

October 2017

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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 842-4454

**NOV.30**

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

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 39 submissions and about 300 photos which made choosing the top photographs very hard. Can't wait to see next years!

Congratulations to all of our winners:  
Chuck Hutchinson  
Sheila Naugle  
Colette Thurston  
Elizabeth Goddard  
Sherry Christensen  
Damon Zajic  
Heather Dubreuil  
Margaret Hiller  
Sheri White  
Doug Kimball  
Judy Nemyo

Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

# The Municipal Agricultural Connection

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



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



## Buffalo Trail Riparian Restoration Program

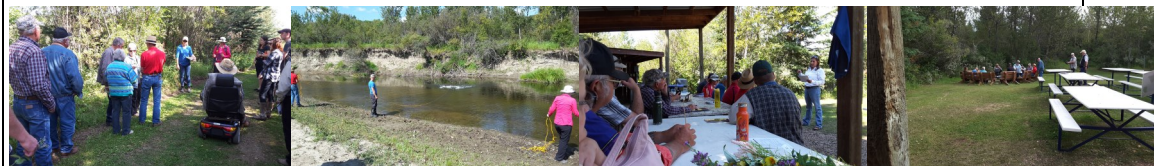
Winter is a great time to make your plan for 2018. While reviewing your management program you should consider taking part in the Buffalo Trail Riparian Restoration Program. Riparian health is very important to our landscape and to do so they must function properly. Trapping sediments, recharging ground water, reducing flood damage and supporting biodiversity are just some of the ecological services they provide. This program is aimed to help producers understand how healthy their riparian areas are, both on their individual operations and in their local watershed. Understanding health and function will help producers identify concerns they may have and address any land use issues.

Part of participating in the program is having a riparian health assessment completed by Cows and Fish. Vegetative and physical parameters are examined to provide information about the function and condition of that riparian area. Health assessments quickly identify the relative health of riparian areas. Meanwhile riparian health inventories thoroughly examines vegetation, soil parameters and hydrology of the area. Visit [www.cowsandfish.org](http://www.cowsandfish.org) to read in more detail about the assessments.

The Battle River Watershed has run similar projects in Ponoka and Camrose. The Ponoka program delivered 18 riparian health assessments, 10,000 trees were planted along banks, 8km of fence was installed and 12 off-site watering systems were installed. The Camrose program had 8 riparian restoration projects completed. Those projects consisted of health assessments, riparian exclusion fencing and temporary fencing and off-site watering systems.

The M.D. of Wainwrights would like the Buffalo Trail program to be just as successful as the previous programs. If you are interested in the program and have a project in mind please contact Tanis at 780-842-4454.

On August 22 we hosted the Invasive Species and Riparian Areas Field Day at the Riverdale Mini-park. There were approx. 10 eager producers that attended and learned about riparian health identification, health assessments and management strategies from Cows & Fish. Alberta Lake Management Society gave a rake tossing demonstration along with aquatic plant identification. Alberta Invasive Species Council gave a presentation on biological and mechanical control methods for invasive species. Lastly, the Agricultural Fieldman and his assistant gave an update on their use of goats to control leafy spurge along the battle river.



# Should you be concerned about salt?

The answer is yes! By now you have probably heard about the farmer in SE Saskatchewan that lost 200 head of cattle due to contaminated water. This terrible loss will hopefully lead to a few simple procedures producers can follow to prevent such losses in the future.

Salt content in water can easily be determined by testing the EC (electrical conductivity). Salts naturally carry an electric charge, the higher the salt content the more electrical charge it will carry. EC is always reported in MicroSiemens per centimetre ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ). The following are guidelines that can be followed when testing EC for cattle.

- EC <1000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  you are good to go and cattle are safe to drink from that water source
- EC 1000 to 5000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  problems start to increase and you may experience poor production without seeing any distress symptoms in the animals. If your readings are closer to or at 5000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  you should start looking for a new water source
- EC 10 000+  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  find a new water source

In general, as water levels decline the salt levels rise. The salt content of your water source can also change from year to year. Even one year of dry weather can cause your numbers to increase. If a number of dry years are followed by wet years and heavy snowpack, test your water again. The amount of moisture you received could have been adequate enough to dilute the water to safe levels again. The important thing to remember is what is ok one time may not be later and vice versa.

Don't rely on a visual inspection. Although there are some indicators that can help, salty water is usually very clean and looks great. Cattails will only grow up to an EC of 3000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . The presence of algae such as blue green algae, usually indicates that the water source is not very high in salts.

In the end, water testing should be a part of your pasture management program. Keep a yearly inventory of water sources on your pasture to track changes over time. Field EC meters are relatively cheap and a good investment to prevent devastating losses in the future like the one seen earlier this summer.

## Clubroot Update

In September the Agriculture fieldman along with his assistant were busy completing multiple clubroot inspections across the municipality. We also had the opportunity to spend a day completing random inspections with Dr. Victor Manolii who is one of the top clubroot researchers out of the University of Alberta. This helps us brush up on our inspection skills and learn more on what to look for when we our surveying. Our goal is to create awareness among producers so they can better manage the disease. To date the M.D. of Wainwright has 7 confirmed clubroot locations. Those producers are working vigilantly to manage clubroot on their farm and reduce the spread to other unaffected fields. Harvest is a great opportunity to continue scouting canola fields. You can watch for abnormalities in the field that could be caused by clubroot, blackleg or sclerotinia. This time of year is very important to scout because it will give you a good indication whether or not you were successful at controlling the diseases and how you are going to manage next years crops . What variety are you going to choose? What will your rotation look like? What type of crop are you going to plant? For clubroot at minimum a 1 in 4 year rotation is recommended along with planting resistant varieties. Preventing soil movement, cleaning equipment and reducing tillage should be

part of your management strategy. By following these 3 key steps clubroot can be effectively managed and have minimal effects on your operation.



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

We appreciate the producers who have come forward and are taking clubroot seriously. They want to spread awareness to landowners across the M.D. of Wainwright. Producers can scout for the disease and take the necessary steps to manage the disease.

Image 1 shows weed patches that have started to outcompete the canola that has been affected by clubroot. Images 2 and 3 show decomposing clubroot galls coming to the surface after the field has been combined.

## What's next for the Growing Forward Program?

Some producers may be aware that Growing Forward 2 will officially end March 31, 2018. The government of Canada has developed the Canadian Agricultural Program that will replace Growing Forward 2. It is a 5 year, \$3 billion investment that will come into affect April 1, 2018. It will strengthen the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector, to ensure continued innovation, growth and prosperity. Producers will also continue to have access to the Business Risk Management (BRM) programs. The program will focus on 6 priority areas,

- Science, Research and Innovation: Helping industry adopt practices to improve resiliency and productivity through research and innovation in key areas.
- Markets and Trade: Opening new markets and helping farmers and food processors improve their competitiveness through skills development , improved export capacity, underpinned by a strong and efficient regulatory system.
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change: Building sector capacity to mitigate agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, protect the environment and adapt to climate change by enhancing sustainable growth, while increasing production.
- Value-added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing: Supporting the continued growth of the value-added agriculture and agri-food processing sector.
- Public Trust: Building a firm foundation for public trust in the sector through improved assurance systems in food safety and plant and animal health, stronger traceability and effective regulations.
- Risk Management: Enabling proactive and effective risk management, mitigation and adaptation to facilitate a resilient sector by working to ensure programs are comprehensive , responsive and accessible.

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, BRM programs will continue to help producers manage significant risks that threaten the viability of their farm and are beyond their capacity to manage. Governments responded to industry concerns regarding eligible coverage under AgriStability, ensuring a more equitable level of support for all producers. Governments are committed to engaging in a review that explore options to improve BRM programming. The review will recognize the important role played by all programs (AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriInsurance) in the risk management plans of producers given the diversity of the sector. The review will also directly involve producers and have an early focus on market risk, including as it is related to AgriStability addressing concerns regarding timeliness, simplicity and predictability. Ministers will be presented with options in July 2018 for consideration based on early findings of the review.

Once more, information has been release on specific programs and eligible activities, you can read about it in our newsletter. Producers can also subscribe to the Growing Forward 2 website to receive updates. Visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca) and hit "Subscribe to Receive Program Announcements" on the top right side of the page.

### Rats: What to Look For

- Tunnels in grass/snow 2.5" wide
- Lots of scat, 3/4" long, blunt at both ends, looks like mouse poop but bigger, shiny black in colour
- Tunnels under bales, if you lift bales in winter, you can see nests 3X as big as mouse's
- Tunnels will be under the snow
- Fresh chew marks in wooden bins, grey/old wood will look more yellow in colour
- Regular rodent smell
- You will never see a rat during the day, however if you go out at night and shine a light at the suspected area you will see them scamper away.
- Rats can have a batch of babies every 6 weeks once mature. Each batch can contain 10-15 babies

### Coyote Control

Now is a good time to control your coyote population around your farm yard.

- Young coyotes can easily be controlled now since they are still immature and being trained by elders. They will be more experienced by spring and after your calf crop.
- The M.D. of Wainwright has available snares and 1080 tablets for coyote control.

If you have any concerns regarding rats or coyotes give Rod Gabrielson pest control officer for the M.D. of Wainwright a call at 780-842-7285.

On behalf of the M.D. of Wainwright we would like to thank everyone who came out to our annual Rural Routes Supper. It was another huge success with great food and entertainment. Rate payers generously opened their wallets and donated \$675.00 to the local food bank. There were no 100 year farm family awards this year. If your family farm has been farming on the original homestead for 100+ years stop by the office for an application. Stay tuned for details on next years event and we hope to see you there.

# Tree Diseases of the Month

## Cooley Spruce Adelgids

**Host:** Colorado Spruce, Douglas Fir and White Spruce

**Appearance & Life Cycle:** Adelgids are a group of insects that are closely related to aphids. A normal life cycle consists of 6 different forms of the insect over 2 years. Depending on which stage of its life cycle the insect is in, it will present in 3 different types of damage.

**Damage:** Damage first starts to occur in late May when there is new growth on branch tips. Galls form a cone shape that can range in size from 25-75mm and 12-18mm in diameter. Galls are green at first and may be hard to distinguish if you aren't looking for them. They will begin to turn purple then reddish-brown as they begin to dry out. Adelgids can remain on trees for many years. You may also notice feeding on needles and in the spring/summer white specks on needle which are cottony covers for their eggs. Young spruce may become deformed if it's a heavy infestation because new buds die on gall infested twigs. Growth and vigor may be reduced but it rarely kills trees.

**Control:** You can control galls by hand picking them off then burning them. Chemical control can be achieved by applying a malathion in early spring as the buds begin to open.



## Needle Cast

**Host:** Colorado Blue Spruce, White Spruce, Norway Spruce and various Pine species.

**Appearances & Life Cycle:** Needle Cast is a fungal disease that can occur in trees of any size. The fungal disease overwinters on infected needles and spore producing bodies are produced in the spring. The appearance of the spores show up as tiny black lines or dots on needles. Spores are released once moisture is present. The disease develops over the course of a year and you may not see symptoms until the following year. Needle cast favours moist conditions and temperatures around 25°C.

**Damage:** Damage can be seen on trees starting from the inside outward. Previously infected needles will become discoloured including yellowing, mottling, reddish/purple or brown colour development, depending on how progressed the disease is. First year needles may start to discolour (turn yellow) in mid to late summers. In addition, look for the tiny black dots or lines on needles. A year after infection, the older infected needles may "cast" or fall off in the summer.

**Control:** Some species of trees are more resistant to the pathogen than others, for example Norway Spruce is more resistant than Colorado Blue Spruce. Make sure there is good air circulation between trees through spacing, pruning and the control of weeds around the base of trees. Fungicide can be applied in early spring (once needles are 1/2—3/4 the length of mature ones). Treatments may need to be repeated, either in the spring again or in the fall. Remove any infected and dead or dying branches to reduce the amount of pathogen present.



### Cow-Calfenomics

Enhancing Farm Business Decisions in Alberta's Cow-Calf Sector

Date	Location	Venue	Time
November 14, 2017	Brooks	Heritage Inn Hotel and Convention Centre 1217 2 Street West	9 a.m. Coffee and registration
November 15, 2017	Lethbridge	Country Kitchen Catering (in the lower level of the Keg) 1715 Mayor Magrath Dr S	
November 16, 2017	Olds	Pomeroy Inn & Suites at Olds College 4601 46 Ave	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. seminar
January 23, 2018	Vermilion	Vermilion Regional Centre 5702 College Dr	
January 24, 2018	Westlock	Westlock Inn & Conference Centre 10411 100 St	
January 25, 2018	Stettler	Stettler Agricultural Society 4516 52 St	

- This year's agenda will cover:**
- Cattle market situation and outlook
  - The use of risk management tools in the beef industry
  - Business structures for new entrants
  - Production enterprise analysis
  - Agriprofit\$ beef
  - A farmer's guide to agricultural credit
  - The value of having a mentor

For more information, visit [agriculture.alberta.ca/cowcalfenomics](http://agriculture.alberta.ca/cowcalfenomics)

**How to Register:** Please register by Tuesday, November 7 for the 2017 fall meetings, and by Tuesday, January 16 for the 2018 winter meetings. The registration fee is \$30 and includes lunch. **Registration for students and young producers (those under 25) is free**, sponsored by the Alberta Beef Producers. To register, please call the Ag-Info Centre at 1-800-387-6030 or register online at <https://eservices.alberta.ca/cowcalfenomics.html>

If you are exempt from paying GST, please call 1-800-387-6030 to register.

## 2017 Municipal Election

Voting will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of **October, 2017**, between the hours of **10:00 a.m.** and **8:00 p.m.** Voting Stations will be located at:

**Division 1:** Repsol Community Center (300 Main Street, Chauvin, AB)

**Division 2:** Edgerton Agricultural Hall (4916 50 St, Edgerton, AB)

**Division 4:** Wainwright Communiplex (700 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Wainwright, AB)

Advance vote is October 5, 2017 from 10 a.m.—6 p.m. at the MD Administration Office (717 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Wainwright, AB).

