

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Review of Bill 201, Agricultural Pests (Fusarium Head Blight) Amendment Act, 2014

Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Second Session
July 2014



COMMITTEES
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

July 2014

**To the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta**

I have the honour of submitting, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship, its final report containing recommendations on Bill 201, *Agricultural Pests (Fusarium Head Blight) Amendment Act, 2014*, for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Sincerely,

[original signed by the Chair]

Stephen Khan, MLA
Chair, Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

c. Dr. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Members of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship iii

1.0 Introduction 1

2.0 Order of Reference..... 1

3.0 Committee Activities..... 1

4.0 Recommendations 1

Appendix: List of Oral Presentations and Written Submissions 3

MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

28th Legislature, Second Session

Stephen Khan, MLA
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Strathmore-Brooks (W)

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Dr. Neil Brown, QC, MLA
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David H. Xiao, MLA
Edmonton-McClung (PC)

Pearl Calahasen, MLA
Lesser Slave Lake (PC)

Steve Young, MLA
Edmonton-Riverview (PC)

Substitutions Pursuant to Standing Order 56 (2.1-2.4):

Ian Donovan, MLA[§]
Little Bow (W)

Rodney M. Fox, MLA^{**}
Lacombe-Ponoka (W)

Members Also in Attendance:

Maureen Kubinec, MLA^{††}
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (PC)

Everett McDonald, MLA^{‡‡}
Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)

^{*} Deputy Chair from May 7, 2014

[†] Deputy Chair until May 7, 2014

[‡] Committee Member from May 7, 2014

[§] Substitution for Joe Anglin on June 25, 2014

^{**} Substitution for Gary Bikman on July 14, 2014

^{††} May 26 and June 25, 2014

^{‡‡} June 25 and June 26, 2014

1.0 Introduction

Bill 201, *Agricultural Pests (Fusarium Head Blight) Amendment Act, 2014*, was introduced and received first reading on March 5, 2014. On March 10, 2014, the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship for review.

2.0 Order of Reference

Excerpt from the *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta*, Monday, March 10, 2014:

On the motion that the following Bill be now read a Second time:

Bill 201 Agricultural Pests (Fusarium Head Blight) Amendment Act, 2014 — Ms Kubinec

A debate followed.

Ms Fenske, Hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, moved that the motion be amended by striking out all of the words after “that” and substituting the following:

Bill 201, Agricultural Pests (Fusarium Head Blight) Amendment Act, 2014, be not now read a Second time but that the subject matter of the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship in accordance with Standing Order 74.2.

A debate followed on the amendment.

The question being put, the amendment was agreed to.

3.0 Committee Activities

As part of its review of Bill 201, the Committee held meetings on May 26, June 25 and 26, and July 14 and 22, 2014. On May 26, 2014, the Committee was briefed on Bill 201 by the Bill's sponsor, Ms Kubinec, and by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Identified stakeholders and experts were invited to present to the Committee, and written submissions were solicited from other stakeholders. The Committee received eight written submissions, including one unsolicited submission from an interested party, and heard 16 oral presentations on June 25 and 26.

4.0 Recommendations

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.2(1)

When a Bill is referred to a Legislative Policy Committee after first reading, the committee may conduct public hearings on the subject matter of the Bill and report its observations, opinions and recommendations with respect to the Bill to the Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship recommends to the Assembly that the Bill not proceed.

The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development be urged to consider a review of the *Agricultural Pests Act* provisions as they pertain to *Fusarium graminearum*, which would include the following considerations:

- Legislative and regulatory enactments that pertain to *Fusarium graminearum* should be based on sound scientific evidence, research, and expert opinion as well as an analysis of economic costs and benefits.
- Examination of the possibility of adopting a provincial regional approach that would provide specific limits of deviation from the current zero-tolerance standard for *Fusarium graminearum* in seed, depending on the established prevalence of *Fusarium graminearum* in various zones of the province.
- Providing municipal districts and counties within such zones the authority to opt out of the zero-tolerance standard for *Fusarium graminearum* and to adopt increased limits for such zones.

The Committee further recommends additional measures be undertaken to limit the damage caused by *Fusarium graminearum*, including:

- Support of rural municipalities and agricultural field personnel in encouraging farmers to maintain or adopt best management practices.
- Improved supply, distribution, and promotion of *Fusarium graminearum* resistant and tolerant seed varieties for Alberta farmers.
- Enhanced investment in *Fusarium graminearum* scientific research.
- Enhanced effective testing and appropriate enforcement to ensure compliance with regulations as they are enacted.

The Committee requests that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development provide a written response to the Committee on each of the proposed recommendations within one year.

Appendix: List of Oral Presentations and Written Submissions

Oral Presentations

Organization	Presenter(s)
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development	James Calpas, Executive Director, Crop Research and Extension David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance
Dr. Andy Tekauz	Dr. Andy Tekauz, Consulting Plant Pathologist
Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada	Dr. T. Kelly Turkington, Research Scientist
Genome Alberta	Dr. David Bailey, President and CEO
Alberta Grains Council	Greg Porozni, Chairman D'Arcy Hilgartner, Vice-chair
Canadian Seed Trade Association	Peter Entz, President
Alberta Beef Producers	Rich Smith, Executive Director
Alberta Pork	Darcy Fitzgerald, Executive Director
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health	Dr. James Talbot, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen	Jason Storch, President, South Region
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties	Carolyn Kolebaba, Vice-president Wyatt Skovron, Policy Analyst
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee	Garry Lentz, Executive Director
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	Dr. Vikram Bisht, Farm Production Extension Pathologist
Canadian Grain Commission	Dr. Tom Gräfenhan, Vice-chair
National Farmers Union	Beverly Stow, Board Member, Region 5 (Manitoba)
Alberta Seed Growers' Association	Lorena Pahl, Executive Director Don Sendziak, President
Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants	Monica Klaas, General Manager John McBain, President Blair Peregrym, General Manager, Stony Plain Seed Cleaning Association

Written Submissions

Submitter
Alberta Seed Growers' Association
Alberta Wheat Commission
Andy Kirschenman (Private Citizen)
Canadian Seed Trade Association
Northern Sunrise County
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Syngenta Canada Inc.
Walter Paszkowski (Private Citizen)

