORKSHOPS



ENFORCEMENT/CEMETERY BUILDING - HIGH RIVER, AB
NOVEMBER 12, 2025

TOWN OF THREE HILLS HALL - THREE HILLS, AB
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

MD OF WILLOW CREEK BUILDING - CLARESHOLM, AB
NOVEMBER 24, 2025

MD OF PINCHER CREEK BUILDING - PINCHER CREEK, AB
DECEMBER 11, 2025

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

- Workshop will begin at 9:00am and wrap-up around 3:00pm
- Lunch will be provided
- Please bring laptop or tablet
- Please bring information on your water sources & water bodies if you have them
- If you are renewing your EFP and you have your old binder, please bring it as this can be helpful

TO REGISTER FOR SPECIFIC LOCATION & DATE VISIT:

<https://www.foothillsforage.com/efp>



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