

Agricultural Framework update

Priorities Committee Meeting
April 8, 2025

An Agricultural Framework for Strathcona County

Created to capture the work completed across the organization to support agriculture, while empowering all departments to contribute to the strategic goals.



Agriculture Collaboration Team (ACT)

- Representation from nine departments.
- Work together, across professions, departments, and disciplines to support agriculture.
- Members will ensure programs, activities and collaborative initiatives are documented to contribute to a more wholistic picture of our agricultural support as an organization.
- This team will steward the ongoing success of the Agricultural Framework.

Agricultural Framework: work to date

- Engaged with the ACT: capture all the work that our organization is already doing to support agriculture and what can be done in the future
- Created organizational outcomes and objectives: informed by public engagement from all agricultural initiatives
- Researched and documented content: strategic alignment, legislative duties, trends, storytelling, outcomes and objectives

Agricultural Framework: themes

Governance



Business



Production



People



Agricultural Framework: outcomes and objectives

- Outcome
 - where do we want to be?
- Objective
 - how do we plan to get there?



Agricultural Framework: storytelling




- Innovative practices in action
 - new and original procedures, processes and programs
- Supportive tools in action
 - new and original plans, policies, directives, bylaws and standards
- Strategic initiatives to consider
 - plans, processes, policies and programs that focus on change



GOVERNANCE AND AGRICULTURE – Cultivate agriculture throughout government process, policy, and regulation to sustain livelihoods and lifestyles

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Perform legislative duties and ensure compliance under the applicable provincial legislation, including the *Agricultural Service Board Act (ASBA)*, *Agricultural Pests Act (APA)*, *Animal Health Act (AHA)*, *Soil Conservation Act (SCA)*, *Weed Control Act (WCA)* and the *Water Act (WA)*.
- 2) Enhance the promotion of Strathcona County's agricultural and food interests to advocacy and government groups.
- 3) Develop and maintain municipal policies and regulations that foster the agriculture sector while balancing the needs of the municipality.
- 4) Support the predictability of the agricultural land base in Strathcona County through thoughtful governance.



GOVERNANCE AND AGRICULTURE – Cultivate agriculture throughout government process, policy, and regulation to sustain livelihoods and lifestyles

Innovative practices in action

- “From Soil to Supper” agriculture e-newsletter
- Agriculture extension events
- Weed Control Charter
- Drainage Charter

Supportive tools in action

- ASBA Grant Program
- Municipal Development Plan
- Land Use Bylaw
- Environmental Framework
- Climate Resilience Plan
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw
- Urban Agriculture Strategy
- Agriculture & Food Sector Development Strategy
- Tourism Strategy
- Human-Wildlife Coexistence Program
- Strategic Invasive Plant Management Program

Strategic initiatives to consider

- Agriculture extension videos
- Partnerships to deliver agriculture extension
- Contravention of the *Weed Control Act* Bylaw

PEOPLE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE – Grow communication, education, and celebration of agricultural producers and agriculture to sustain livelihoods and lifestyles.



OBJECTIVES

- 1) Foster relationships to facilitate agricultural extension via education and targeted support for operations of various scales.
- 2) Foster local leadership within agriculture, food, and rural development organizations to enhance community connection.
- 3) Grow public awareness and understanding of agriculture through education and targeted support to enhance consumer participation and trust in the food system.
- 4) Grow the visibility and accessibility of local food products to support the local economy and community well-being.
- 5) Provide well-being and social supports for people of agriculture and rural communities to meet their unique needs based on their location, life stage, and socio-economic status.
- 6) Promote urban agriculture to foster greater community connection to the natural world.

PEOPLE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE – Grow communication, education, and celebration of agricultural producers and agriculture to sustain livelihoods and lifestyles.



Innovative practices in action

- “From Soil to Supper” agriculture e-newsletter
- EDT e-newsletter
- Agricultural Service Board Bylaw modernization
- Community Garden Program
- School Garden Program
- Savour Strathcona
- Indigenous Community Connections
- Sherwood Park News articles
- Councilor newsletters
- Connect for Food Project
- Agricultural Societies support

Strategic initiatives to consider

- Youth extension focus
- Collaborations with Young Agrarians
- Agriculture extension videos
- Partnerships to deliver agriculture extension
- Local food and products map

Supportive tools in action

- ASBA Grant Program
- Accessibility Framework
- Environmental Framework
- Climate Resilience Plan
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Rural Residential Stewardship Program
- Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw
- Urban Agriculture Strategy
- Agriculture & Food Sector Development Strategy
- Tourism Strategy
- Affordable Housing Strategy
- Healthy Aging Framework
- Community Safety & Well-being Strategy
- Solutions Navigation Program
- Family Resource Network
- Updates to Strathcona.ca

AGRICULTURE BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION

– Foster the business activities and capacity involved in the production, processing, and distribution of agricultural products and diversification of agribusiness to sustain livelihoods and lifestyles

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Foster a business environment where agriculture is economically sustainable and supports the evolution of existing businesses, enables new entrants, and attracts agri-food businesses.
- 2) Facilitate opportunities for the diversification of the agriculture industry.
- 3) Engage with the agricultural community, institutions and organizations to create opportunities for diversity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- 4) Engage regularly with the agricultural community to ensure that existing local producers have access to the necessary business supports to adapt to changing market conditions.



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Innovative Practices in Action

- Capacity building in Economic Development & Tourism
- Advocacy for investment attraction
- Clubroot Spore Trap Project
- Connect for Food Project
- Industry organization memberships

Supportive Tools in Action

- Municipal Development Plan
- Land Use Bylaw
- Agriculture & Food Sector Development Strategy
- Tourism Strategy

Strategic Initiatives to Consider

- Farm business management and succession programming
- Partnerships to deliver agriculture extension
- Partnerships to aid in granting services
- County Voice producer group



AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION – Build community capacity with the scientific and practical knowledge needed for the raising of plants and animals for food, fiber, and other products to sustain livelihoods and lifestyles

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Address current agricultural priorities with the timely extension of relevant best management practices in accordance with municipal responsibilities under provincial legislation.
- 2) Promote the stewardship of the County's natural resources and the environment in the process of food production.
- 3) Nurture the diversification of the agricultural industry by delivering pertinent extension materials.
- 4) Foster urban agriculture by facilitating the development of the necessary infrastructure and the promotion and delivery of educational content to increase the skills of residents.
- 5) Consider agriculture as a primary user group in infrastructure planning, management, and upgrades within agricultural areas to sustain continued production and delivery to markets.

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION – Build community capacity with the scientific and practical knowledge needed for the raising of plants and animals for food, fiber, and other products to sustain livelihoods and lifestyles

Innovative Practices in Action

- “From Soil to Supper” agriculture e-newsletter
- Agriculture extension events
- Community Garden Program
- School Garden Program
- Green Acreages

Supportive Tools in Action

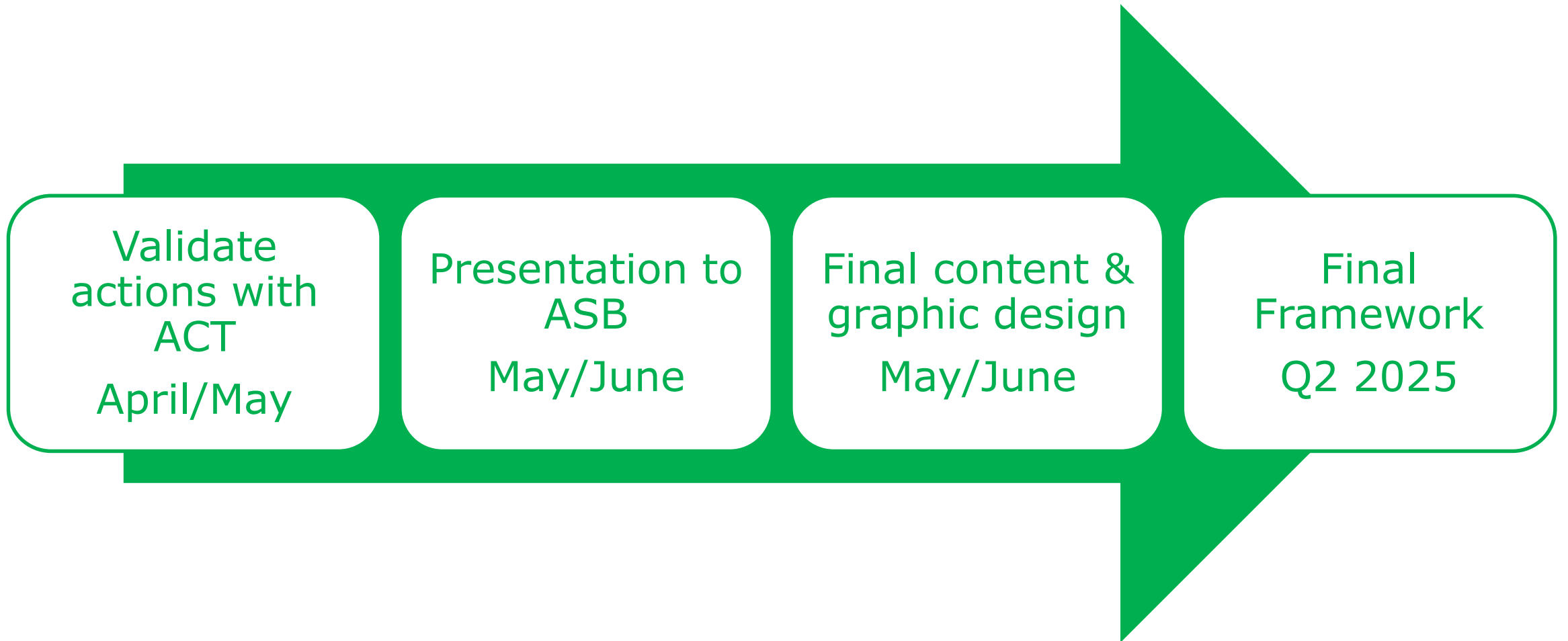
- ASBA Grant Program
- Environmental Framework
- Climate Resilience Plan
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw
- Agriculture & Food Sector Development Strategy
- Tourism Strategy
- Urban Agriculture Strategy

Strategic Initiatives to Consider

- Agriculture extension videos
- Clean Energy Improvement Program for agriculture buildings
- Partnerships to deliver agriculture extension
- Update Strathcona.ca for grant funding



Next steps to approval



Next Steps to Implementation



Thank you! Questions?

"Food in our mouths is the thread that connects us in relationship simultaneously spiritual and physical, as our bodies get fed and our spirits nourished by a sense of belonging, which is the most vital of foods."

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, author The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World

