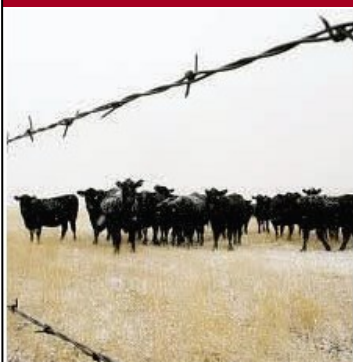
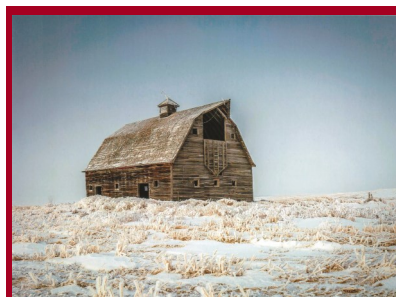


The Municipal Agricultural Connection



Partners in Rural Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca



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

Is Clubroot now a Province Wide Issue?

Is clubroot now a Province wide issue? With recent findings of clubroot in Big Lakes County (Peace Region, 2017), Rocky View County (South Region, 2018) and more positive locations in Saskatchewan, the question certainly comes to mind. The M.D. of Wainwright completed clubroot surveys on 66 locations across the municipality. Both James and myself found 0 positive fields for clubroot. We hope that this is a direct result of producers implementing best management practices to reduce the spread in the M.D.

As an industry we need to end the stigma towards producers who have positive fields. Clubroot is a manageable disease if best management practices are followed.

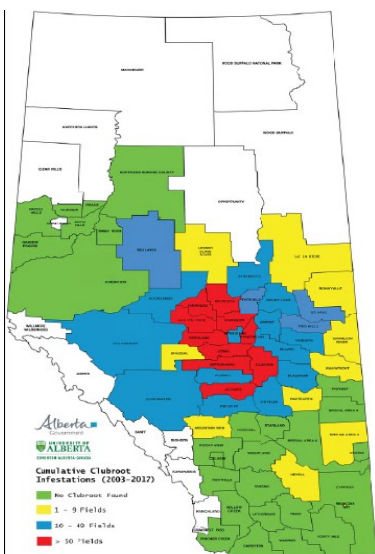
According to the Clubroot Management plan the best management practices for clubroot include;

- **Rotations:** A 1 in 4 is recommended, however, it has been shown that the longer a field is without canola in the rotation the more spores will die.
- **Growing Resistant Varieties:** This is not the ultimate tool. If grown with limited rotations, resistant varieties are very susceptible to breakthrough which leads to the developments of clubroot pathotypes like 5X which are resistant. Resistant varieties, when used in proper rotation, is a very good line of defence against the disease.
- **Soil Management:** No till operations and removing soil from equipment in positive fields will reduce the spread.

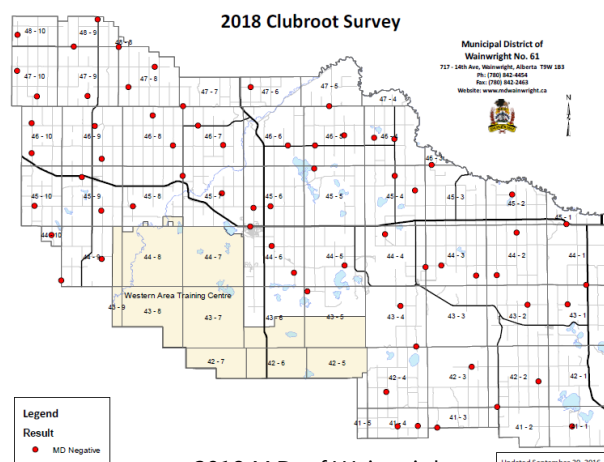
If you have any questions regarding clubroot in the M.D. of Wainwright contact the office at 780-842-4454.

As of December 1, 2018, you will need a veterinary prescription to access medically important antimicrobials. Due to changes by Health Canada, these antimicrobials will no longer be sold to authorized medicine sales outlet retail stores. You will only be able to access them through the clinic, pharmacies or commercial feed mills. The Federal and Provincial Government along with industry partners are working towards reducing the threat of microbial resistance in human and animal health. Continue to work with your veterinarian to identify and manage your animal health needs. For more information about these changes including a list of affected products visit the Health Canada website.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/antibiotic-antimicrobial-resistance/animals/actions/responsible-use-antimicrobials.html>



2017 Alberta Clubroot Map



Farm and Ranch OHS Changes

As of December 1, 2018 new technical rules for farms and ranches with waged, non-family workers will come into effect as part of the OHS code. Since 2016, workers have been covered under basic safety standards. Workers have 3 basic rights: the right to refuse dangerous work; the right to know of potential hazards and have access to basic workplace health and safety information; and the right to participate in workplace health and safety. As a reminder, OHS requirements for farm and ranch employees do not apply to family, volunteers or contractors. Along with the rest of the OHS code a set of unique technical rules will come into effect on December 1. These changes were developed as a direct result of the consultation with the agriculture sector. The OHS code requires workplace hazards to be controlled and managed. Most hazards addressed by the current OHS code for industry align with agriculture. However, through the consultation process, the Government of Alberta determined there were special circumstances when it came to the agriculture industry that do not align with other industries. Some of the unique requirements outline a person who is competent, equipment specifications and rollover protective structures. For a full list of details visit, www.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch-ohs.aspx.

To offset the costs of implementing a safety plan and purchasing safety equipment for your operation, Alberta Labour funded the Farm Health and Safety Producer Grant Program. To be eligible for the program you must employ a waged, non family worker, have a current WCB account and have \$10,000 of farm commodity income (yearly). Eligible applicants can apply for funding up to 50% of eligible costs and you can submit up to 2 applications a year. Funding maximums are \$5000.00/year or \$10,000 over the program term. Examples of eligible expenses include:

- Fall protection
- First aid kits
- Personal Protection Equipment (clothing, respirators, eye protection, noise exposure, etc.)
- Welding safety equipment
- Education and training (tuition/course fees, materials required for course)
- Fees for elements of a health and safety program.

For more information regarding this program search Alberta Health and Safety Producer Grant Program on Ropin' the Web.

Environmental Farm Plan & Other Grant Programs

Have you been sitting on an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) that needs the finishing touches? Maybe you have signed up for one and need to get started or you are new to the farm plan and want to get started. This time of year is a fantastic time to do an EFP. Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman at the M.D. of Wainwright, can help you with your EFP. If you are new to the EFP process she can offer assistance in setting up your workbook as well as working through the first couple of chapters with you (these are the most demanding chapters and where most producers give up). The EFP is a self assessment of YOUR operation and we believe it is up to the producer to take the initiative for his/her farm plan. We are here to help get you started, assist with difficult questions, and to approve the farm plan and apply for grant funding.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership Funding Opportunities:

Farm Water Supply Program: This program supports producers who want to improve their water supply security and more effectively and efficiently manage their on-farm water resources. Eligible activities include new wells, dugouts, spring development, decommissioning water wells, aeration systems, off-source watering systems, etc.

The Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program: This program supports active producers with assessing their environmental risks and implementing beneficial management practices. Eligible expenses include watering systems, riparian fencing, livestock facility management, improved manure storage facilities, manure application, sectional controls, agriculture plastic bag rollers and shelterbelts.

For more information on these programs you can contact Tanis at the M.D. Office (780-842-4454) or visit www.cap.alberta.ca.

FEAP Offers Funding for Grain Dryers

The Farm Energy and Agri-Processing program is a non CAP program that is funded by the Alberta Government. This program cost-shares with the agriculture and agri-processing sector on energy efficiency investments. The program is designed to encourage energy management which will result in cost savings, energy conservations and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. FEAP offers financial support for new construction insulation, lighting, ventilation, heating, etc. for agricultural structures only. For more information search FEAP on Ropin' the web or contact the M.D. office.

FEAP offers funding for grain dryers.

Retrofit Grain Dryer Components: Hopper covers, automated controllers, new burners, heat exchangers, VSD, PTO to electric motor conversions may be eligible in retrofits. Eligibility in retrofits are based on case by case basis. Applications must include specifications or calculations demonstrating energy savings of the proposed upgrades.

New Grain Dryer Components: Upgrade options on new dryers that demonstrate clear energy savings over the standard dryer configurations. Eligibility on new dryers are also based on case by case basis. Upgrade options such as heat exchangers, VSD, automated controllers installed as factory options only. Considered if they are an optional upgrade from the standard new dryer configurations and an accompanying specification or calculation that demonstrates the energy savings. Only cost incurred by including the options are covered by the grant, not the cost of the standard dryer.

Alternate Feed Sources for Cattle

Dryer conditions has left some Alberta producers scrambling for not only quality but a sufficient quantity of forage for livestock. There are alternate feed solutions that producers may want to consider if they need to supplement their forage.

Corn Grazing: Although expensive to grow, corn can be a good nutritional crop and it has shown to retain its quality over time compared to cereals. In years with optimal environmental conditions corn stands can out-compete forage and cereal crops in terms of quantity. Producers need to adopt an "intensive grazing" strategy. A rule of thumb is moving cattle every 2-3 days, but that may vary depending on the operation. Set up your operation in a way to maximize the number of cow grazing days per acre of land. With new varieties hitting the market, talk to your agronomist to determine if corn grazing would fit in with your operation.

Pea Straw: Pea straw is another option for producers. Pea straw is a good addition to a feeding program and is most often supplemented with another protein source. It can have higher levels of protein compared to cereal straw; however, it is important to feed test pea straw. Depending on the year, the field and environmental conditions, the amount of protein in pea straw can vary significantly. Palatability may also be an issue depending on the crop. While cattle may devour some bales, other may need to be grinded or chopped.

Canola Meal: The Canola Council of Canada has released a series of publications about the use of canola meal to feed livestock. Canola meal has been shown to have high palatability, to be a good source of energy and to be high in phosphorus. Visit www.canolacouncil.org/oil-and-meal/canola-meal/ for more information.

Turnips: Turnips have attracted interest as a grazing crop. Both the tops and tubers produced can be grazed by cattle. Yields are comparable to cereals and the crop can be grown using traditional equipment and managed the same as canola. Turnips can be grazed in spring/summer then allow for regrowth to graze again in the fall. This crop is low in fibre however, so it may need to be supplemented.



A Reminder to all Ratepayers...

Please consider this a courtesy note to all M.D. residents to remind you it is prohibited for dogs to run at large in the M.D. of Wainwright. Therefore, we are asking everyone who may own or harbour a dog in the M.D. to ensure their dog is kept safe and in its owners control at all times. According to our Dog Control Bylaw, dogs found at large can be impounded. Fines to reclaim the dog are due before the dog will be released. If you have any questions regarding our bylaw or have concerns regarding a dog at large please contact the M.D. office at 780-842-4454.

Planning your Shelterbelt

If you are planting a shelterbelt, winter is a great time to start the process. Most tree nurseries start accepting applications in the new year and species availability is usually on a first come first serve basis. The M.D. of Wainwright no longer offers a shelterbelt program however, we still have available a tree planter and plastic mulch applicator for rent free of charge. We also offer shelterbelt packages that provide information on a variety of nurseries in the Province as well as planting guidelines.

The main purpose of a shelterbelt is to act as a barrier and reduce wind speed and protect from snow. The height of your shelterbelt determines the extent of the protected area downwind also called the downwind zone while the length determines the amount of protected area. The density of the shelterbelt controls the amount of airflow that can pass through which directly effects the flow patterns and areas of protection. Trees and shrubs should always be planted at the recommended spacing. Shelterbelts are most effective when planted at right angles to prevailing winds however, shelterbelts placed perpendicular to the prevailing wind directions provides the most protection.

Depending on the purpose of your shelterbelt and the site characteristics, will determine which species of trees and shrubs will be suitable for your location. Instead of planting 2 or more rows of the same species, a diverse shelterbelt will provide a wider range of benefits. A mixture of tree and shrub species will provide a variety of heights and densities for maximum protection.

- ◆ The most significant benefit would be lowering the risk of losing an entire shelterbelt to drought, disease or insects
- ◆ The denser the shelterbelt the greater the wind protection.
- ◆ Shrubs are excellent at trapping snow and they provide wind protection over short distances.
- ◆ Trees with an upright, narrow growth habit provide the most protection relative to the area of land occupied by the shelterbelt.
- ◆ Herbicide tolerance is important and could be a limiting factor for a field shelterbelt.
- ◆ Tall and narrow trees are effective at distributing snow evenly.
- ◆ Fruit bearing species will also provide food and habit for wildlife.

Density of Tree and Shrub Species:

- ◆ Low Density: Oak, poplar and trembling aspen
- ◆ Medium Density: Ash, larch, pin cherry, pine and Siberian crab
- ◆ Medium/High Density: Buffaloberry, caragana, choke cherry, hawthorn, hedge rose, maple, red-osier dogwood, red elder, sea buckthorn, snowberry, lilac and willow
- ◆ High Density: Spruce species.

The shelterbelt packages at the M.D. of Wainwright provide guidelines whether you are wanting to plant a farmyard, field, livestock, roadside or wildlife shelterbelt.



KEVIN ELMY & BATTLE RIVER
RESEARCH GROUP PRESENT:

COVER CROPS & SOIL HEALTH MEETING

December 12, 2018 1:00pm
Irma, AB (New Horizon Hall)

Topics Covered:

Soil Biology, Soil Health, Cover Crop Goal
Setting and Health Principles.

To Register:

www.battleriverresearch.com/coming-events



Battle River
Research Group



This year the Wainwright Agriculture Society nominated the Ken and Doris Ford for the Northlands BMO Farm Family Award. The Ford Family was awarded at Farmfair International.



Ken and Doris both grew up in the Irma area. Ken bought their current farm site from his father in 1971 and married Doris in 1973. They moved to the farmstead in 1974. Ken farmed with his father and brothers while Doris worked as a registered nurse in Wainwright. At that point, the farm was a mixed operation of cattle and grain. In the mid 1980's, Ken branched off and began farming with his uncle Milt Younker for a decade. After his uncle passed Ken began to farm with his sons.

Ken and Doris have 4 sons, Bevan, Kent, Scott and Trevor. Bevan, Kent and Trevor remained on the family farm. In the 2000's the farm needed to increase and diversify to support four families. So in 2004, Bevan, Kent and Trevor started their own farming venture, Lazy Bee Honey.

For the first few years the bee operation remained at 300 hives. It has since now increased to 2500 hives. In 2012, their wives Jennifer, Tanya and Meeghan started Simply Bee, where they make and sell beeswax candles, soap, bath and body products as well as other honey and beeswax related creations. Scott resides in Red Deer, AB and works as a Paramedic/Firefighter for the city.

On behalf of the M.D. of Wainwright we would like to congratulate the Ford Family Farm on this award.