



# Irrigation Expansion in Alberta

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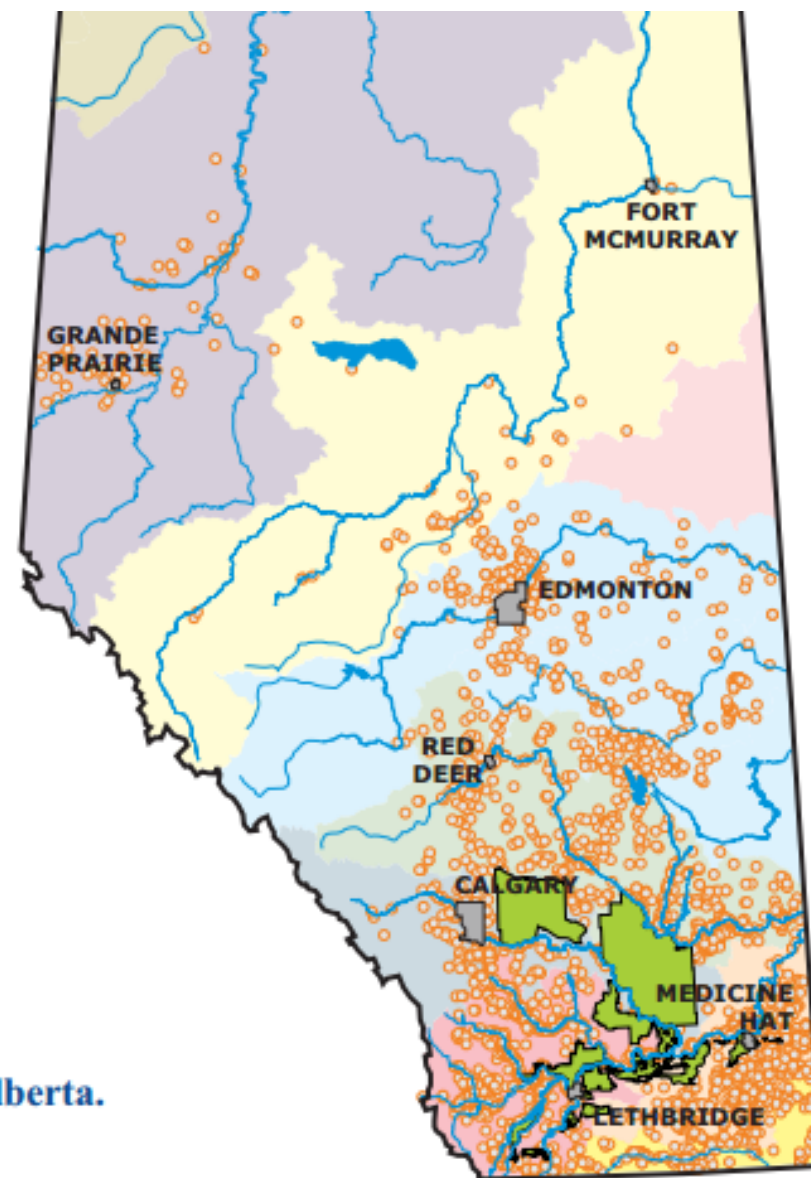
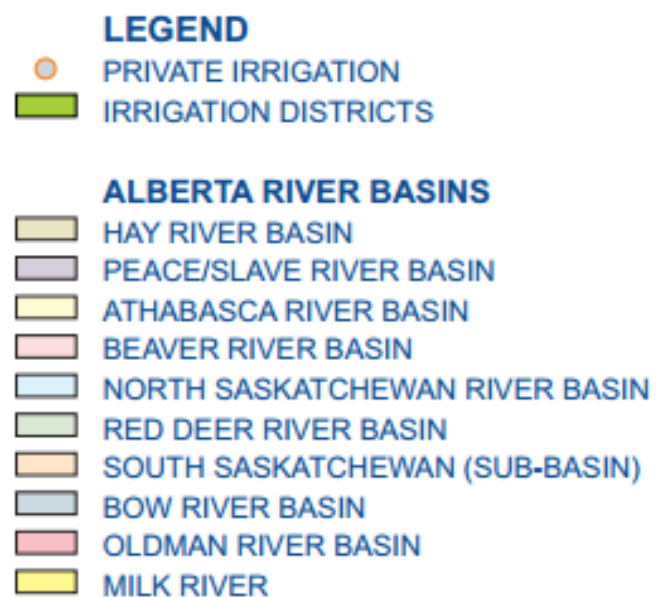
Irrigated Crop Production Update, Lethbridge, January 2018



➡ Private irrigator

➡ Irrigation District irrigator

**Can I Expand?**



**Figure 1. Location of irrigated areas in Alberta.**





## ➡ Private irrigator - Pat

## ➡ Irrigation District - Doug

1. Cost?

➡ Equipment & installation

➡ Delivery works

➡ Capital construction charge

➡ Capital asset charge

2. Access?

3. Is my land suitable for irrigation?

4. Can I get a water licence ?

4. Can I get irrigation acres?

## “Is my land irrigable?”

- Landowner must obtain land classification
- Accredited agrologist
- 6 Land Classes
  - Class 1-4 irrigable

## **Standards for the Classification of Land for Irrigation in the Province of Alberta**



## Pat – “Can I get a water licence?”

– Alberta Environment & Parks

**Alberta**  **Government** **Application under the *Water Act* for Approvals and/or Licences**

This application form is for activities regulated under the *Water Act*.

The Crown claims ownership of the bed and shore of all permanent and naturally occurring bodies under Section 3(1) of the Public Lands Act.

A License of Occupation under the Public Lands Act is required for permanent occupation of public land.

Check one or more of the following to indicate type of application

Licence for Diversion of Water <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal of Diversion Licence <input type="checkbox"/>	Approval for Constructing Works <input type="checkbox"/>
Licence Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>	Approval Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary Certificate Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>

Water Act File No. (for amendments or renewals)



Pat – “Can I get a water licence?”

**May be** possible:

1. New licence
2. Licence transfer – another licensee
3. Licence amendment – own licence



Pat – “Can I apply for a new water licence?”

**Yes**

- Oldman Reservoir area
- Pine Coulee Reservoir area
- Willow Creek downstream
- Red Deer River Sub-basin

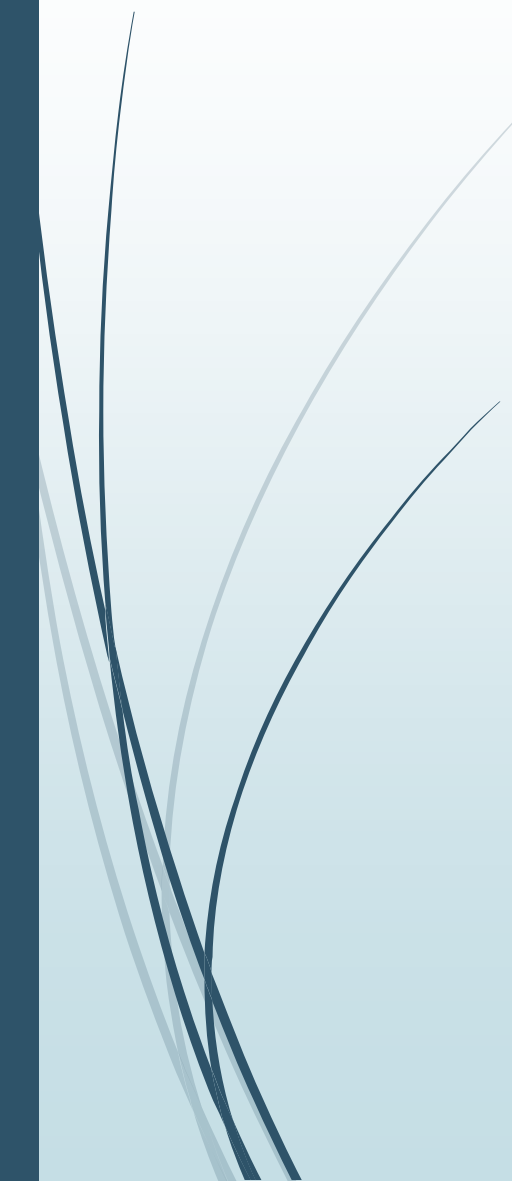
**No**

- Milk River Basin
- Oldman River Sub-basin
- Bow River Sub-basin





## Pat – “What else will I need?”

1. **Land classification** - suitable for irrigation
  2. **Ag feasibility report** - water per acre
  3. **Plan** – map
- 



## Irrigation District - Doug – “Can I expand?”

- Apply to district to add irrigation acres
- District must consider:
  1. Land is suitable for irrigation
  2. District conveyance works capacity
  3. Land drainage suitable (if required)
  4. District expansion limit acres

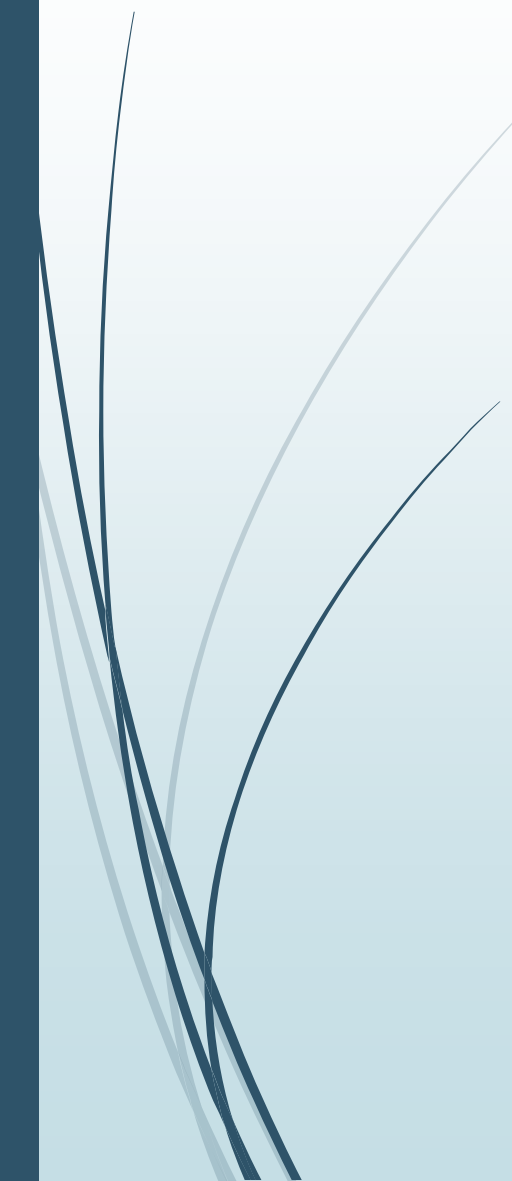
## Irrigation District – increasing the expansion limit

### **Requires plebiscite and approval by district irrigators**


1. Interest from producers?
2. Change in risk of a water shortage?
3. Capacity within district's water licence(s)?
4. Can infrastructure deliver water to more acres?
- ➡ 5. Water saved due to improved efficiency?
- ➡ 6. What does the future hold?



# Irrigation Districts

- 
1. Current expansion limit
  2. Acres available
  3. Capital asset charge
  4. Possible expansion limit increase?





Thank you :

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

**Rod Bennett**

**Ted Harms**

**Beau Hay**

**Bonnie Hofer**

**Derek Nalder**

**Lawrence Schinkel**

**Shelley Woods**

Irrigation Districts

**Managers**

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**Donna McColl**