June 2015

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*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*

**Farmer's Day**

June 11, 2015 at the Edgerton Ag Grounds form 9-4 Speakers include Neil Blue from AB Ag, and Carol Goodfellow addressing Land Owners Rights

$20.00 Dollars per person, to register please contact Becky Pedersen at (780)-842-7142 or pedersenlivestock@yahoo.ca



Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

# The Municipal Agricultural Connection

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

***Partners in Rural Conservation***
***www.mdwainwright.ca***

# The Magic Beans

Faba Beans are a relatively new crop to Alberta, each year more and more acres are being planted to this legume. There is still lots to learn about how the crop grows in our climate, however, as each growing season passes more info is being collected.

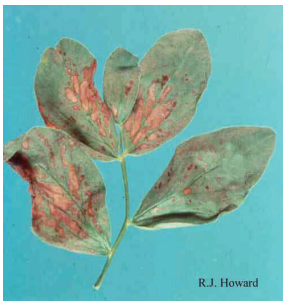
Recently they are finding that the crop is extremely sensitive to herbicide residues. Faba beans can be used as an indicator crop in some areas to test for herbicide residue in the soil. They are unaware just how sensitive the crop is and special attention needs to be taken because the plants growth rate could be affected depending on what has been sprayed in the past.

In addition to being herbicide sensitive, the crop also needs specific growing conditions. It is susceptible to heat and needs adequate moisture throughout the season. Frost and freezing temperature can become a concern because of the large seeds and their high moisture content. If the plant does freeze it causes the seed to turn black. This creates a concern because they do not know how lower quality seed will affect the market.

There is also certain crop diseases that affect this crop, sclerotinia, chocolate spot, ascocyta, and anthracnose. Scouting your fields throughout the growing season in conjunction with a good rotation can help keep these diseases controlled.


Ascocyta


Anthracnose




Chocolate Spot


Sclerotinia

There are also many positives that come from planting faba beans. They are the highest nitrogen fixing crop that is planted in Alberta. Producers have been planting this crop in fields where nitrogen is low to help increase the levels. They have found that in conjunction with a cereal rotation it has increased positive effects. Cereal crops that are planted after faba beans have an increase in protein. In addition, faba bean residue breaks down slower than other legumes such as peas, therefore, the benefits can be seen up to 2 years after planting. Since this crop can tolerate higher amounts of moisture they are a beneficial crop to plant in wetter areas.

# The Invasions of Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Alberta's lakes and streams are becoming increasingly at risk from the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species Zebra and Quagga Mussels. They are making there way west from the Great Lakes where they have established on majority of there major lakes and streams. Zebra and Quagga mussels are an invasive fresh water mussel from Eurasia, the reason they are so invasive is female mussels can produce up to 1 million eggs in a year and are highly adaptable. These two species of mussels are very similar except Quagga mussels have the ability to survive in colder deeper waters which make them a threat to our provinces lakes. Here are a few of the negative effects associated with this species once they have established in a water system:

- Clog intake/out take structures
- They are able to filter water (up to 1L per day) to such an extent that there is no food available for other species
- Filtering the water causes it to become clearer allowing for deeper penetration of sunlight, which will cause increased plant growth such as algae blooms which can be harmful to humans, wildlife , and fish
- Filtering a large volume of water through there bodies increases the amount of accumulated toxins in there body. This makes them toxic to birds, fish and other animals that may feed on them
- Large colonies of these mussels will attach and grow on anything which affects spawning areas for fish
- Swimmers are at risk for cuts from there hard shells
- It is nearly impossible to eradicate this species once they have had a chance to establish

It is very important that we take steps to ensure that we do not bring this species to Alberta waterways, any equipment used for water activities are at risk for transporting the mussels due to their ability to attach themselves to any surface. Mud, weeds, and water can also transport their eggs. There are a few steps that can be taken to decrease their possible spread:

- Inspect all equipment, remove any plants, animals, mud, and dispose on dry land or in the garbage
- Drain all water on land
- Do not release live bate
- Remove all organisms that you cannot see by pressure washing equipment with hot water, then let dry out in the hot sun for a few days

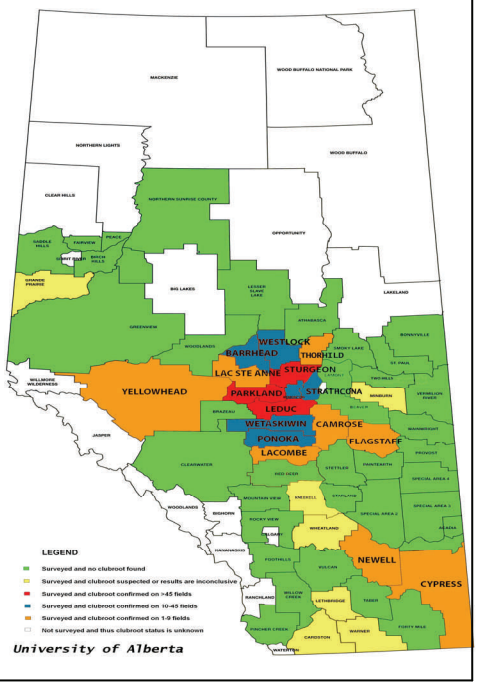
For more information, or if you have spotted these mussels please call 1-855-336-2628

Quagga Mussel

Zebra Mussel

# New Clubroot Pathotypes a Threat to Canola Growers

The dangers of new resistant clubroot pathotypes is becoming more and more prevalent each year. Studies have been compiled and new data has shown that resistant varieties of canola are no longer effective control against new clubroot pathotypes. It is suggested that producers in "hot spot" areas develop a good management plan to act as a defence against new pathotypes. The best line of defence is the 4 year rotation for canola. Producers are at an increased risk if they have used resistant canola 2-3 times on fields that has moderate to high clubroot infestations. These fields are at risk for housing multiple type of clubroot pathotypes. In addition to a strategic rotation plan cleaning equipment before you move from a field to another is a good defence mechanism. Approximately 90% of clubroot spore movement between fields can be eliminated through sanitation.




# All About Them Bugs!!!

Its that time of year again when producers are itching to get out into the fields! This also marks the time when the M.D. of Wainwright begins its pest monitoring program. This year we will be surveying Bertha Army Worms, Diamond Back Moths, Swede Midge, and Wheat Midge.

The diamond back traps have already been deployed at a single site near Edgerton, so far we have had only a few reported numbers. These bugs arrive on an yearly basis and the level of infestations can vary, we use these traps as an early warning system to determine when they have arrived in our area and if there is potential for an infestation.

Bertha Army Worm traps are deployed in June in two separate locations, one near Edgerton and one near Irma. The taps are big green buckets. Each week the numbers are counted and these numbers are used to determine if a heavy infestation of larvae is yet to come.

This is the second season that we will be conducting a Swede Midge survey. Our survey will be conducted in one location near Irma. Swede Midge affects canola before flowering, once full flowering has occurred there is no more threat from Swede Midge. Each week the cards are collected from the traps and sent to Saskatoon for proper identification of the insect.

Wheat Midge is our last survey that is conducted. The survey is not conducted until the fall when soil samples can be taken and sent away for analysis.

# Cooks Corner

## King Ranch Chicken Mac & Cheese

**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 package of pasta
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 1 medium onion diced
- 1 green bell pepper diced
- 1 can of rotel diced tomatoes
- 1 (8-oz) Package of Velveeta cheese cubed
- 3 cups of cubed cooked chicken
- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon of chilli powder
- 1 cup of shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup of Monterey jack cheese
- 1/2 cup crushed Doritos chips

**Instructions:**

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Melt butter in pan and add onion, bell pepper and cook for 5 minutes
- Still in rotel tomatoes and Velveeta cheese. Cook and stir constantly until cheese has melted.
- Mix in chicken, cream of chicken soup, chilli powder and cumin.
- Add pasta and half of both cheddar cheese and Monterey cheese
- Transfer to a casserole dish and add the remaining cheese and Doritos chips on top
- Cook for 25-30 mins or until bubbly

**Just a reminder, the M.D. of Wainwright spray program is commencing June 1st and will go until completed. Road side mowing will begin on July 15, 2015 and will go until August 31, 2015. If you have any questions please call James Schwindt at 780-842-4454.**

# Update On Growing Forward

Most of the funding for Growing Forward has been released and with that a majority of the programs have opened and are taking applications.

A Few Friendly Reminders:

- An EFP is required if you are applying for any funding under the On Farm Stewardship program.
- You must complete a " Long Term Water Management Plan" before applying for any funding under the On Farm Water Management program.
- You can receive updates through a specific program by clicking subscribe on the right hand side of the page and it will send you updates by email.
- The programs that have not yet opened are Animal Health Bio-security Producer, and Livestock Welfare Producer. These programs allowed funding for stock trailers, and squeeze chutes respectively.

As always, if you are interested in completing an Environmental Farm Plan or have any questions regarding Growing Forward Programs please call me at (780)842-2254.

# Prohibited Noxious Weeds in the M.D.

## Showcasing: Knapweed, Hoary Alyssum, and Nodding Thistle

### Big Head Knapweed

This weed is a perennial that reproduces by seed. It has a woody taproot, with broad lance shaped leaves. There leaves have pointed tips, are covered in hair and large in size. It can grow to be 1.5m tall and has large yellow flowers with fringed brackets below the flowers.

### Spotted Knapweed

This weed has a large taproot and can grow up to 1.5m tall. The base of the plant forms a rosette of leaves that are deeply divided into narrow segments. The plant is covered in a layer of woolly hair that resembles a cobweb. This plant contains a chemical which makes it unpalatable to livestock, however, it is not poisonous just bitter tasting.

### Diffuse Knapweed

Leaves are feathery looking in appearance. This plant forms a long taproot and leaves form a rosette at the base of the plant. Has similar characteristics as spotted knapweed except for flower colour being white and has spinney brackets below the flower.

### Nodding Thistle

This weed resembles Canada Thistle, just supersized compared to it. It has a long tap root, and its large purple heads face towards the ground. This weed is predominantly found around the Irma area.

### Hoary Alyssum

This weed has been seen taking over pastures around the Chauvin area. This weed is commonly mistaken for white common yarrow however you will notice that is has 1/4" round seed casings. When these casing open they have approximately 8+ seeds dispersed . This weed is poisonous to horses.

### Scentless Chamomile

This weed is only labelled as a Noxious Weed, it is however found around the M.D. and steps should be taken to eradicate the weed. There white flower resembles that of ox-eye daisy but has fern like leaves that are highly branched, glossy, and scentless. Its life span can vary from annual, to biennial, or short lived perennial depending on the growing conditions. Control includes hand picking or chemical before seeds have set.

**All weeds posted above besides Scentless Chamomile ( noxious) are scheduled under the Prohibited Noxious Weeds in the Alberta Pest Act. This means that they must be reported and eradicated. If you spot any of these weeds please contact Agricultural Fieldman James Schwindt or Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Tanis Ponath at 780-842-4454.**