

Overarching AEPA Land-Use Planning Key Message

Continued engagement between policy makers and agricultural stakeholders is critical to ensure agricultural interests are reflected in Alberta's land-use planning. It is important to fully understand the impacts of topics such as cumulative effects management, water quality and quantity, and ecosystem services on the agriculture industry. Land-use planning helps the agriculture industry expand and operate in an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable manner.

Expected Land-Use Planning Outcomes

AEPA has identified outcomes for Alberta's agriculture industry that need to be considered in land-use planning. Land-use planning needs to continue to recognize agriculture as an important renewable resource generating future foodⁱ and economic activity. The agriculture industry understands land and water policy issues are linked; these should be addressed together.

Continued engagement between policy makers and agricultural stakeholders is critical ensuring that agricultural interests are reflected in land-use planning. The agriculture industry needs to be fully engaged setting objectives for air, land, water, and biodiversity established under management frameworks.

AEPA Key Messages:

- The agriculture industry supports good stewardship practices (land, water, air, and biodiversity) reducing agriculture's impacts on the environment.
- The agriculture industry should be able to expand and operate in an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable manner.
- Land-use plans and management frameworksⁱⁱ that encourage or require agriculture practice change should not create a cost burden for agriculture producers.
- Achieving management framework objectivesⁱⁱⁱ requires realistic implementation timelines by the agriculture industry.
- Education, awareness and incentives should be considered critical strategic tools helping the agriculture industry achieve suitable environmental outcomes.
- Emerging agricultural opportunities should be recognized and encouraged by the Government of Alberta, and supported through research, education, and policy implementation.

ⁱ Food is one of several ecosystem services (benefits received from healthy, functioning ecosystems) provided by agriculture land. Other examples include water quality, nutrient cycling, and bioproducts such as fibre.

ⁱⁱ Management Frameworks: Identify desired regional objectives, as well as approaches and actions to achieve objectives.

ⁱⁱⁱ Objectives: Provide clear boundaries and establish the direction for environmental management in a given place.