

The Municipal Agricultural Connection

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



Partners in Rural Conservation



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

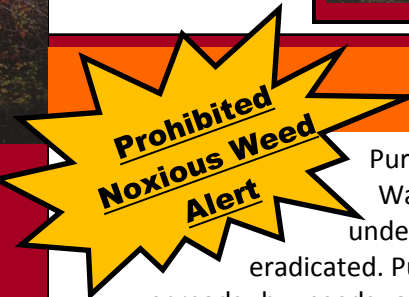
Please remember that all municipal taxes are due Nov 30, 2019.

M.D. of Wainwright Calendars should arrive at the beginning of November. Stay tuned to our Facebook and website for the announcement.

I would like to thank all residents that submitted photos this year. We had 24 submissions this year. Can't wait to see next years.

Congratulations to all of our winners!

- Diane Smith
- Sheri White
- Margaret Hiller
- Damon Zajic
- Rebecca Tschetter
- Sherry Christensen
- Fawn Beatty
- Heather Dubreil
- Ceanna Sjoquist
- Elizabeth Goddard
- Tara Beckley
- Jessica Maguet
- Lorraine Melin



Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife was recently discovered in the M.D. of Wainwright. Purple Loosestrife is a prohibited noxious weed under the Alberta *Weed Control Act*, which means it must be eradicated. Purple Loosestrife is found in wetlands, ditches and canals. It spreads by seeds and can quickly choke out native vegetation, reducing biodiversity and degrading critical wetland habitat for native birds, insects and other species. A single Purple Loosestrife plant can have as many as 30 to 50 stems and produce up to 3 million seeds per plant annually. From far away, Purple Loosestrife can often be mistaken for fireweed, however upon closer inspection, you will notice that purple loosestrife has square woody stems and dense flower clusters. There are control methods available that are effective in controlling Purple Loosestrife. Herbicides that are registered for control include Glyphosate, Garlon and Clearview. Due to the weeds close proximity to water there are tighter restrictions on using herbicides as a control method. The *Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides* gives guidelines on the percentage of an area that can be sprayed and the distances from water. If using herbicides is not an option, handpicking is also an effective control method. By removing the seed heads and some of the root mass you are significantly decreasing the plants chance of reproduction.

The M.D. of Wainwright's Agricultural Service Board along with additional M.D. staff spent 3 days handpicking purple loosestrife to get started on controlling the infestation south of Wainwright. This will be an ongoing project and moving forward the A.S.B is looking to incorporate the use of herbicides into our control program. We will be working closely with Alberta Environment and Parks.



Alberta Ag-Plastics "*Recycle it!*" Program

Under a contract with the Alberta Plastic Recycling Group, CleanFarms will be operating a three year pilot program in Alberta for the collection of grain bags and twine for recycling. Phase one has been completed and 20 pilot locations have been selected covering all major regions in the province. Collections at these sites are expected to start at the beginning of October. Pilot sites have different degrees of experience with these materials and start dates may vary by location. The pilot sites located near the M.D. of Wainwright are the County of Vermilion River and Beaver County. A full list of collection sites can be found at www.cleanfarms.ca.

Grain bags should be delivered in the following condition:

1. Free of large debris; grain bags need to be as clean as possible, remove as much organic material as possible before rolling.
2. Prepare grain bags by rolling and tying with twine. Depending on the collection site, they have specific specifications for rolled bags.

Contact the collection site before dropping of material.

Accepted Materials:

- ◆ Grain bags that are rolled tightly and secured with twine
- ◆ Silage bags used to store grain that are rolled tightly and secured with twine
- ◆ Twine (must be placed in collection bags)

Unaccepted materials:

- ◆ Unrolled grain bags or silage bags used to store grain
- ◆ Silage bags not used to store grain or silage tarps
- ◆ Net Wrap
- ◆ Feed or seed bags

Under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, producers can apply for 50% funding towards the purchase of a grain bag roller or a compacter under the Environmental Stewardship and Climate change program.

Attention Farmers

**CleanFarms Unwanted Pesticide & Animal Medication
Collection Announcement**

October 10, 2019 from 9:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

Nutrien Ag Solutions — Edgerton

<u>Items Accepted</u>	<u>Items Not Accepted</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unwanted or "obsolete" agricultural pesticides, identified with a Pest Control Product number on the label. ◆ Livestock medications that are used by primary producers in the rearing of animals in an agricultural context (identified with a DIN number, serial number or Pest Control Product number on the label). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fertilizer, diluted solution, large quantities of unopened product and treated seed. ◆ Needles/sharps, medicated feed, aerosol containers, premises disinfectants/sanitizers, veterinary clinic waste and medications, ear tags and aerosols. ◆ Any other household hazardous waste.

If you require more information you can contact CleanFarms at 1-877-622-4460 or visit their website at cleanfarms.ca.

Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health & Grazing

The 2019 Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health and Grazing will take place on December 10, 11 and 12, 2019 at the Doubletree West Edmonton Hotel. The conference which is hosted every 2 years is hosted by numerous applied research and forage associations across Alberta. This has been a sold out event in the past, so if you are interested get your registrations in early. Visit www.absoilgrazing.com for more information.

One of this years stand out presenters is Gabe Brown from Bismarck, ND. Gabe and his family focus on using natural recourses to regenerate the landscape for a sustainable future.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10TH	WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11TH	THURSDAY DECEMBER 12TH
7:30 am - Registration	6:30 am to 7:45 am - Breakfast & Tradeshow	6:30 am to 9:00 am - Breakfast & Tradeshow
9:00 am - Welcome & Opening Remarks	7:45 am - Welcome & Opening Remarks	9:00 am - Gabe Brown
9:15 am - Gabe Brown	7:50 am - Dr. Kris Nichols & Kimberly Cornish	"Turning Failures into Successes"
"What is Regenerative Agriculture"	"Measuring & Mapping Soil Carbon Sequestration"	9:00 am - Dr. Surva Acharya
10:15 am - Joel Williams	8:45 am - Derek Acton	"Sustainable - A Whole in Canada Success Story"
"Roots, Crusts, Aggregates: Rethinking Soil Carbon Dynamics"	"Inter cropping Insights"	10:30 am - Coffee Break & Tradeshow
11:30 am - Lunch & Tradeshow	9:45 am - Coffee Break & Tradeshow	10:30 am - Producer Panel
12:00 pm - Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Update	10:15 am - Dr. Elaine Ingham	"Crazing is Soil Health"
12:45 pm - Dr. Dwayne Beck	"Using Biological Amendments"	11:30 am - Lunch & Tradeshow
"Research Journey to Regenerative Agriculture"	"Cala Soil Health Lab: Virtual Tour & More"	11:45 am - Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC)
2:00 pm - Brendon Rocky	11:45 am - Lunch & Tradeshow	"Research Update"
"Sonic Farming: Fundamentals & Applications"	12:45 pm - Dr. Family Zavala	12:30 pm - Dr. Jennifer Manske
3:30 pm - Coffee Break and Tradeshow	1:45 pm - Allison Williams	"Biologically Effective Grazing"
4:00 pm - Lance Gunderson	"Crazing for Ecosystem Health & Financial Health"	1:30 pm - Jay Fuhrer
"Honey Soil Health Test Explained"	3:15 pm - Coffee Break & Tradeshow	"Where To From Here"
5:00 pm - Producer Panel	3:45 pm - Dr. Shabta Gittman	
"Integrating Soil Health Principles into a Cropping System"	"Perspectives in Forage - Soil Interactions"	
6:30 pm to 10:00 pm - Evening Mixer with Appetizers/Finger Foods & Cash Bar at Tradeshow	4:45 pm - Producer Panel	
	"Completing the Circle with Livestock"	
	5:30 pm - Evening Break & Tradeshow	
	7:00 pm - Barbecue	
	9:00 pm - Dr. Peter Ballerstedt	
	"We Need a Ruminant Revolution!"	
	9:00 pm to 10:30 pm - Cash Bar & Tradeshow	

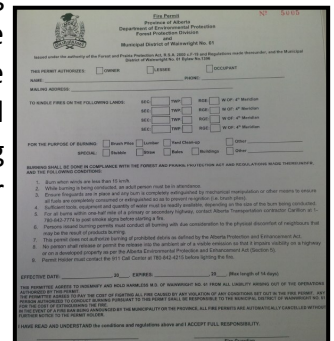
***CEU Credits available**



A Reminder to all Residents

The M.D. of Wainwright would like to remind any rural residents who are planning on burning this winter to make sure you get a fire permit before you burn. Fire permits can be picked up at the M.D. office and by calling your councillor or fire chief. If you're unable to make it into town you can call the office and we can email or fax the permit to you. Remember any requests for a fire permit to burn a standing building will be referred to the fire chief in that area. Here are a few key reminder while burning:

- Burn when winds are less than 15km/hr
- An adult must be in attendance
- Ensure fireguards are in place
- Any burning within one-half mile of a highway contact Emcon to post smoke signs before burning, 842-7774
- Make sure any burn is completely extinguished by mechanical manipulation or other means to ensure all fuels are completely consumed or extinguished so as to prevent re-ignition (i.e. brush piles)




Rural Routes 2019

On August 9th the M.D. of Wainwright hosted yet another successful Rural Routes supper. Local residents donated \$1095.50 to the Wainwright Food Bank. The M.D. of Wainwright recognized two farm families for our 100 year Farm Family Award. Pictured on the left is the Perry Family from division 1 who have been actively farming since 1917. The Archibald Family pictured right have been farming in division 7 since 1916. Rural Routes 2020 will be on August 7, 2020 at the Elks Hall.



Watch out for Heated Bales

Chances are if you baled your hay or greenfeed too wet (over 20% moisture) there is a risk of prolonged heating. Moisture levels above 20% allow the respiration process to continue and mold to develop, producing heat. When hay or greenfeed heats beyond 100°F (38°C), browning or caramelization occurs. Wet hay or greenfeed bales also produce internal heat that may result in spontaneous combustion. Plant material and microorganisms on the plants continue to respire after cutting. Once the forage is baled up, it will go through a heating or sweating out process. Under normal conditions, the bale will reach temperatures no higher than 130°F (54°C). The factors that govern the extent of heating include: forage moisture content at baling, bale type (large, small, round, square), bale density (soft or hard core), environmental factors (relative humidity, ambient temperature and air movement), and storage site. The internal bale temperature should peak at about 3-7 days after baling. After that, the cycle of heating and cooling may occur several times during the weeks after baling as the microbial population increases and decreases. However, the maximum temperature decreases during each subsequent cycle. Baled feed becomes a potential fire hazard when the internal bale temperature does not cool after the 1st heating cycle. Bales should be checked 4-5 days after baling to monitor initial temperature. Check the most tightly packed part of the bale, this is where the heat tends to build, generally 6-12" from center. **Consider feed testing, as forage heats, nitrate converts to nitrite, and nitrite is ten times more toxic than nitrate.**



Figure 2. Hard centre of round bale has been extremely hot

Feed Testing

Why should you feed test? There are multiple reasons to perform feed tests, maintaining herd health should be the top priority of your operation. Just performing visual assessments alone is not accurate and could lead to spending money on unnecessary supplements for your livestock.

Here are reasons why feed testing should be a part of your operation:

- ◆ Decrease products problems that are associated with mineral and nutrient deficiencies.
- ◆ Prevent problems associated with mycotoxins, nitrates and sulfates.
- ◆ You can develop appropriate rations that meet your livestock needs.
- ◆ Identify nutritional gaps in your feed program.
- ◆ Economize your feeding, make use of potential diverse ingredients.
- ◆ Accurately price feed for buying and selling.

When you are taking samples they should be a representation of all the feed ingredients. Since feed quality changes as the season progresses, take samples as close to feeding or selling. For baled products a minimum of 20 cores should be taken. Cores should be 12"- 15" deep and taken from the side for round bales and the end for square bales. Store samples in a Ziploc bag and remove as much air as possible. The M.D. of Wainwright has a forage probe available for producers to rent out. Silage samples should be taken from the upper, middle, and lower parts, from four quadrants of the silage pile or pit.

Hay and greenfeed samples should be tested for dry matter, crude protein, acid and neutral detergent fibre, calcium, phosphorous, potassium and magnesium. Silage should be tested for the same along with pH. IF the pH is less than 5 then it has been properly fermented.

If you suspect heating, an analysis of acid detergent insoluble nitrogen or protein should be considered. Heating produces nitrites which are highly toxic.

The Beef Cattle Research Council provides a calculator that can help you interpret your feed test results. The website also provides tables outlining nutrient requirements for pregnant cows and bred heifers.

If moulds are present, blend feed to dilute the contaminants. Moulds reduce the energy content and palatability. They cause the development of mycotoxins and led to herd health problems.