



# THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

APRIL 2022 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

The M.D. of Wainwright Council meets on the third Tuesday of every month starting at 9:00 a.m. The meetings are live streamed for public viewing. Check our website for more information on how to tune in.

The M.D. must complete an audit by a third party each year. This is a requirement put forth by the Province.

The M.D. provides funding to the Irma, Edgerton, Chauvin, and Wainwright Fire Departments. This is done through grants, shared capital costs and other requests.

## PODCAST FAN?

FCC Knowledge: Talking Farm and Food

Agriculture is not only a way of life, it's a business. Talking Farm and Food is a monthly podcast that highlights the stories and experiences of farm business entrepreneurs and the lessons they've learned along the way.

Join Marty Seymour as he talks to Canadian producers about their lives, their businesses, and the farm management topics you care about. If you're looking for advice on money and finance, transition, managing people, strategy, leadership and more, this is the podcast for you.

Presented by AgExpert. Software designed for Canadian agriculture.

hello  
spring



The crocus is a symbol of rebirth and new beginnings. A sure sign that spring has sprung!

## OPTIONS YOU CAN GOPHER

Spring is a favorite time for many. Longer days, warmer weather and the promise of great things to come. But for producers spring also marks the return of the ever pesky Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS). Knowing a bit about the RGS life cycle and behavior can help to make informed decisions for control. The chart below indicates the typical timing of spring emergence. What is important to note here is that males emerge approximately two weeks before females. During this time they do not eat much and live primarily off winter body fat as they are occupied with fighting for territory. When females emerge from hibernation they breed immediately and also do not consume much. Two weeks post emergence is when females begin to feed heavily. This is the most effective time to initiate any poisoning activities as adults are actively seeking out high energy food sources, new litters have not yet arrived, and ideally green up has not yet occurred, making bait an appealing food source. Determining this window of opportunity can be done by actively monitoring for emergence. Once the first RGS's have been spotted, four to six weeks later is a favorable time to commence control.

Current chemical options include Rozol RTU, a commercially available toxicant containing the active ingredient chlorophacinone, which is an anticoagulant. Results of baiting will be seen in ten to twelve days with this multi feeding product.

Alternatively, producers may want to consider Burrow Oat Bait. The active ingredient is zinc phosphide, an acute toxin with similar toxicity to 2% liquid strychnine. This has become the go to product for RGS control in Manitoba over the past four years as strychnine was made unavailable there in 2018. Burrow Oat Bait comes in 20kg bags and is sold at a lower price point than Rozol RTU. Another benefit is that there is a very limited risk of secondary poisonings due to the mode of action of this rodenticide.

What's the catch? Availability.

There are currently no retailers in Alberta for Burrow Oat Bait, however it can be procured via Manitoba. Viceroy Distributors carries this product and is able to ship to Alberta. Inquire with them or your local retailer for more information on this product.

Note: always read and follow the label directions when working with pesticides.

Timeline based on Southern Alberta. Emergence will be dependent on weather, therefore active monitoring is needed.

	Emerge Above Ground	Enter Hibernation
Adult Males	Mid February to Early March	Mid June to Early July
Adult Females	Early to Mid March	Early to Late July
Juvenile Females	Early to Mid May	Early to Mid August
Juvenile Males	Early to Mid May	Mid September to October

**The M.D. of Wainwright does not have any Strychnine available.**

## 2021 INSECT SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT



The Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network coordinates, manages and carries out seven insect surveys province-wide in Alberta's field crops to assess presence, abundance and impact to the agriculture industry. The Network also conducts smaller targeted surveys on new and emerging pests working with Universities, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The success of the network depends on its dedicated partners that assist with surveillance, including Agricultural Fieldmen, applied research associations, agronomists, producers, and Alberta government staff.

A summary for M.D. of Wainwright was provided by Shelley Barkley with Alberta Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development (AFRED):

This year there were five bertha armyworm traps in the M.D. of Wainwright. All the traps were below the first risk level of 300 moths. The bertha armyworm population is very cyclical, In order to catch outbreaks and help producers minimize losses it is necessary to maintain a good monitoring system using pheromone traps. The number of moths caught in the traps informs us of the risk of damaging populations with a 3 to 5 week lead time. Populations are normally kept in check by factors such as weather and natural enemies.

Pea leaf weevil damage was low in all the fields checked in our area during the survey in late May – early June. At this point insecticide seed treatment should not be necessary for managing this pest in Wainwright.

Wheat midge numbers were nonexistent this year. Producers and agronomists should be aware that wheat midge does exist in this area and given proper conditions (June moisture and/or delayed seeding) the pest could build up to damaging levels.

No cabbage seedpod weevil were found in our area. The population in central Alberta seems to have reduced to very low numbers.

There was one diamondback moth trap site that caught three moths. The risk each year depends on the flight into our area from southern North America.

One thing that we need to keep an eye on is the cutworm situation. With the long fall and crop regrowth, cutworm moths had the opportunity to lay many eggs. Fields with bare spots should be checked for cutworms this spring.

The map to the right is the 2022 grasshopper forecast based on the results of the 2021 survey. The M.D. of Wainwright is forecasted to have a primarily light grasshopper populations

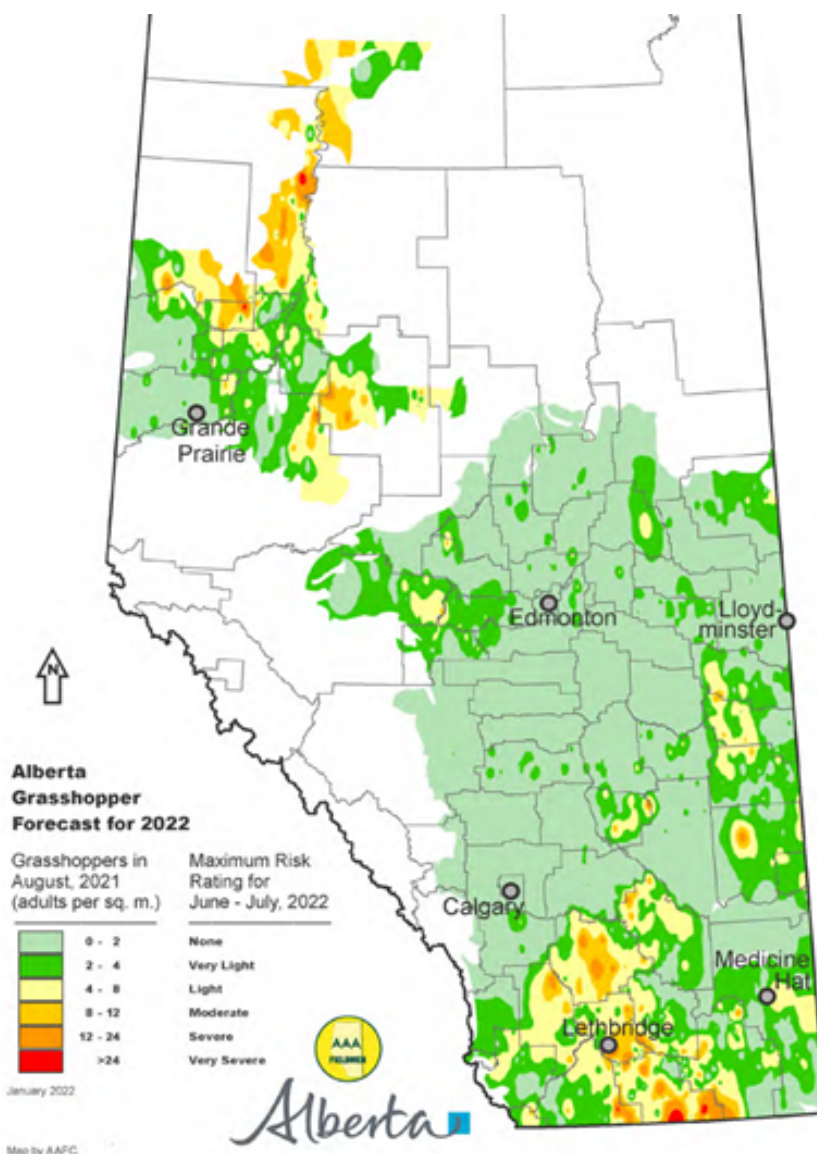
in 2022 except for some areas in western part of the municipality which may see a light to moderate population.

For the 2021 swede midge monitoring program, run by Jonathon Williams with Agri-Food Canada, no positive cases were detected at the forty two sites across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon Territory.

[www.alberta.ca/alberta-insect-pest-monitoring-network.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/alberta-insect-pest-monitoring-network.aspx) is a fantastic resource for information regarding crop pests. Survey results, live population maps, insect pest factsheets, and instructional videos can all be accessed here for free.



Left to right: Diamondback Moth, Bertha Armyworm, Pea Leaf Weevil







With the snow rapidly disappearing most of us have turned our thoughts to our favorite summer time activities. For many this includes getting out in the garden. Whether you're a flower or vegetable connoisseur it is worth your while to make a trip to Spade to Spoon Garden Market and Greenhouse east of Irma.

This thriving local business opened its doors back in 2016 and has flourished under the direction of owners Kristal MacKay and Janel Fenton. Like many entrepreneurs these ladies dove in the deep end when they decided to get in to the greenhouse business. With no prior experience they purchased two greenhouses and opened up shop. The first year was such a success they wasted no time expanding and now boast four greenhouses with plans for growth on the horizon. Of course they credit this success to the support they receive from their families. Everyone can be found pitching in during peak season, something the ladies are grateful for. They also appreciate the community. Each year they see familiar faces returning to the greenhouse to make their annual purchases and are also pleased to see their new clientele grow every year.

Of course some surprises arose when entering the world of greenhouse production, for these entrepreneurs a big revelation was the amount of watering that must be done in a day. From May onwards it can take two and a half to three hours to water the plants in their four greenhouses, and watering does not occur once but TWICE per day. Certainly no small task.

Like any business Spade to Spoon faces several challenges. Maintaining conditions in the greenhouses in the early season is always a concern. This was especially true this spring as temperatures were still regularly plummeting in early March this year. Trying to predict the needs and desires of the market is also a tricky task. Orders for next years plants go out in early October so it is a challenge to estimate what products will be popular and how much to get. A third issue is remaining competitive with the big box stores down the road. When asked what the benefits were to purchasing from their greenhouse there was certainly a plethora of great reasons. Aside from supporting a local small business, plants purchased from Spade to Spoon have received a huge amount of individual care. Many have been trimmed as many as six times, encouraging them to bloom more and grow fuller. The proof of this can be seen all summer throughout Wainwright. If you have ever admired the abundantly flowering petunias maintained by Communities in Bloom, they originated at Spade to Spoon!

Another component of Spade to Spoon that customers enjoy is the Garden Market side of the business. When you visit the greenhouse there is always more than plants to shop from. Kristal and Janel produce a variety of their own preserves ranging from their ever popular salsas, to jellies and jams. They are often experimenting with new flavors, such as caramel apple, to compliment their staples. You can find offerings from other local vendors on their shelves as well, such as products from Simply Bee, local macrame, woodworking, and more.

When it comes to their favorite aspects of the business, Kristal finds a lot of joy in creating custom planters for patrons, a popular service they offer. Janel is a fan of getting her hands dirty with seeding and transplanting, and has a particular soft spot for working with vegetables. A big accomplishment the team recalls came in their second year of business when the Western Producer featured them in an article.

The biggest day of the season for Kristal and Janel is Mothers Day. They hope that this year they are able to return to making this day in to an event. In the past they have incorporated elements such as providing hotdogs and baking to patrons, a petting zoo, a make your own planter station for kids and more.

Spade to Spoon opens for the season on April 30th, 2022. Whether you're in the market for bedding plants, perennials, trees, shrubs, vegetables or herbs, this local business will not disappoint.



Owners Kristal MacKay & Janel Fenton



Spade to Spoon Garden Market and Greenhouse



## PRAIRIE STAPLES

Prickly Rose - *Rosa acicularis*

Prickly rose is easily recognizable as the floral emblem of Alberta. It grows as a bushy shrub up to 1.5 m in height and its stout stems are usually densely covered with straight, weak bristles. Leaves are compound with 3 to 9 sharply double toothed leaflets. Prickly rose flowers from late May to July and leaves behind fleshy scarlet "hips" that remain on the shrub through the winter. This common species has a wide distribution throughout the Province and can be found in a variety of environments including open forests, thickets, riverbanks and clearings. This native species is readily browsed by several wildlife species but remains resistant to over browsing as older woody stems are less palatable and have courser spines. Most parts of this shrub are edible, hence why prickly rose has a long history of utilization from root to hip by a variety of first nations groups. The hips are exceptionally high in vitamins A and C and were a dietary staple, being eaten raw, roasted, or added to pemmican. Today it is still common for boiled rose hips to be made into teas, jams, jellies or syrups. Prickly rose is rhizomatous and can be readily propagated via root or stem cuttings.



## ELECTRONICS, PAINT AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP

May 7th 10:00am-2:00pm

Bring your unwanted computers, TV's, small appliances, tires, paint, household hazardous waste, used oil and filters to:  
Wainwright Regional Landfill  
1201 4th Ave South

NO COMMERCIAL ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

For more information contact Carol at 780-842-4051



## NO SPRAY & ROADSIDE HAYING AGREEMENTS

The application deadline to participate in this program is May 1st, 2022. Forms can be found online at [mdwainwright.ca](http://mdwainwright.ca) or picked up at the administration office. The roadside spraying program will commence on June 1st and the mowing program will commence on July 15th.



Did you know we have a Facebook page? Follow Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 to hear about upcoming events, job postings, receive updates and more.



Clean Farms will be holding an unwanted pesticide and old livestock/equine medication collection in the fall of 2022. Details will be released this summer.

Interviewer: "Congratulations on winning the \$140 million dollar Powerball lottery."

Farmer: "Thank you."

Interviewer: "Do you have any special plans for spending all of that money?"

Farmer: "Nope. Not really. I'm just gonna keep farming until the lottery money is all gone."



April 8-10 in Lloydminster at the Exhibition Grounds, enjoy clinicians, a trainers challenge, demonstrations, and a tradeshow at Everything Equine on the Border! Visit [lloydex.com](http://lloydex.com) for full details.

## WOOLY GREAT FACTS FOR EWE

From the Alberta Lamb Producers

- Sheep were among the first animals to be domesticated an estimated 10,000 years ago.
- The most popular sheep breeds in Canada are the Suffolk, Dorset and Arcott.
- The main sheep producing areas in Canada are Ontario and Alberta.
- Alberta has over 2,000 sheep farms.
- Sheep are used for producing meat, milk and fiber. The primary market for sheep in Canada is for meat, however there is a small dairy industry in Alberta producing milk for the specialty sheep cheese market. Ewes are milked in facilities similar to milking parlors for dairy cattle. A ewe may produce up to 2 liters of milk per day.