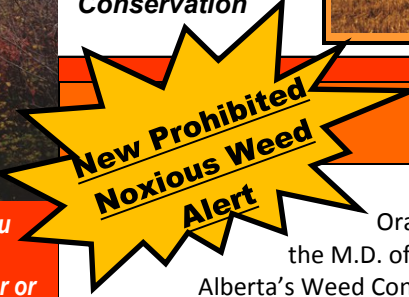
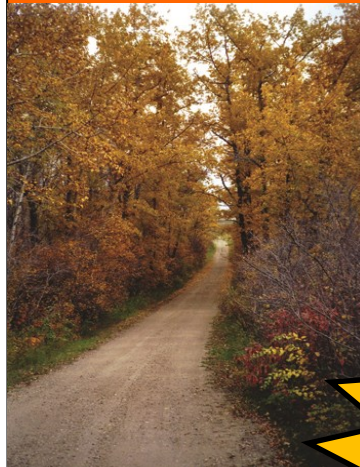


# The Municipal Agricultural Connection

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



Partners in Rural Conservation

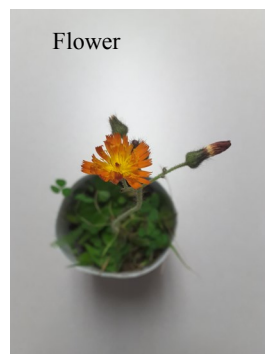


## Orange Hawkweed

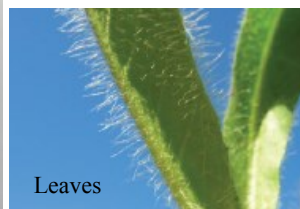
Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter or municipal meeting? Send suggestions to Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Tanis Ponath, [asb@mdwainwright.ca](mailto:asb@mdwainwright.ca) or 780-842-4454

Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) has been discovered in the M.D. of Wainwright. It is classified as a prohibited noxious weed under Alberta's Weed Control Act, which means it must be eradicated if discovered. Hawkweeds exhibit many characteristics of an invasive plant. They have a high seed production and produce by seed, stolon's and rhizomes underground. The plant produces asexually with a high germination rate. The hawkweeds prefer well drained, coarse textured soils that are low in organic matter. They grow basal leaves with a single erect stem that produces dandelion like flowers. Flowers are a fiery orange colour and the plant can grow anywhere from 10-60cm tall. It's most distinctive feature is very distinctive hairs that grow on the leaves and stems (see images).

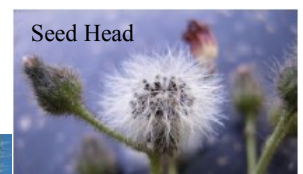
Learning to properly identify the hawkweeds is the first step in prevention. Mowing before flowering will prevent seed production of plant however, it can still reproduce by stolon's and rhizomes. If you have a small infestation, hand digging may prove to be effective. Effectively timed chemical treatments using a registered product is an effective treatment. In 2011 the stolon-tip gall wasp was released as part of a biological control study, results are pending.



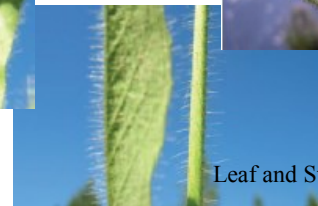
Flower



Leaves



Seed Head



Leaf and Stem

Calendars should be arriving the beginning of November. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for the announcement.

I would like to thank everyone who submitted photos this year. We had 30 submissions and about 250 photos which made choosing the top photographs very hard. Can't wait to see next years!

Congratulations to all of our winners:  
Lara Matechuk  
Charmaine Leggett  
Heather Dubreuil  
Sherry Christensen  
Judy Nemyo  
Sheri White  
Melanie Tschetter  
Elizabeth Goddard  
Doug Kimball  
Taylor Hrubeniuk  
Shelby Oracheski  
Rebecca Tschetter

## CleanFARMS® Toxic Round-up Schedule

Clean farms will be stopping in our area early October for the Obsolete Pesticide Round-up. Farmers can safely dispose of unwanted agricultural pesticides and equine/livestock medications at one of the designated collection sites.

**Tuesday, October 4th:** Provost, Richardson Pioneer, 780-753-2511

**Thursday, October 6th:** Vermilion, Crop Production Services, 780-853-4711  
Wainwright, Andrukow Group Solutions, 780-842-3306

**Friday, October 7th—**Viking, Andrukow Group Solutions, 780-336-3180  
Lloydminster, Crop Production Services, 780-871-4601

Visit [cleanfarms.ca](http://cleanfarms.ca) for more pick-up locations.

### Tater Tot Enchilada Bake

**Ingredients:**

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 yellow onion chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. fajita seasoning
- 4 cups of frozen tater tots
- 2 cups of pepper jack cheese
- 1 can of mild enchilada sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large skillet brown hamburger along with the onion and garlic, drain any excess grease. Add the fajita seasoning and enchilada sauce, stir well. Add frozen tater tots and stir till they are coated with sauce. Transfer contents to a baking dish make sure everything is spread out. Sprinkle cheese on top and bake uncovered for 15-20 minutes. Serve with diced green onions, chopped tomatoes, and sour cream!

**NOV.30**  
Please remember that all municipal taxes are due Nov 30, 2016.



### Managing Uncertainty in Alberta's Cow Calf Sector

Date	Location	Venue	Time
November 1, 2016	Nanton	Nanton Community Center	9 a.m. registration 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. session
November 2, 2016	Lethbridge	Country Kitchen Catering (same building as the Keg on Mayor Magrath Drive)	
November 3, 2016	Olds	Student Alumni Centre at Olds College	
November 8, 2016	Vermilion	Vermilion Regional Center	
November 9, 2016	Evansburg	Royal Canadian Legion	

**The agenda this year will cover:**

- Market Outlook and your Marketing Options
- Transition Planning - The Human Aspect
- Risk Management Perspectives
- Cost of Production - Do you know yours?
- 7 drivers to Financial Success
- What does your Neighbor Think? A Beef producer's perspective.

For more information go to [agriculture.alberta.ca/cowcalfenomics](http://agriculture.alberta.ca/cowcalfenomics)

**How to Register**

All participants are requested to register prior to Wednesday, October 26, 2016. The registration fee is \$30 (GST included) and includes lunch. Registration for students and young producers (those under 25 years of age) will be sponsored by the Alberta Beef Producers. To register please call the Ag-Info Centre at 1-800-387-6030.



## The Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program A new Growing Forward 2 Program

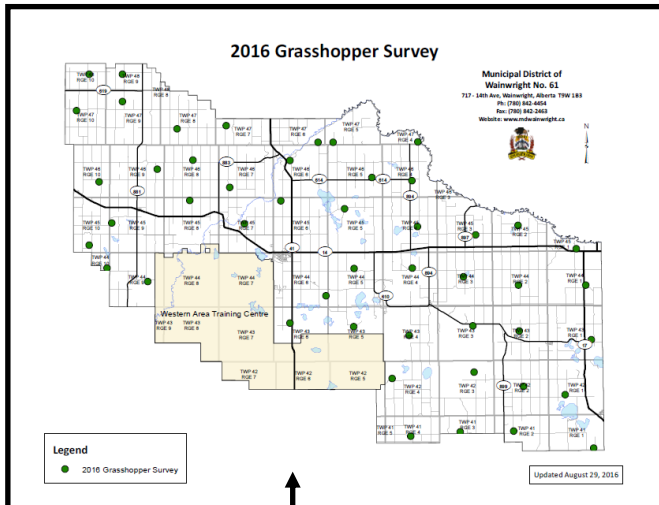
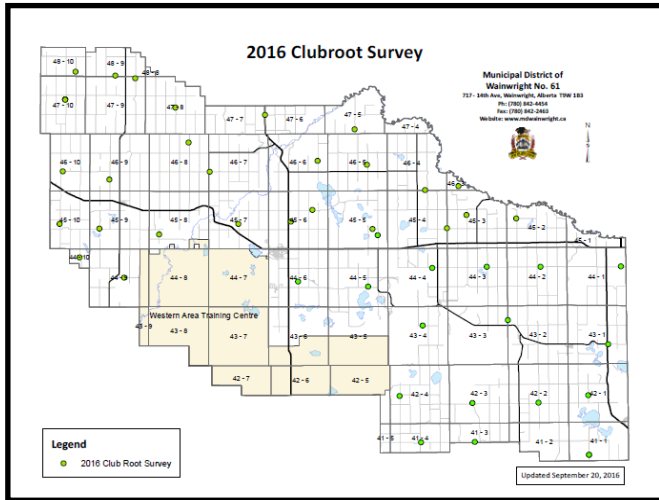
Growing Forward 2 is now offering a new program called the Accelerating Agriculture Innovation Program. The purpose of this grant is to stimulate investment in the demonstration, commercialization and adoption of innovative products, practices, and processes that have potential to provide sector wide impact on the agriculture sectors. They are looking for organizations or companies who are ready to test, pilot or incorporate their innovation in their business. The grant is broken into two funding streams. Stream A the Collaborative Innovation supports projects from not-for profit organizations that offer publically available solutions for the agriculture sector to influence new ways of doing business. Stream B Implementing Innovation supports primary producers for projects that lead to change in how the applicant does business.

Here a few examples that may be considered for funding:

- The development of systems that change the transportation protocol for livestock
- Utilizations of wastes from farming operations in new ways
- New equipment development
- Environmentally friendly products made from agricultural wastes or bi-products

Applicants are eligible to receive \$1,000,000 in project funding. Funding levels range from 60%-90% depending on the activity and funding stream. Your projects must be completed by February 1, 2018. If you would like more information please visit [www.growingforward.ab.ca](http://www.growingforward.ab.ca).





The above maps show the clubroot and grasshopper surveys completed in the M.D. of Wainwright this year. Grasshopper numbers were fairly low this year with the exception of a few hot spots in the south east area of the municipality. Forty four fields were inspected for clubroot and there was no visual signs of clubroot in roots inspected. Both diamond back and bertha armyworm numbers were low this year. Traps were placed south of Irma and north east of Wainwright. We have not yet received the results from the swede midge survey.

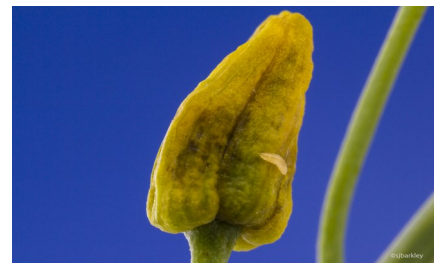
## Swede Midge *Contarinia nasturii*

For the first time this year swede midge has been identified in the M.D. of Wainwright. Although numbers are very low it is important to familiarize yourself with this pest. Swede midge affects plants that belong to the family Brassicaceae such as canola, mustard, cabbage cauliflower and Brassica weeds. The pest was discovered in Ontario crops in the early 2000's. It is an increasing problem and has since caused crop damage and losses. Saskatchewan first identified the pest in 2007 and it is slowly moving its way west.

Flowering is a good time to scout your crop. Female swede midge lay eggs on the growing point, which in turn larvae feed on when they hatch. The damage depends on the growth stage of your canola, the younger the plant the more damage will be present. Look for larvae in the florets, blackening or scarring on the floret tissue, young shoots can be twisted or distorted, flowers appear abnormal, and pods may form a cluster due to growing points being damaged.



Larvae feeding on canola florets. Notice the blackening and scarring of tissue.



Swede Midge on a canola floret.

On August 5th the M.D. of Wainwright hosted yet another successful Rural Routes supper. It was another sold out evening with local residents from Wainwright, Irma, Chauvin and Edgerton in attendance. Reverend Elaine Hobden a representative from the local food bank came and collected a donation from division 2 councillor Ted Wilkinson (pictured left). The M.D. of Wainwright recognized two farm families for our 100 year farm family award. Pictured in the middle is the Trefiak Family from division 3 who have been actively farming since 1909. The Abbot family pictured right have been farming in division 3 since 1915. Rural Routes 2017 will be on August 11, 2017 at the Elks Hall.



## Caring for your Trees in Winter

Winter is a stressful time for many species of trees. Below are some common problems landowners face and what can be done to prevent them.

1. **Cold Stress.** This is caused by temperature variations, from daytime to night-time or if we experience periods of warmer than normal weather followed by a cold snap. Temperature variations can cause stress within the tree leading to cracks in the outer bark. Not much can be done to prevent frost crack and in most cases the tree is able to heal itself. Another cold stress is the impact of an early frost on late growth. If this happens, you will see the tips of branches die off the next spring. You can prevent this by avoiding pruning trees till after they have gone dormant.
2. **Winter Drought.** Drying evergreens in the winter can be a real problem. Winter drought occurs when the tree loses more water than it absorbs. Make sure to water your trees before winter, you can also add an insulating layer of mulch to prevent moisture loss.
3. **Branch Breakage.** When deciduous trees go dormant the wood hardens making it brittle and susceptible to wind damage. Snow and ice accumulation can cause branch breakage. Pruning weak and vulnerable branches or reinforcing branches with rope can help make the tree less susceptible. If you have newly planted seedlings covering them with a tent-like structure can protect them from the elements.
4. **Rodents & Animals.** Trees, especially in the winter can be a primary food source for rodents and small animals. Mice, rabbits and porcupines will chew bark and can girdle trees. There are many types of animal fences that you can set up to deter pests from your trees.

Fall preparation of trees can give them the advantage of surviving through winter.

## Tree Pest Showcase

### Bronze Leaf Disease

Bronze leaf disease affects hybrid poplars, tower poplars and Swedish aspens. It was first discovered in Manitoba in 2009. It became a concern because aspens represent a vast majority of the native tree populations on the prairies. Alberta Agriculture conducted a survey to determine whether bronze leaf disease had been introduced in Alberta. The disease was found in multiple urban centers from Grand Prairie to Calgary.

Bronze leaf disease shows its symptoms late in the season, mid-August to September. Leaves turn a deep reddish/bronze colour, with the discolouration moving from the edges of the leaf inward. The leaf petiole will remain green while the rest of the leaf is discoloured. Infected leaves will not drop and remain on the tree for the winter and will appear to have a bumpy or pebbly surface. Bronze leaf disease is spread between trees by spores, but also spread within the tree as the fungus develops systemically. In the right conditions the disease can kill a tree within 3-5 years. It is important to positively identify the disease because the disease symptoms can also be the cause of moisture stress and soil applied herbicides.

There are no registered chemicals for the treatment of this disease, pruning infected material is your best line of defence. Make sure the equipment used for pruning is properly sanitized so the disease does not spread. Infected material should be burned or double bagged and disposed of properly. Do not compost or mulch infected material, it will spread the disease. The best line of defence is always a healthy tree; water, prune and fertilize your trees.



Infected leaves



Infected leaves with green petiole and mid-vein



Progression of infection



Infected leaves on a Swedish Aspen