

February 2016

Volume 10, Issue 1

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

Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

## The Municipal Agricultural Connection



## The Importance of BSE Testing

### 2016 Calendar Correction

I would like to make note of a correction for the 2016 M.D. calendar. On the back page there was a few councillor numbers that are wrong. The correct numbers are as follows:

Oscar Buck: 780-806-3538

Ted Wilkinson: 780-806-0315

Myron Zajic: 780-842-8333

Bruce Cummins: 780-806-8515

### **MD. OF WAINWRIGHT HAS AVAILABLE FOR RENT:**

- **SKUNK TRAPS**
- **PORTABLE CATTLE SCALE**
- **MAGPIE TRAP DESIGN**

This year Canada is at risk for not reaching its required number of animals tested for BSE surveillance. Under the guidelines set out by the OIE (World Animal Health Organization) Canada must test 30,000 animals a year. Currently Canada is listed as a controlled risk country. We are the only country out of the 7 major beef exporting countries in the world to have this rating, the rest are rated as negligible risk countries. It would be beneficial to Canada to move down in risk to a “negligible country” because it allows more of the carcass to be used and exported. In addition, it would reduce parts of the animal needing to be removed at the packing plant. Long term benefits of having negligible risk rating would mean less animals that need to be tested. Animals eligible for testing need to fall under the following categories, neurological, downers, dead, distressed and diseased. Recently Canada has allowed cattle that have died from calving issues such as a prolapse to submit for testing. Additionally the province has removed restrictions on 30 day ownership. Unexplained deaths that occur at a gathering station, auction marts or in recently purchased cattle over 30 months can now be tested. The number of producers testing has significantly decreased since the Government no longer provides incentives for testing animals. They do still however, cover the mileage for veterinarians. Testing your animals for BSE can shed light on other herd health problems and show where areas of improvement are needed. It can determine if there are any deficiencies in iodine, copper or magnesium. They have also found issues with parasites, kidneys, mastitis and hardware cases to name a few. From this, producers were able to make changes to improve herd health, so there are additional advantages to testing cattle. If we do not continue to test and reach the required numbers, Canada is at risk for being labelled as an undetermined risk status which could hurt out markets and reputation of being a beef export country.

# Managing Pain in Cattle

As of January 1, 2016 procedures for cattle such as dehorning, castration and branding will require the use of pain medication according to the National Beef Code of Practice. There are two classes of pain control that are used in cattle. The first is anesthetic drugs which causes lack of feeling and allows surgery to be performed or any other painful procedures. The second is an analgesics type, this relieves pain the same way Tylenol or Advil would in humans.

## Dehorning:

Most of the research conducted has been done on controlling pain during the dehorning process. Calves should be dehorned early because at two to three months of age the horn bud starts to attach to the skull and the formation of horns begin. As of Jan 1, 2016 the beef code requires pain control after horn bud attachment. The use of Lidocaine would be a simple method of pain control as it can be injected into the crest between the eye and the horn before removal.

## Branding:

This is an area that has not been heavily researched but a very common practice among producers. As of Jan. 1, 2016 the code of practice is going to recommend that producers use restraints, equipment and trained personnel and ask their local veterinarians about pain control. Rebranding and activities such as wattling and ear splitting should be avoided. There have been cases where producers from British Columbia and Alberta have given Meloxicam after branding and they have seen improvement in their animals.

## Castration:

There has been a fair bit of research done on castration. There are however, grey areas when it comes to the age of the cattle, types of castration used and the different drugs used. According to the code the number one thing producers can do is castrate when animals are young. As of Jan. 1, 2016 pain control is required for bulls older than nine months and it will change to six months Jan. 1, 2018.

In light of the regulation changes a new pain control method has hit the market in Canada. It was a Calgary based company that developed the drug and can be used for cattle.

The M.D. of Wainwright invites you to attend....

### Tree and Shelterbelt Info Session

Hosted by the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society

**Date:** April 12, 2016      **Time:** 6:00 p.m.      **Venue:** Wainwright Communiplex Hall 1  
Refreshments Available

**What you can expect:**

- An overview of the common diseases and pest found in our municipality
- How the environment can affect trees
- Proper care of trees
- Maintaining your older shelterbelts

For more information or if you would like to register please contact Asst. Ag Fieldman Tanis Ponath at 780-842-4454

Please register by April 5, 2016

The drug is not registered for use on horses yet because Health Canada only allows companies to register products for one use at a time. It is currently in the process of being registered for equine use. The drug is called Meloxicam, which is a tasteless liquid that can be administered orally or given in feed. The drug became available in October and can only be obtained through your veterinarians. Oral Meloxicam is an analgesic which will allow the animal to carry on with its normal activity while delivering pain relief for up to 56 hours.



# Cooks Corner

## 2016 Livestock Workshop for Ladies Hosted by the M.D. of Wainwright

**Who:** LADIES!!! Young, old, newbie's to experienced ranchers.

**What:** Enjoy a fun and educational night out on us!

**Where:** Wainwright Communiplex Hall 1. Refreshments and snacks will be available

**When:** February 16th @ 5:30pm. Please pre-register by Feb 10th.

**Why:** Increase your knowledge and learn about new hot topics in Alberta's Ag Industry.

### Featured Speakers

*Dr. Lacey Fowler, Viking Vet Clinic: Calving 101*

*Shannon Argent: Coordinator for Verified Beef Alberta.*

*Dr. Ian Giebelhaus, Rimby Vet Clinic: BSE Surveillance*



To register or if you have any questions please contact Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Tanis Ponath for the M.D. of Wainwright at 780-842-4454

## Honey Garlic Meatballs

### Ingredients ( Meatballs ) :

- 2lbs ground beef
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1tsp garlic salt
- 1tsp garlic powder

### Ingredients ( Sauce):

- 4 garlic cloves , pressed
- 1 cup ketchup
- 2/3 cup honey
- 3 tbsp soy sauce

### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees
- For meatball mix together all ingredients and mix well
- Form into balls and place on baking sheet
- Bake for approximately 35-40 mins
- To make the sauce place all ingredients into a sauce pan and heat
- Add meatballs to sauce
- Toss and serve!!

ENJOY!!!!



## Working Well Workshop



Please join the M.D. of Wainwright as they host a Working Well Workshop in the evening of March 16, 2016 at 6:30p.m. The workshop will be held at the Wainwright Communiplex in Hall 1.

**FREE** workshop aiming to help landowners protect their water wells and drinking supplies

### Topics Covered:

- How to construct a well
- How and when to test your well
- Proper operations and maintenance
- How and when to shock chlorinate
- What to do about abandoned wells



Register by contacting Tanis Ponath, Asst. Ag Fieldman for the M.D. of Wainwright at 780-842-4454

Refreshments and Snacks Supplied

Visit [www.workingwell.alberta.ca](http://www.workingwell.alberta.ca) for more information

Workshop is brought to you by the Working Well Program, with technical experts provided by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Health services and licensed water well drillers

## SAVE THE DATE!!

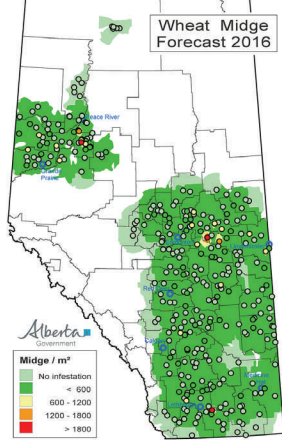
The 2016 Edgerton "Ladies Spring Break" is happening on March 29, 2016.

This is your chance to have a day out and the opportunity to network and learn from other agriculturally involved women.

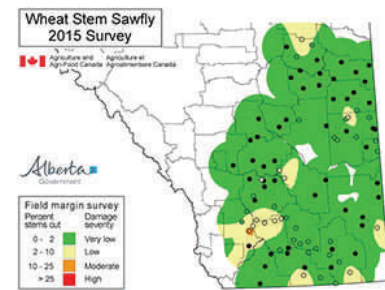
For more information please contact Becky Pedersen at 780-755-3160 or email her a [pedersenlive-stock@yahoo.ca](mailto:pedersenlive-stock@yahoo.ca)

**Please be sure to check out the Growing Forward 2 website at [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca). There is still lots of funding left for a variety of programs however, April will mark the last year for GF2 and funds will be dwindling down as the year progresses.**

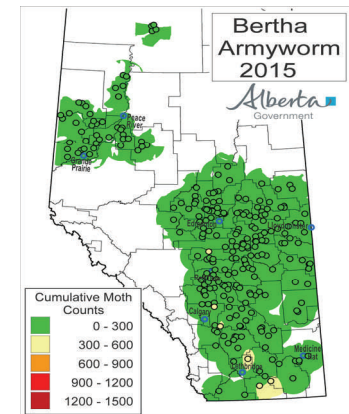
# Insect Forecasts



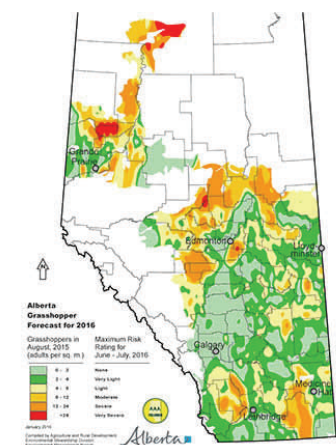
To the left is the 2016 wheat midge forecast. Each year the M.D. participates in a survey that helps predict next years numbers for the province. There has been a slight bounce back from the collapse of the extreme populations in the eastern Peace Region. Although wheat midge has not followed the forecasts very well in the Peace Region it is important to note that there are likely sufficient populations of midge in the eastern Peace to fuel a resurgence if conditions are in the insects favour (specifically delayed crops and higher than normal rainfall). Central Alberta has some areas east of Edmonton with high numbers of wheat midge. The population remains low in much of the southern Alberta with the exception of some irrigated fields. Producers should pay attention to midge downgrading in their wheat samples and use this as a further indication of midge risk in their fields. Over the past several years the field to field variance has been very considerable throughout the province, especially in those areas with higher counts. Individual fields throughout the province may still have economic levels of midge. Each producer also needs to assess their risk based on indicators specific to their farm.



This map shows the results of the 2015 wheat stem sawfly surveys completed throughout Alberta. There are risk of economically significant populations in 2016 to only a few areas. The 2015 field margin survey shows low populations in most of the area surveyed including the traditional sawfly areas in Special Areas and Forty Mile county. The damage ratings are based on 93 fields in 20 municipalities. One field was found with a moderately elevated sawfly infestation in the M.D. of Willow Creek. Thirteen other fields were found with elevated but till low sawfly numbers in Willow Creek, Warner, Lethbridge, Vulcan, Forty Mile, Cypress, Newell, Special Areas 3 and Flagstaff municipalities. Overall the sawfly concern remains very low although there were more fields with elevated numbers. This may represent the beginning of a population resurgence in sawfly if dryer conditions continue.



This map shows the results of the 2015 surveys carried out throughout the province on bertha armyworms. Bertha numbers have mostly collapsed in Alberta in 2015 due to the impact of diseases and parasitism in areas that recently had higher numbers. There was little need for spraying in 2015 with the exception of an isolated incident in the Peace Region that was not covered by the survey. It is difficult to predict numbers for 2016 based on 2015. However, there appears to be a trend of decreased populations in all regions of the province. In addition, there was a slight increase in numbers in some areas of the south. Even though numbers were low this could signal a potential population increase. Experience has shown that small isolated outbreaks often get bigger the second year. Bertha armyworm populations are normally kept in check by the weather and natural enemies. Potential damage from bertha armyworm may be more or less severe than suggested by the moth count data depending on weather, crop conditions and localized population dynamics. An insecticide application is recommended when the larval numbers meet the economic threshold.



This map shows the 2016 grasshopper forecast for Alberta. This map is based on adult grasshopper counts conducted in August. These adult counts give an indication of the number of adults at the end of season that are capable of reproduction and egg laying. The risk of economically significant populations in 2016 has increased in the north central Alberta and the peace region. In some cases populations in 2015 were severe. Areas with moderate/severe risk could experience problems with grasshoppers if the environmental conditions favour hatching and development of grasshoppers in late May through June. Localized factors such as light soils and south facing slopes result in elevated risk of grasshoppers infestations. Spring conditions will ultimately determine the extent of the grasshopper problems later in the growing season.

**Please visit Ropin' the Web If you would like more information on crop pests and diseases!**