

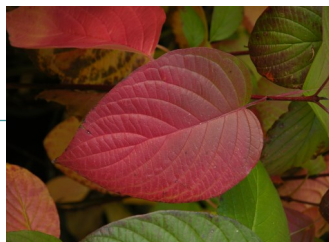
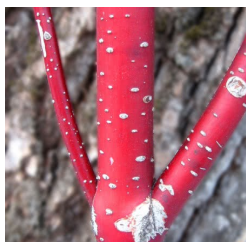
THE MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURE CONNECTION

December 2021
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PRAIRIE STAPLES

Red Osier Dogwood - *Cornus stolonifera*

At this time of year it is hard to miss the distinctive red bark of this widespread native shrub. This adaptable species grows rapidly, tolerates a wide range of different soils and is a spectacular addition to our prairie landscape with its attractive white berries, colorful fall foliage and unique red stem. Its blooms are popular with pollinators, birds will greedily devour the berries it produces, and its stems provide browsing for deer and moose. Red osier dogwood is also a historically significant species, as it was utilized in a wide variety of ways by many Native tribes throughout North America. From using the flexible red branches for weaving to a variety of medicinal applications, nearly every part of this shrub could be put to use. Red osier dogwood can easily be propagated from rooted stem cuttings and has proven to be easy to grow and care for in tame settings.



HAVE YOU HEARD?

The M.D. of Wainwright has two regulated water service systems, one in each of the hamlets of Greenshields and Fabyan. These facilities require specialized staff and are provincially regulated.

The M.D. of Wainwright follows the Municipal Government Act which was created to govern Council and the Municipality. The Act is 478 pages long and is one of the largest pieces of legislation in the Province.

To encourage entrepreneurship and economic growth the M.D. of Wainwright does not require business licenses for rural businesses.

SIGN UP TODAY

Join the new confidential email list for M.D. of Wainwright ratepayers who want to stay informed about upcoming workshops and events hosted by the Agricultural Service Department and our knowledgeable partners. Your address will be used strictly for this purpose and you can be removed at any time. To sign up contact Assistant Fieldman Shelby at soracheski@mdwainwright.ca or call 780-842-4454.

Welcome to the new
M.D. of Wainwright Councillors



Mike Wildeboer
Division 2



Richard (Bill) Waddell
Division 3



Robin Leighton
Division 4

The M.D. wishes to express its gratitude to our outgoing Councillors for their years of service.

Ted Wilkinson—Division 2
Ryley Andersen—Division 3
Phil Valleau—Division 4



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB’s) are unique to Alberta and have existed in an official capacity since the *Agricultural Service Board Act* (ASB Act) was passed into legislation in 1945. The ASB Act sets out the framework for the establishment of an ASB by a Municipality and allows local Councils to appoint ASB’s to address agricultural concerns in their communities. These boards can be made up of any combination of public or private individuals who have agricultural knowledge. These local boards work in their communities to

help manage agricultural weeds and pests, conserve soil and water, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agricultural practices, control animal diseases, and develop Municipal programs and policies. Qualified Agricultural Fieldmen are hired by Council and are appointed as inspectors to administer the four Acts for which Alberta municipalities and counties have legal obligations: *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, *Weed Control Act* and *ASB Act*. Agricultural Fieldmen also assist in the provincial enforcement of the *Animal Health Act*. Funding for ASB’s to fulfill these legislative requirements is provided through municipalities and a Grant Program that is currently renewed on a five year basis. There are currently 69 ASB’s operating around the Province working to protect 50.5 million acres of farmland, 62,000 farm operators and 43,000 farms from agricultural pests, weeds and soil erosion by enforcing the Acts mentioned above.

2019 PROVINCIAL
ASB FIGURES

57,614 prohibited and noxious weed infestations (sites) were investigated and managed.

105,398 km of municipal roadways were controlled for weeds.

334 extension events were delivered, engaging over 16,000 producers.

367 people were employed full or part time by ASB’s

100% of seed cleaning plants in Alberta were inspected.

11,381 fields were inspected for clubroot.

3,855 pest insect surveys (including Grasshopper, Wheat Midge, Bertha Armyworm and Diamond Back Moth) were completed.

The M.D. of Wainwright’s ASB structure is comprised of the Agricultural Fieldman (James Schwindt), the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman (Shelby Oracheski), and five Board Members. In our case the board consists of two Councillors (Reeve Bob Barss—Chair, Robin Leighton—Vice Chair) and three farm members from the community (Mel Erickson, Gillian Adamson, and Jesse Campbell). ASB Wainwright administers a variety of programs within the M.D. to comply with the legislative requirements set out in the Acts above as well as several other programs:

Weed Control Program: includes a roadside program in which the ditches are blanket sprayed on a three year rotation and spot spraying for Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds annually. Spraying on Private Land for some Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds by landowner request, as well as providing a weed control grant to the Town of Wainwright and some herbicide to the Base Environment spray program.

Brush Control Program: Spot spraying of brush up to 2m in height within Municipal right of ways is completed on a two year rotation.

Roadside Seeding: along the ditches of any road construction, borrow pits, or reclaimed gravel pits.

Roadside Mowing Program

Rat Control Program: administered by the Assistant Fieldman.

Beaver Control: trapper on staff for control work on Municipal property or right of ways if it is affecting Municipal infrastructure.

Tankloaders: responsible for monitoring the four community tankloaders at Giltedge, Irma, Ribstone and Ascot Heights.

Additional programs are numerous and varied, from pest monitoring and surveys, performing Clubroot inspections, inspecting and sampling at the Wainwright and Edgerton Seed Cleaning Plants, collecting empty chemical containers for recycling, issuing Fire Permits, providing support to producers interested in Environmental Farms Plans or the CAP program, creating this newsletter and organizing extension events.

(Visit agriculturalserviceboards.com to learn more about ASB’s)

The Municipal Agriculture Connection

SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting rural entrepreneurs and businesses in the M.D. of Wainwright

SIMPLY
bee

If you want to see a success story about rural entrepreneurs, look no further than Simply Bee, northeast of Irma. Sisters-in-law Jennifer, Tanya, and Meeghan Ford are approaching the impressive milestone of ten years in business and remain passionate about creating quality, natural bee inspired products—a perfect compliment to their husbands apiary Lazy Bee Honey.



Looking back on the decade long journey the dive into business seems like an inevitability. What else could be the outcome of putting three creative sisters in law together with a surplus of beeswax? And dive in they did, from their very successful first tradeshow to becoming in demand craftswomen hosting an annual artisan market of their own (Christmas in the Country—December 2-4, 2021).



From the early days of taking over Tanya's home for soap production and Jennifer's for candle making they now have a beautiful workshop well equipped for producing candles, soaps, and natural skin care products. Techniques and tools have evolved to create greater efficiency in their processes, as these busy mothers often find keeping up on inventory and time to be limiting factors. The launch of their very own website in 2020 has also been hugely helpful in streamlining their day to day management, not to mention the increased accessibility for consumers. Thanks to this new portal their products have been able to grace the homes of people from the East to West Coasts of Canada, and even across borders. Another marker of their increased growth came recently when they were featured on the glossy cover of Bee News magazine, a proud moment for Simply Bee.



Collaboration and community engagement come easily to this trio. They have partnered with Ribstone Creek Brewery creating soaps with their craft beer, and Daines & Daubney delivering custom candles to carry in store. They have been popular creators of promotional products for events and wedding favors and have stayed engaged by doing school presentations, field trips, open farm days, and hosting workshops. The Simply Bee team is grateful for the support they receive from the community and their loyal customer base. Most importantly, they are thankful for family. Between the apiary and their endeavors, everyone plays a role in this encompassing enterprise and the support this generates is fundamental to the success of the business and something they are appreciative of.

Of course all three of these talented women each have a favorite product. Tanya's staple is their lip balm, Meeghan's daily essential is the charcoal facial bar, and Jennifer is a lover of the classic unscented beeswax candles. The ladies agree their favorite aspects of business are the people they have the opportunity to meet and interact with, how well they work together and presenting their products in a beautiful and creative way—whether through photography or at events.

The progression over the past decade has allowed the Fords to discover their niche, focus on defining what makes their brand unique, and be intentional about where they invest their energies. They aim to stay true to their label and allow for no compromise when it comes to the quality of their products. As with any in demand commodities there comes increased external pressure to deliver MORE. The ladies have carefully avoided overcommitting in this way in order to stand by the values of their business. Though as they look to the future, Tanya, Jennifer and Meeghan find themselves approaching a crossroads. Now that their children are getting older and in school that limiting factor of time may become less of an obstacle. This leaves them in the exciting place of considering next steps for their business and if the time has come to expand.

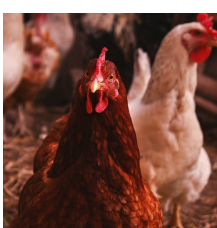
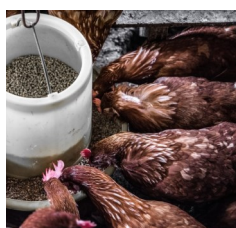
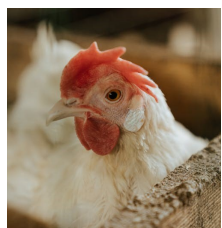
(Meeghan, Tanya, and Jennifer)



Check out Simply Bee online at www.simplybeemarket.com on Facebook and Instagram @simplybeesoapandstuff

CLUCKING GOOD FACTS

- Chickens were domesticated around 8,000 years ago.
- There are more chickens on earth than people – 25 billion.
- Chickens have full color vision and can also see violet and ultraviolet light.
- There is a unique breed of chicken, the Ayam Cemani, that is completely black inside and out. From their feathers, beak and comb all the way through to their organs.
- Chickens communicate with over 30 unique vocalizations.
- Record number of eggs laid by a chicken in one day: 7
- Chickens have long term memory capacity and are able to recognize over 100 individuals even after long periods of separation.
- Eggs are laid only after a gland near the chickens eye receives a light cue (natural or artificial), hence why most eggs are laid in the morning hours.
- The color of the egg depends on the chicken's earlobes. Typically red ear lobed chickens lay brown eggs, while white ear lobed chickens lay white eggs.



WINTER READY COOPS

- Easy access to clean unfrozen water is of the utmost importance. Using a heated pet bowl that is cleaned regularly is a cheap and effective option.
- Prevent drafts by sealing any gaps or holes as chickens, like us, are susceptible to losing body heat from wind chill. However it is important that a coop is kept well ventilated and dry. Adequate ventilation is necessary to keep moisture and ammonia levels under control as too much moisture coupled with frigid temperatures leaves chickens susceptible to frostbite. Be sure to provide ample dry bedding and remove wet litter daily.
- Coops do not typically require a heater. Most breeds tolerate cold very well and chickens are able to increase their body temperature by eating more in colder weather. Insulating the coop is an effective way to retain more heat. But, if despite your best efforts the chickens are still too cold you may want to consider adding a heat source. It is strongly recommended to NOT use heat lamps as they pose a serious fire hazard. Instead opt for something such as a flat panel zero clearance radiant heater.



Old ranch owner John farmed a small ranch in Alberta. The Alberta Wage and Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his workers and sent an agent out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent.

"Well," replied old John, "There's my ranch hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90 percent of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night."

"That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit," says the agent.

"That would be me," replied old rancher John.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Zajic Family! Recipients of the 2020 BMO Farm Family Award at Farm Fair November 13, 2021.

