

Our Agricultural Heritage

Rocky View County's lush native grasses, fertile soils, plentiful water, mild Chinook winter conditions, and aspen stands for winter shelter first attracted the rugged individuals who settled this area. Farming and ranching became an important part of Rocky View County economy, and shapes the cultural and social fabric of the area to this very day. Much of the landscape we value now is still present because of the sustained efforts of those making a living on the land.

Rocky Viewers live in a rural setting among ranch and farm families. You can expect to share many of the benefits – and some challenges – of a rural lifestyle. Most importantly, whether you live in a hamlet, country residential, or agricultural area, it's important that we all be good neighbours, and understand the needs of farm and ranch families in the community.

Being a good neighbour is an art that makes life richer.

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CODE OF THE WEST

Presented By The Agricultural Service Board



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities



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WELCOME to Rocky View County

Whether you're new to the County or part of a family that has been here for generations, our unique rural quality of life can be rich and rewarding.

Living in Rocky View County is very different from the lifestyle in nearby towns and cities, and the Code of the West helps you better understand the rural and agricultural context of our municipality.

THE RIGHT TO FARM

Provincial legislation, the Agricultural Operations and Practices Act, the County's Right to Farm policy, and the Agricultural Boundary Design Guidelines protect agricultural operations from nuisance liability claims where the operators are using generally accepted practices. Examples include:

- **Farmers and ranchers often work around the clock**, especially during calving season in the spring and harvest in late summer. Nearby agricultural operations may disturb your otherwise quiet surroundings. In most cases, these times will pass, so please be patient.
- **Livestock may cause objectionable odors and noise**, particularly during spring calving season, and weaning in the fall. They may appear to be in distress this is normal and there is no need for concern or human interference.
- **Gravel roads generate dust**. If you're on gravel roads adjacent to ranch lands and farming operations, drive slowly and with care. Excessive dust can affect the health of livestock, the quality of crops in the fields, and the quality of life of residents.
- **Large, slow moving machinery** is often transported from field to field during seeding and harvest, and occasionally livestock may get out onto the road. Expect the unexpected, always stay alert and drive carefully.
- **Land preparation** may cause dust, especially during dry windy weather. This is unavoidable, as it's an essential part of agriculture production, and the weather is never reliable.

- **Cattle are occasionally moved on public roads**. When you encounter a cattle drive, please pull over to the side of the road and allow the cattle to pass. If a rider directs you to move forward, do so slowly. The delay will cost you only a few minutes.
- **Herbicides may be used to control invasive weeds** that can overtake farmland or native rangelands. Farmers and ranchers, just as all others, must operate within the constraints of public health and safety legislation that dictate the use of these products. Herbicides may legally be applied by airplanes that fly in the early morning and late in the evening.
- **The County enforces the Weed Control Act of Alberta**. If your property has invasive weeds, it is your responsibility to know what they are and control them. For more information, search "Weeds" at www.rockyview.ca.
- **Livestock can be dangerous**. Do not enter pens or fields where animals are kept.
- If you own livestock, domestic animals, or pets, it is your responsibility to fence them in, not your neighbour's responsibility to fence them out.
- **You are responsible to keep your domestic animals and pets** on your property and under your control at all times.
- **Firearm use on farms is permitted**. Farmers with a proper firearms licence can shoot animals that are considered pests on their own land.
- **Fire permits are required** for farmers and acreage owners who live in Rocky View County. Don't burn without a permit.