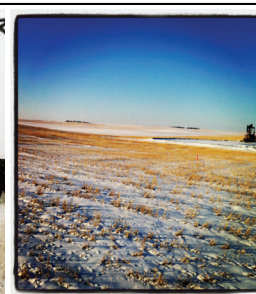
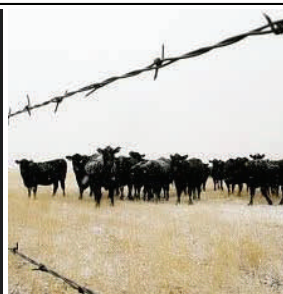


The Municipal Agricultural Connection

Hi, my name is Tanis Ponath and I am your new Asst. Agricultural Fieldman for the M.D. of Wainwright. I am from Cochrane, AB where I grew up on a mix grain and cattle farm. I was a member of 4-H for 6 years and competed in high school rodeo. From there I completed my diploma in Environmental Conservation and Reclamation from Lakeland College. I am looking forward to what this year has to offer. Any questions please feel free to contact me at 780-842-4454.



Partners in Rural Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca



Watering Livestock in Winter



Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter or municipal meeting? Suggestions to Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Tanis Ponath, asb@mdwainwright.ca or 780-842-4454

Growing Forward Update

As of November 28, 2014 the On-Farm Stewardship Program made changes to the funding list and applications for the following projects can no longer be submitted:

- Portable shelters and wind-breaks
- Improved manure storage
- Fuel storage
- Chemical handling systems
- Auto boom height
- Low-drift nozzles

If you have applied for any of these projects, program staff will communicate with applicants about the status on there applications.

When old man winter arrives, keeping access to fresh clean water for livestock can pose a difficult problem. Constantly unthawing water troughs and chipping ice can be strenuous and time consuming. Installing the right watering system can save time and money. There are two systems out there that are making headway, they are the solar power systems and the frost free nose pumps.

The solar power system works off a motion detector, when cattle come up to drink it activates the pump, once the cattle have finished and left, the pump shuts off. It can run off a shallow well from a dugout which is

beneficial so the water does not have to be pumped very far. There is a 3 ft cribbing that goes down into the well with a tub at the top which collects the water. If there is



any water left in the tub once the cows have left, it will run back down into the well to prevent anything from freezing.

Another system is the frost free nose pumps. These run off a vertical culvert that runs

off a nearby dugout. A cylinder with a piston runs up and down in the culvert. When the cows push the leaver water gets pumped up to a tub that sits on top of the culvert. When the

cattle are done drinking any left over water gets drained out of the tub, this prevents anything from freezing.

These systems take away the need to use a dugout to water livestock. Which can have adverse effects like freezing over and the possibilities of losing animals if they where to ever fall through.

For more information on solar water systems contact Kelln Solar at info@kellnsolar.com, and more information about frost free nose pumps contact Jim, Jeff or Jackie Anderson at info@frostfreenosepumps.com

Keeping a Lookout for Rats

Its always important to be aware if you have a rat infestation, here are a few signs to take note of :

- since gophers are in hibernation, if you see any tracks coming in and out from under grain bins and accompanied by a long tail drag mark.
- There holes are 2.5 inches, round, with no debris.
- There excrement is approximately 3/4 inches long



- If you notice any grease marks on ice, especially around corners

- They like places that are still warm, so take notice when moving bales, tracks or tunnels.

For more information or if you think you have a rodent problem please contact Rod Gabrielson at 780-842-7285.

The "IN's" and "OUT's" of Swath Grazing

This is the time of year where livestock producers have to start feeding cattle. Some producers choose to feed hay while others utilize a method called swath grazing.

Cereals planted mid May to June are usually ready for harvest August to mid September. You want to cut swaths when the crop reaches the soft to late dough stage and before the frost. Swaths should lay on top of stubble and be as narrow and deep as possible.

Barley and oats are the most common crops used. Researchers and producers have found that high yielding grain varieties increased forage yields. The quality of your swaths can also be enhanced by late maturing forage varieties. For barley a smooth awned variety is preferred because rough awns can become lodge in the cattle's mouths and cause lump jaw. More information on crop selection can be found at www.agric.gov.ab.ca



As far as fertilizing your fields, normal rates that you would use for grain crops are adequate for your swath grazing program. Good management practices suggest to get your soil tested in the spring to ensure that all nutrients requirements are being met. Nitrate accumulation however can become a problem. Farmer should be conscious about previous activities on that field. Properly rotating fields that are used for swath grazing can also decrease nutrient accumulation.

Swath grazing your herd can reduce production costs up to 40%. It reduces feed costs because you are not using up your hay supply. It eliminates cost for corral cleaning in the spring, manure handling/spreading costs, and feed handling. It reduces that cost and time needed during harvesting forage and machinery use for handling feed and manure.

Most of the time your livestock can meet all

of their energy requirements just on swath grazing alone. However, they should have a body condition score of 2.5-3. For body condition scoring please check out www.foragebeef.ca under Management. Caution should be taken with cows with calves, young cows, and thin cows. They may need to be given access to grain/supplement or extra feed these cold winter days. Livestock need adequate access to clean water and shelter.

Some problems that can arise from swath grazing:

- Making sure swaths are big enough (20-25ft wide) to reduce wastage
- If a mature cereal crop needs to be salvaged through swath grazing special attention needs to be given to prevent grain overload. Cows will focus on eating mature heads first, therefore, access should be limited at the time of initial grazing.
- Cattle are notorious for only eating certain parts of swaths and leaving the rest, to minimize this fence off certain parts and only increase the area once they have eaten the rest.
- Disturbed swaths before cattle are put in can decrease forage value. Elk and deer are most commonly the culprits.
- Cattle can normally graze through 2ft of snow, however when snow becomes hard crusted, windswept, and icy it will cause difficulty for them to access it. Driving over the swath with

a tractor is one way to break up the snow.

Interested in anymore information go to the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development website and search " swath grazing".

Feed Testing

Feed testing is important because it allows producers to make informed decisions regarding management and increase animal performance in the winter months. It also determines nutrient deficiency and other factors that can cause health problems in your livestock.

What you test for depends on what kind of feed you have:

- Hay and greenfeed should be tested for dry matter, crude protein, acid/neutral detergent fibre, calcium, potassium, phosphorus, and magnesium.
- If any foraged where under stress during the growing season, its good to have a nitrate test completed.
- Silage should be tested the same as hay/greenfeed. In addition to a pH test should be completed. pH determines how well it was ensiled. A pH lower than 5 usually indicates its fermented.

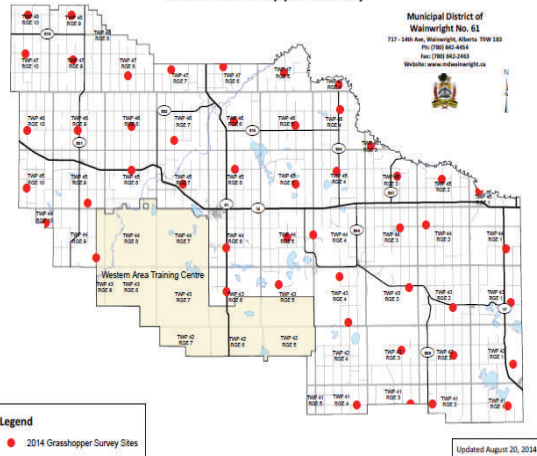
For more information please contact Alberta Ag-Info Center at 310-FARM.



2014 M.D Surveys

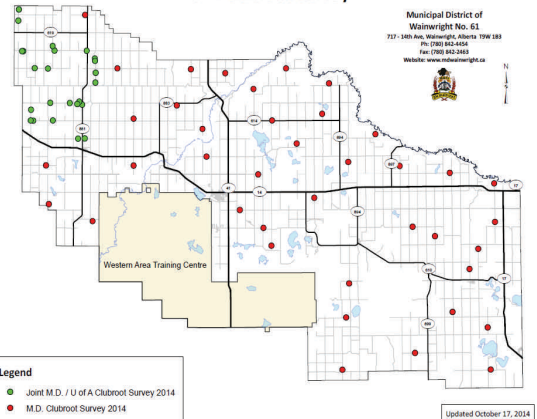
Christmas Baking

2014 Grasshopper Survey



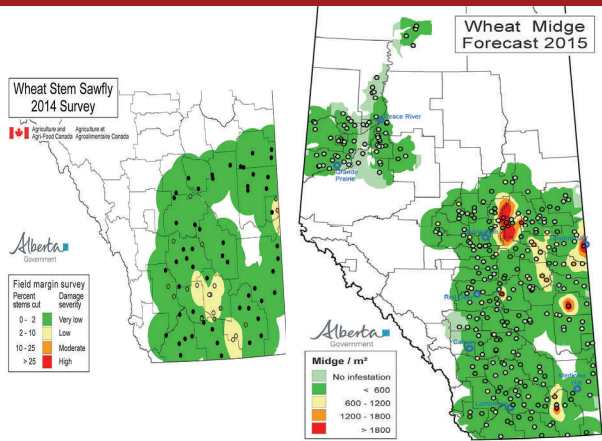
The information collected from the 2014 grasshopper survey will be used to determine the grasshopper forecast for 2015

2014 Clubroot Survey



No clubroot was detected from the 2014 surveys.

2015 Forecasts for Wheat Midge and Wheat Stem Sawfly



Fudge Puddles

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 3/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

flour mixture into the cream mixture,

- Shape dough into small balls, 1 inch in size. Place each ball in a mini muffin tin
- Bake for 14-16 mins until lightly browned. Use a bottle cap to create a well immediately after coming out of the oven
- To make the filling, put chocolate chips into a double boiler. Once melted, stir in milk, vanilla and mix well.
- Once cups have cooled fill each shell with chocolate mixture.

Directions

- Preheat oven to 325 degrees
- Sift together flour, baking soda and salt
- Cream butter, peanut butter, white and brown sugar. Mix in egg and 1/2 tsp of vanilla. Stir



“FUSARIUM” Update

Fusarium is increasingly becoming a problem with Alberta grain producers. It is a prohibited pest under Alberta’s Agriculture Pests Act and it is illegal to sell, distribute or use seed that has been infected. With more fields becoming subjected to infection the ability to move seed has decreased. This has caused some tension with farmers and they are pushing to have some tolerance when it comes to the disease. However, as of now there still has been no change in the regulations. So we still want to remind farmers that they cannot seed infested seed and to install best management practices to limit the spread in our area. In addition to, we encourage farmers to get their seed tested to provide them with the right information. Another route that you may want to investigate is getting your seed treated. All of these are preventative measures to help curb this invasive crop disease. For more information on the disease or best management practices you can visit the Alberta Agriculture and Rural development website at <http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca>.



Keeping your Furry Friends Comfortable this Winter

In the winter time out furry friends may need some extra attention to ensure they comfortable during the winter months.

- Before the snow blows its good to repair all shelters and barns, and also make sure that livestock have access to these shelters.
- Livestock use more energy in the winter months to keep warm, having access to good quality feed at all times helps them produce the energy they need.
- Livestock that need more fat and protein may need to be feed ex-

tra grain and supplements to meet there energy demands

- Livestock need access to clean drinking water, horses that stop drinking or do not have an adequate supply may be subject to colic.
- Winter months for many people mean giving your equine partner a break from riding, but it is still important to exercise them some to keep them healthy.



BSE Surveillance is Everyone's Responsibility: Do your Part



Test me for BSE

Help keep Alberta beef markets open by supporting BSE surveillance.

Contact your veterinarian to assess and collect samples from eligible cattle for BSE testing.



Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Call 310-FARM (3276) www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bse