

August 2021

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**M.D. of Wainwright Weed Inspectors**

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Ray Enstrom  
780-842-8461

**Division 3, 4 & 5:**

Laine Maron  
780-842-8579

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780-842-7060

**Pest Surveys:**

Diamond Back Moth, Bertha Army Worm, and Wheat Midge monitoring have wrapped up as of July 31st. Swede Midge monitoring continues. Grasshopper surveys will be commencing in early August followed by Club Root.

**Staffing Change:**

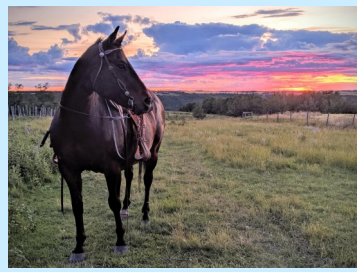
Now filling the role of Assistant Agricultural Fieldman is Shelby Oracheski of Wainwright.

**Farm and Rural Stress Hotline**

Free, confidential, and available 24/7  
1-800-691-4336

Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

**The Municipal Agricultural Connection**



**Fire Restriction**—Effective July 20, 2021 Due to the high fire hazard, new fire permits will not be issued, and existing permits are rescinded until further notice.

Contained fire pits, gas/propane fire pits, charcoal/propane/gas barbeques used for cooking or warming purposes are permissible.



**Changes to Rat Control:**

As part of the Alberta-Municipal Rat Control Program, Ranges 1, 2, and 3 within the M.D. of Wainwright were previously inspected and baited to prevent the movement and establishment of rats in Alberta. Due to recent changes, only Range 1 will be actively monitored going forward. The next inspection will begin in the fall.

Of concern is the Norway Rat (pictured below) which was first introduced to the East Coast of Canada around 1775. The Norway rat is unique in that it is unable to survive in natural areas, and will therefore only be found living with humans or in their structures.

Signs of rats include droppings, rub or grease marks, rat holes and nests, gnaw marks or visual sightings.

Thanks to the introduction of a rat control program in 1950, and the vigilance of landowners, Alberta has been fortunate to remain virtually rat free.

As always, if you see or suspect rats do not hesitate to contact Assistant Ag Fieldman Shelby at 780-842-4454 or [soracheski@mdwainwright.ca](mailto:soracheski@mdwainwright.ca)



**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**



**BRING IN YOUR E-RECYCLING TODAY!**  
[ARMAePilot.com](http://ARMAePilot.com)



The list has EXPANDED. More electronic waste products than ever are being accepted at your local Waste Management facility. This project hopes to see 24,600 tons of electronic waste recycled and diverted from Alberta landfills over the next two years. A win for our environment!

## Strychnine Cancellation and Alternative Controls



Following a re-evaluation by Health Canada, a cancellation of the registration of strychnine for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels (RGS) for sale and use in Canada has been issued. This decision is being phased in and will be in full effect as of March 4, 2023. This resolution was made in part due to the unacceptable environmental risks associated with the use of this pesticide. Amongst the concerns is that once poisoned bait is introduced into a habitat there is no control over who will consume it. Ingestion by non target species, including species at risk, as well as the second hand poisoning of scavengers, are estimated to cause tens of thousands of unintended mortalities per year. Under scrutiny is also the humaneness of this particular poison by the public, advocacy groups, and researchers alike. Strychnine is an acute poison that causes death by interfering with the central nervous system, resulting in muscle spasms that lead to respiratory failure and death. For the full Health Canada report visit the Government of Canada website, article: Re-evaluation Decision RVD2020-06, Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products (Richardson's Ground Squirrels).

**The M.D. of Wainwright has sold out of strychnine, and will no longer have any available for purchase.**

### What's the alternative?

The Health Canada report acknowledges that the use of strychnine is an effective and economical option for controlling RGS's. Without it producers will soon be left searching for substitute methods. So far as chemical measures go, Rozol RTU is a commercially available poison that can be obtained through your local retailer (currently carried by Parrish & Heimbecker Ltd Wainwright and UFA). Rozol can be used anytime RGS's are active and will be accepted all season long. However, the most effective time to poison is prior to greenup when there are fewer food sources available to RGS's and before spring litters arrive.

Non chemical options may include:

- Trapping and hunting
- Managing vegetation height (RGS's typically inhabit areas with shorter vegetation, as there is better visibility for predator avoidance. Taller vegetation discourages colonization)
- Encouraging predation (such as setting up raptor platforms or nesting boxes)
- Other products (such as commercially available asphyxiants ie: RoCon or Phostoxin—which requires additional licensing)

These methods are clearly more labor intensive and time consuming, but can be effective as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy in areas of low to moderate infestation. When planning for the future, finding ways to incorporate more non chemical controls should surely be a consideration. Pest control methods involving poisoning are under continuous scrutiny for human and environmental safety reasons, and increases in restrictions could well arise in the future.

There's no denying the elimination of strychnine will pose challenges for producers. In time, alternative products will be developed and will hopefully provide an effective and sustainable way forward.



## AAAF Memorial Bursary



The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman Northeast Division will be awarding two \$1,000 bursaries to students enrolled in an Agricultural or Environmental Science related program! Eligibility requirements and applications can be found on the M.D. website or picked up at the M.D. office. Deadline for application is September 1st. Please email completed applications to [soracheski@mdwainwright.ca](mailto:soracheski@mdwainwright.ca) or drop them off at the office. Best of luck to all applicants!

## Declaration of Municipal Agricultural Disaster

On July 20, 2021, the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 Council declared a state of Agricultural Disaster for the Municipal District of Wainwright. This declaration was made to address and draw attention to the significant wide spread drought conditions that have and continue to negatively impact and affect our agricultural producers. All segments of agricultural production within the M.D. of Wainwright are being affected by the devastating drought conditions.

The M.D. of Wainwright has issued this declaration to encourage the Provincial and Federal Governments to expedite the initiation of **All Programs** required to address the critical drought situation that has had significant negative impact on our agricultural industry and the crops and food that they produce.

### Municipal District of Wainwright Declares State of Agricultural Disaster

At the July 20, 2021 Regular Council meeting, it was moved that:

Motion # 204.21 “Moved that the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 formally declare an Agricultural Disaster for the Municipal District of Wainwright due to the extreme lack of rainfall and drought conditions and have administration draft a Municipal Agricultural Disaster Declaration for submission to the Province of Alberta.”

For further information regarding this Agricultural Disaster Declaration please contact the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 at 780-842-4454. For further insurance or Agricultural Disaster program information contact AFSC at 1-877-899-2372 or at their website [www.afsc.ca](http://www.afsc.ca).



#### Low Yield Allowance Adjustment

As of July 23, the Canadian and Alberta Governments (through CAP) have adjusted the crop insurance program due to the extreme heat and dry conditions resulting in feed shortages. The low yield threshold has been doubled to allow for additional salvaging of cereal or pulse crops for livestock feed. For further information please see the Low Yield Q & A page on the AFSC website or connect with your local branch.

Eligible Crops	Low Yield Allowance Thresholds			
	Current Thresholds		Thresholds for Crops put to Feed	
	Kilograms	Bushels	Kilograms	Bushels
Barley	150	6.6	300	13.2
Corn	150	5.9	300	11.8
Fababeans	150	5.5	300	11.0
Field Peas	150	5.5	300	11.0
Oats	150	8.1	300	16.1
Rye	150	5.9	300	11.8
Triticale	150	6.3	300	12.7
Wheat	150	5.5	300	11.0
Dry Beans	120	4.4	240	8.8
Lentils	40	1.5	80	2.9
Desi Chickpea	40	1.5	80	2.9
Kabuli Chickpea	25	0.9	50	1.8

#### Alternative Feed for Cattle

A variety of non conventional feed sources may be effectively utilized for cattle in the event of a shortage (such as those in the table to the left). Testing and analysis, along with consultation with a livestock nutritionist, is recommended to ensure appropriately balanced rations. Alternative feeds can be used to stretch traditional feed supplies out or used exclusively. When used as an entire feed source, additional management and close monitoring of livestock will be required for signs of potential issues, such as a lack of certain minerals. A supplementary protein, energy, or fiber source may be needed to balance nutritional requirements. When adding alternative feeds into a program, always make changes slowly to allow the animals to adjust.

Specific information about different types of alternative feeds and their pros and cons can be found on the Beef Cattle Research Council website.

# The Annual Calendar Photo Contest

Send us your photos that capture the diversity of our agriculture industry and the environment within the M.D. of Wainwright!



- Applications can be downloaded from the M.D. website or picked up at the office.
- Please no emails! Hard copies of pictures or USB stick only.
- You can mail in your entries or drop them off at the M.D. office.
- Send us photos that showcase all seasons.
- Only M.D. ratepayers are eligible for the contest.
- Best of luck to all applicants, we look forward to seeing your entries!

**Deadline August 13th, 2021**

If you have any questions please contact Asst. Agricultural Fieldman, Shelby at 780-842-4454



**CANADIAN  
AGRICULTURAL  
PARTNERSHIP**  
Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

Current CAP programs accepting applications for producers and farmers include:

- **Efficient Grain Handling**: an energy efficiency program intended to assist producers with reducing the overall energy use on their operations. The program will fund equipment that shows a significant energy efficiency improvement over standard practice. Eligible expenses will be cost-shared at 50% grant and 50% applicant to a maximum of \$100,000.
- **Farm Technology**: supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency, and encourages the adoption of best management practices in farm security. This two year pilot (2021-2023) is focused on sensors that contribute to farm data systems, and technology-based security devices, and supports producers in protecting their businesses. A valid EFP (Environmental Farm Plan) is a prerequisite for this program. Funding is variable.
- **Water**: enhancing agricultural water management for continued growth and long-term success of the agriculture industry. There are two streams under the Water Program: 1) on-farm irrigation projects, and 2) on-farm water supply projects. Eligible expenses will be cost-shared at 25% grant and 75% applicant, except for special incentives at 50% grant and 50% applicant. The maximum funding an applicant can receive from the on-farm irrigation stream is \$25,000 per fiscal year of the program. The maximum grant an applicant can receive from the on-farm water supply stream is \$25,000 (\$5,000 for standard incentive projects and \$20,000 for special incentive projects) for the period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023.

Visit [cap.alberta.ca](http://cap.alberta.ca) for more information