#### **April 2019**

#### **Municipal District of Wainwright No.61**

#### Volume 13, Issue 2



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 call 780-842-4454

**Ratepayers of the Municipal District of** Wainwright are invited to attend an "Open House" at the M.D. Office in Wainwright on Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 from 4:00-6:00p.m. Council and Staff will be in attendance to informally discuss the affairs of the M.D. of Wainwright. **Refreshments will be** served.



### **The Municipal Agricultural Connection**



Partners in Rural Conservation www.mdwainwright.ca





## **The Annual Grazing School for Women**

For the past 16 years, the Grazing School for Women has evolved into a fun way for County Women (like yourself!) to get together to learn and discuss current ranching trends (environment, livestock and beyond!) in the comfortable atmosphere of other rural ladies. This much anticipated event always has a different venue with a different speaker line-up. The 2018 GSFW was held at the Centennial Hall in Two Hills, AB. This year we are going to continue to showcase speakers that will inform, educate and expand your knowledge about the agriculture industry.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to extend an invitation to the..... 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Grazing School for Women, June 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>! Lamont County, AB

The 2019 Grazing School will again have a 2-day optional format. The choice is yours; you can pick the first day demonstration, or the second day classroom session with speakers, or both!! If you choose both days, there is a discount on registration fees, plus a whole lot more fun and excitement.

On the 11th we will be at the Lamont Agriculture Society grounds for exciting demonstrations from stock dog trainer Ken Mackenzie and equine dentist and farrier Kirk Andersen. We have a very unique dining experience with a long table meal that showcases local ingredients with Kathryn Joel from Get Cooking.

On the 12th, the learning will continue with classroom presentations on:

- Soil Characteristics
  - Plant Habitats related to soil characteristics
- Cattle Nutrition
- Rural Crime Prevention

If you would like more information on the Grazing School for Women and how to register you can contact Tanis at the M.D. office at 780-842-4454. Registration deadline is May 31, 2019. Pass along the Grazing School information to your neighbours and bring along your girlfriends, as we always have a gree



girlfriends, as we always have a great time!

## FAQ's

#### M.D. of Wainwright Vegetation Management Program

#### How often are the M.D. right-of-ways sprayed?

The M.D. of Wainwright's vegetation management program is on a 3-year rotation for general weeds and a 2 -year rotation for brush management. This means that every M.D. right-of-way is sprayed once every 3 years for general weeds (blanket sprayed) and once every 2 years for brush (spot sprayed).

#### What qualifications are required for M.D. spray operators?

The M.D. employs three weed inspector/spray operators. Our operators are based out of Irma, Wainwright and Edgerton. Each operator is fully certified and holds a current pesticide applicator license through the *Alberta Environment Protection and Enhancement Act.* This is the highest level of certification through the Alberta Government required to manage and apply pesticides. Our operators attend yearly training to remain up-to-date on industry standards and obtain credits to keep their licenses current.

#### What kind of herbicides are used by the M.D.?

For general weed spraying, the M.D. uses Aspect and Clearview for blanket spraying. We use Tordon 22K for spot spraying hard to control weeds such as toadflax. When requested to spray on landowner property, we use Reclaim II, Grazon and Tordon 22K which are range and pasture approved.

#### Are the herbicides applied by the M.D. safe?

Yes, the herbicides the M.D. use are safe when used according to label directions. Before a herbicide can be sold in Canada it must be registered by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, a division of Health Canada. All herbicides used by the M.D. have no grazing restrictions other than for lactating dairy animals.

#### How do the M.D. spray trucks work?

Our trucks have a Raven 4400 SCS controller with two injection pumps. We have six-95 L herbicide tanks and a 3000 L fresh water tank. Each truck is equipped with a 12-ft boom and can spray out approximately 40-ft with a 150-ft hose and hand gun. Trucks also have GPS and a laptop that records location, herbicides, and weather information.

#### Why do we spray for general weeds and brush?

Under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, Agriculture Service Boards are directed to eradicate any found Prohibited Noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are to be controlled in order to contain present populations and protect unaffected areas. Weeds deemed a concern by the Government of Alberta, have adverse environmental effects and threaten biodiversity. Also, non regulated invasive plants can encroach on prime agricultural lands and outcompete crops. In regards to brush spraying we believe it is important to control brush in the municipal right-of-way for safety issues, including the reduction of hazards and sightline issues. It is also important to aid in proper snow removal, improve grade issues and to lesson the occurrence of wildlife/vehicle collisions.

#### Which weeds are the M.D's main concern?

The most commonly found weed in the M.D. of Wainwright is toadflax. It is well established in the southeast areas and south of Irma. We also have populations of tansy, scentless chamomile, baby's breath, nodding thistle and leafy spurge. There are isolated populations of hoary alyssum, orange hawkweed and tall buttercup. If you have any questions about Prohibited and Noxious Weeds, the M.D. has quick guide ID books available for pick-up.

#### Why does spraying turn the grass purple?

One of the most common concerns we hear is "Why is the grass purple? Is it dead?" In fact, the grass is not dead, it is a combination of weather and product that turns the grass purple. Environmental factors such as humidity and growing conditions will have an affect on the grass. We also use an adjuvant to improve the efficiency of our herbicides. When used with a product such as Aspect, it will cause the grass to purple later in the season. To mitigate this issue, we are changing the type of adjuvant used with Aspect in hopes to lessen the purpling of the grass.

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**M.D. of Wainwright NO SPRAY & ROADSIDE HAYING** AGREEMENTS **Deadline is May 1st !** If you are interested in participating in the program this year, please stop in at the M.D. office to fill out an application form. Forms are also available online at www.mdwainwright.ca. The roadside spray program will commence June 1st and roadside mowing will begin July 15th and will be completed by August 31st.

# The M.D. of Wainwright Presents **1 st Annual Backyard**

## Gardening Workshop







Thursday April 25th, 2019 Wainwright Communiplex Hall 1 11:00AM—4:00PM

#### TOPICS

"Grow This Not That" with Delinda Reyerson Local Master Gardener Barb Teeter Backyard Bee Box Building with Alberta Native Bee Council (must bring own cordless drill for bee box building)

> \$30/Person Lunch Included Please register by April 19th

You can Register by calling Tanis at 780-842-4454

### **Upcoming Pest Surveys**

The M.D. of Wainwright will have staff out completing pest surveys this summer.

- <u>Diamondback Moth</u>: Monitoring begins the beginning of May and will go for six weeks. There will be 2 trap locations which will be located throughout the M.D. The monitoring is used to determine when the moths have arrived from our southern neighbours.
- <u>Bertha Armyworms</u>: Monitoring starts the beginning of June and runs for 6 weeks. There will be 3 trap locations across the M.D. Producers can see live reporting of bertha armyworm numbers on the Alberta Insect Monitoring Network.
- <u>Swede Midge</u>: Yet to be confirmed in the M.D., swede midge monitoring will start at the beginning of June and will go for 12 weeks.
- <u>Grasshopper Surveys</u>: Surveys begin in early August and will continue until completed. Approximately one field per township is selected for the survey. Data collected will be used for Alberta Agriculture's forecast maps. Last year, the M.D. completed 44 grasshopper surveys.
- <u>Clubroot Surveys</u>: Clubroot surveys start in late August or early September and will continue till completed. One to two canola fields are randomly selected in each township in the M.D. for survey.
- <u>Wheat Midge Survey</u>: Wheat midge is surveyed by collecting soil samples in the fall after harvest. Six random locations are chosen throughout the M.D. for testing. Samples are sent to Alberta Agriculture for analysis.



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780-842-4454.

#### Hamlet of Greenshields (Public Works to pick up)

Pick up days will be Monday and Thursday each week. Schedule of May 6, 9, 13 and 16-2019. Municipal employees will collect material properly packaged in clear plastic bags placed out in front of your house. Dark or coloured bags will not be picked up. Acceptable materials are grass clippings and tree trimmings.

#### **Clear Lake Area & Hamlet of Fabyan (Bin Provided)**

A garbage roll-off bin will be supplied, and placed at the Clear Lake main beach area and also at the East end of Fabyan, for one week period over the long weekend in May; from Wednesday, May 15 to Wednesday, May 22. This provides the opportunity to dispose of yard cleanup materials and household materials that are not hazardous.

#### Ascot Heights, Ascot Estates, Silver Willow and Banjo Estates (Bin Provided) A garbage roll off bin will be supplied, and placed at the Ascot Heights garbage compound for

a one week period over the long weekend in May; from Wednesday, May 15 to Wednesday, May 22. This provides the opportunity to dispose of yard cleanup materials and household materials that are not hazardous.

Unacceptable materials are appliances, furniture, construction materials, metal and paint. *These materials can be taken to the Wainwright Waste-to-Energy Facility*. Hazardous waste, household and yard chemicals can be taken to taken to the Landfill during the *Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up* on May 4th, 2019.