

**JANUARY 2014**

**Volume 8, Issue 1**

**Municipal District of Wainwright No.61**

**The Municipal Agricultural Connection**



**Partners in Rural Conservation**  
[www.mdwainwright.ca](http://www.mdwainwright.ca)



Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter or municipal meeting? Suggestions to Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Aimee Leggett "Aimee and her cat Poundcake"  
[asb@mdwainwright.ca](mailto:asb@mdwainwright.ca) or 780-842-4454

**PORTABLE WINDBREAK, CALF SHELTERS  
 \$10,000 AVAILABLE COST SHARE, NEED EFP**

**Klassen Cattle Equipment**  
 780-205-4945



Contact program coordinator before making purchases.

Need a completed Environmental Farm Plan.



**\$10,000 available at 50% cost share!**

120 feet of windbreak per 100 cows, at 30ft length = 4 windbreaks.



**Agronomy Update  
 January 14 & 15 2014  
 Sheraton Red Deer Hotel**

A two-day conference for grain producers, crop advisors and industry partners to interface with leading agricultural scientists about relevant soils and crops issues



**Registration Procedure:** **Conference fee:**  
 Phone: 1-800-387-6030 Individual: \$140.00  
 Fax: 403-742-7527 \$160.00 after Dec 31, 2013

**FarmTech™** Jan 28-30, 2014

**Register Now!**  
 Book early, space is limited

Register before **January 10<sup>th</sup>** and save up to **\$210**

FarmTech is Canada's premier crop production and farm management conference.

The dates for FarmTech 2014 are January 28, 29 & 30 at the Edmonton EXPO Centre at Northlands. 1-866-327-6832

ELIGIBLE ACTIONS/ITEMS	INELIGIBLE ACTIONS/ITEMS
Construction materials and supplies for portable windbreaks/shelters	Annual maintenance and repair costs
In-kind labour (\$25/hr). NOTE: Costs are eligible to a maximum of 120 feet per 100 cows	Permanent shelters and windbreaks
Alberta Ag-Info Centre: 403-310-3276 Diana Bingham: 780-632-5487	In-kind costs associated with use of welder
• You must be an active producer operating in Alberta	Purchase of welder or welding materials
• You must have completed an Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)	Costs for transportation and moving of shelters and windbreaks
• You must submit a copy of your EFP Certificate or Letter of Completion along with your Application	Any type of feed bunks/feed storage
	Portable livestock corral panels

Properly placed portable shelters and windbreaks help minimize the impact of livestock on the environment by reducing livestock density and spreading out feeding and bedding areas in the winter months. This approach decreases manure nutrient build-up and protects water sources and sensitive areas.

**\*CHECK YOUR BINS FOR GRAIN HEATING\***

# M.D. of WAINWRIGHT PEST FINDINGS 2013

<u>Bertha Army Worm Moth Counts in 2013</u> <i>(half count indicates the average of 2 traps at same location) Cumulative moth catch count 0 to 300 indicates a "Low" risk level.</i>					23-Jun-2013 thru 29-Jun-2013	30-Jun-2013 thru 06-Jul-2013	07-Jul-2013 thru 13-Jul-2013	14-Jul-2013 thru 20-Jul-2013	21-Jul-2013 thru 27-Jul-2013	28-Jul-2013 thru 03-Aug-2013	2013 BAW trap totals
LLD											
NE	36	45	8	W4	34	121	145	23	7	13	343
SE	10	46	9	W4	64	81	84	20	5	9	263
SW	21	45	8	W4	0	47	41	NA	NA	NA	88
SW	2	45	9	W4	13	43	19.5	24.5	1	6	107
SW	28	45	4	W4	10	49	57	46	5	6.5	173.5
NE	36	46	2	W4	0.5	55	51	29.5	27	4	167

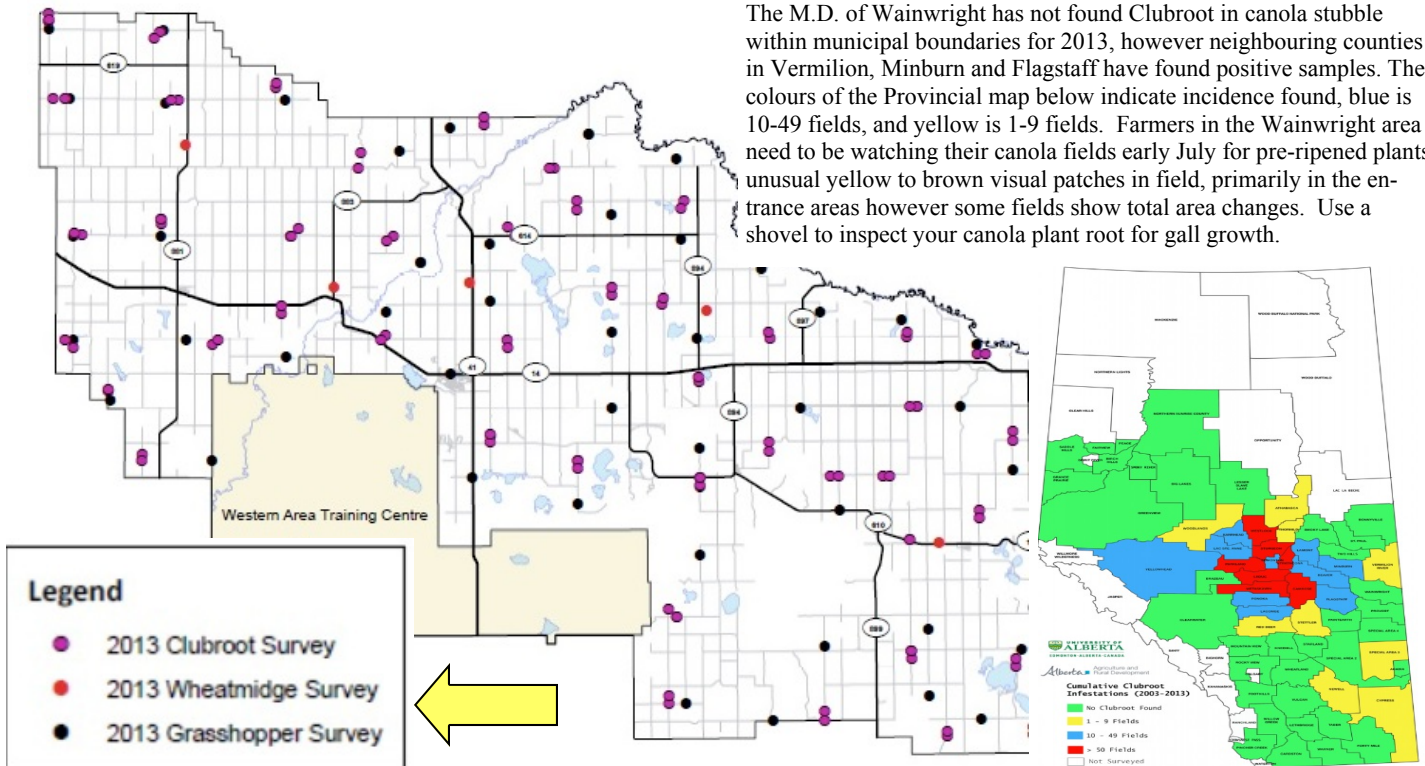
## Wheat Midge soil sample washes 2013

Larvae remain within the top 2 inches of soil, but some may burrow 4" below the soil surface. The larvae spin round cocoons that are about half the size of a canola seed. Over-wintering larvae may remain dormant until conditions are favourable for development, whether that is the following spring or several years later. These soil samples are taken from the top 7-8" of soil, at 7 random spots within the wheat stubble fields.

Qtr	Section	Township	Range	Meridian	Viable	Not Viable	Parasites	Total Midge
SE	32	45	6	4	1	0	0	1
NW	22	45	4	4	0	0	0	0
SW	14	43	2	4	0	0	0	0
NE	25	45	8	4	0	0	0	0
SE	10	47	9	4	0	0	0	0

## Clubroot, canola stubble field checks 2013

The M.D. of Wainwright has not found Clubroot in canola stubble within municipal boundaries for 2013, however neighbouring counties in Vermilion, Minburn and Flagstaff have found positive samples. The colours of the Provincial map below indicate incidence found, blue is 10-49 fields, and yellow is 1-9 fields. Farmers in the Wainwright area need to be watching their canola fields early July for pre-ripened plants, unusual yellow to brown visual patches in field, primarily in the entrance areas however some fields show total area changes. Use a shovel to inspect your canola plant root for gall growth.





Wayne Steiger a vet at Diamond Valley Clinic says there's some things they have to do to prepare for a smooth calving season. "The cows are moved off of normal feeding areas into calving areas that are cleaned up so calves aren't being exposed to a lot of viruses and bacteria," says Steiger.

This time of the year can often bring very cold



weather which can cause frozen ears and tails for newborn calves. "But if calves are born with a lot of shelter and bedding they don't usually have problems with frozen ears and tails," states Steiger. Ranchers have to make sure that their cows are well bedded and have shelter. Also start checking once every few days, but when they start it might average to three times a day. Some signs that a cow is going to calve is if it's starting to bag up and become loose in the hind end. "You can usually predict if a cow is going to calve within that week," says Steiger. Newborn calves are usually moved after a few days to a different area to prevent successive calves transferring sickness.

### Caramel Popcorn

**INGREDIENTS:**  
 1 cup butter  
 2 cups brown sugar  
 1/2 cup corn syrup  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 5 quarts popped popcorn

**DIRECTIONS:**  
 Prep Time: 30 Minutes Cook Time: 1 Hour Ready In: 1 Hour 30 Minutes Servings: 20

1. Preheat oven to 250 degrees F (95 degrees C). Place popcorn in a very large bowl.
2. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar, corn syrup and salt. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil without stirring 4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in soda and vanilla. Pour in a thin stream over popcorn, stirring to coat.
3. Place in two large shallow baking dishes and bake in preheated oven, stirring every 15 minutes, for 1 hour. Remove from oven and let cool completely before breaking into pieces.

## A GRAIN MARKETING DECISION TOOL

Farmers are faced with more pricing and marketing alternatives than ever before. Should they spot price? Hedge? Forward contract? Lock in basis? There are many alternatives available, and properly used they can help manage price risk. However, farmers must know when and how to use each one.

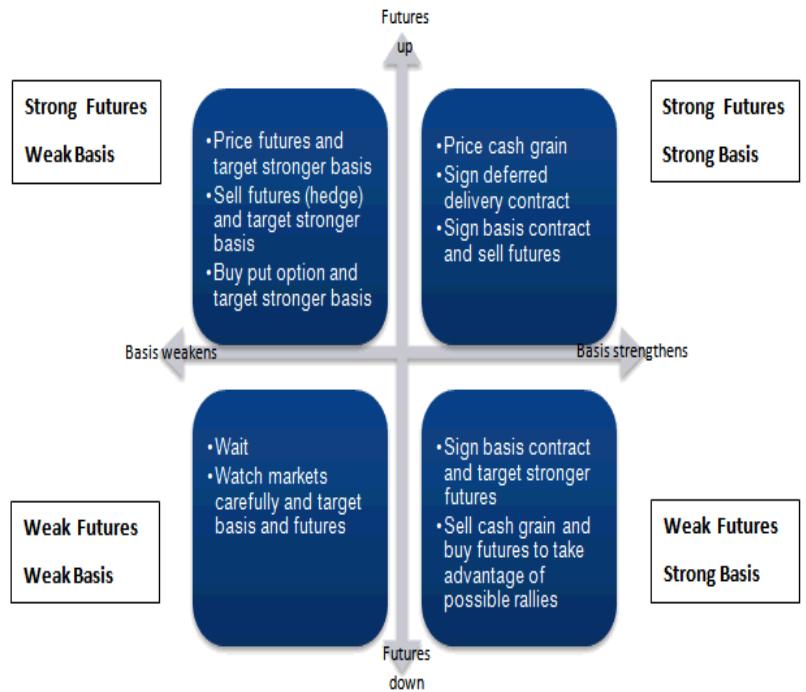
There are a considerable number of pricing and delivery alternatives for marketing crops on the open market. Farmers must assess all of these marketing alternatives to make sound crop marketing decisions. Marketing alternatives and signals may be different when making marketing decisions about binned crop (where you have full information) and crop that's still growing in the field (where there is still uncertainty about yield, quality, and grade), for price discovery.

The decision grid helps to analyze prices and breaks these prices down to their component parts – futures and basis.

The **futures price** is the price that is traded on futures markets. A strong futures price is one that is high or higher than expected under current circumstances. This doesn't mean the futures price is at, near, or above historical highs.

The **basis** is the difference between the near futures price and the local cash price. A strong (narrow) basis means the cash price is high relative to the futures market. This usually means local supplies are limited or that local demand is strong. A weak (widening) basis means the cash price is low relative to the futures market. This signals weakening local demand or over supply in the local market.

As a marketer develops experience over time, they are able to determine what are historically strong or weak futures prices and basis. This decision grid can be used to choose your marketing tools based on what you expect to happen with the futures price and basis. First let's look at the decision grid, starting with 'strong futures, weak basis.' This is a signal to take action on the strong futures price and to wait for better basis. One way to do this is to sell deferred futures and store your grain. A second way to do this is to buy a put option, which sets a minimum price at which you may sell your grain. Brokers charge a premium on the purchase options, so you only make a net gain if prices go down more than you paid for the option. Now, let's look at 'strong futures, strong basis.' This is a signal to price cash grain or



sign a deferred delivery contract to lock in the good basis and futures price. Alternatively, you may want to sign a basis contract and sell futures. This also allows you to lock in a good basis price and take advantage of later increases in futures prices.

Next, let's look at 'weak futures, weak basis.' This scenario often occurs right after harvest, when many farmers are looking to sell and storage may be filling up. This is a signal to store your grain and keep a close eye on the markets for opportunities. Wait for basis and futures price to improve.

Finally, let's look at 'weak futures, strong basis.' If futures prices are lower than expected, but local buyers are still bidding on deliveries, basis may be strong. A good approach here is to sell your grain for cash prices to take advantage of the strong basis. While selling grain you can also purchase futures or a call option to take advantage of any rally in the futures price. Alternatively, you could sign a basis contract to lock in the favourable basis price. Finally, waiting it out is always an alternative.

# You are what you *drink*

## WAINWRIGHT:

Jan. 23, 7:00-9:30pm  
Communiplex (Hall 2)

CHAUVIN, RIBSTONE, EDGERTON, HEATH, GILT-EDGE, GREENSHEILDS, WAINWRIGHT, FAYBAN, PASHENDALE & IRMA AREAS, COM' ON OUT!

What sources of water do you rely on?

What risks might impact the

### WATER QUALITY & WATER QUANTITY?

Source water protection is all about protecting our drinking water at the "source" - both the groundwater that flows beneath our feet and the surface water that flows through our rivers and streams.

Join us to learn more about opportunities for source water protection in your region.

**Plan to attend! Workshops are free, pre-registration is appreciated.**

**Call 780-672-0276 or email [sarah@battleriverwatershed.ca](mailto:sarah@battleriverwatershed.ca)**

Can't make it out? Visit [www.battleriverwatershed.ca](http://www.battleriverwatershed.ca) to learn more about this important topic and contact us to share your thoughts.



JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW  
TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Farmers, Acreage Owners,  
Rural People & Urban folks!  
*If you drink water, you should attend!*



## WHEN IS THE GRADER COMING?

With the winter months and variable snow fall, people who live in the municipality sometimes find themselves "snowed-in" their yards. This occurrence is something to be prepared for when living out of town.

In the event of a major winter storm, the M.D. of Wainwright snow removal crews shall strive to have all roads referred to in "Subsection (a)" cleared of snow within a 72 hour time period after the end of the storm. The exception to this would be private driveways.

### **(a) Order of Priority for Snowplowing:**

i.) Medical reasons requiring hospitalization or doctor's

care, and for funerals.

ii.) School Bus Routes and School Bus Turn

Around as provided by local School Divisions.

iii.) Hamlets in the M.D. of Wainwright including multi-lot subdivisions.

iv.) All other roads in the

M.D. of Wainwright. Snowplowing will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes motor grader backtracking or excessive travel.

v.) Winging snow from shoulders and other maintenance will have secondary priority and may be done on 2nd pass.

vi.) Private Driveways and approaches may be done in coordination with winging. A Permission to Enter and Hold Blameless form (Schedule PW4)

**MUST BE SIGNED PRIOR TO ENTERING YARD FOR SNOWPLOWING.**

vii.) The Wainwright Airport runway as requested.

For more information, please contact the municipal Public Works Shop, Director of Transportation at 780-842-4024.

