

The Municipal Connection



PODCAST FAN?

Agriculture for Life's podcast takes listeners beyond the grocery store aisle to discover the story of agriculture and food. Agriculture for Life is a charitable organization dedicated to building a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture and its fundamental connection to life. Listen wherever you get your podcasts!

Ag for Life

CLEAN FARMS TRANSITION

For many years, Alberta and Manitoba Municipalities have provided sites at municipal transfer stations and landfills for farmers to drop off empty, triple-rinsed, <23 L ag containers for collection and recycling by Cleanfarms. Across Canada, farmers return used ag items like jugs to ag-retailers. This streamlines the process and brings it into alignment with other provinces. With a recent change, between 2022 and December 31, 2024, this responsibility will transition from Alberta and Manitoba Municipalities to local ag-retailers, in a gradual and phased process that will begin with sites that have recently received least materials, to those that have received the most.

There are four collection locations within the M.D. of Wainwright. A seasonal location in Irma, as well as three year round sites at Wainwright, Edgerton and Chauvin. These locations are scheduled to close effective **January 1st, 2024**.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

- The M.D. supplies dumpsters to ratepayers.
- The M.D. helps fund the Wainwright, Chauvin, Edgerton, and Irma Libraries.
- M.D. of Wainwright Councillors sit on a combined 43 different committees.

REMINDER TO RATEPAYERS

The Municipal tax deadline was on November 30th. A penalty of 6% has been added to all outstanding taxes effective as of Thursday December 1, 2022. Outstanding taxes may be paid in person by cash, cheque, or debit at the Administration Office located at 717 14th Ave Wainwright. Office hours are 8:30am—12pm, 1pm—4:30pm. Payments may also be made online via online banking and interact, or by credit card at www.paysimply.ca



From all of the staff at the M.D. of Wainwright, may the holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Years!

INDUSTRIAL HEMP WORKSHOP

Combat your apprehensions about industrial hemp with facts straight from the experts at this morning workshop. With over 20 years of research behind him, Dr. Jan Slaski has a wealth of information to answer all the questions you may have about this diverse crop. Not to mention you will enjoy a great meal with your neighbors!

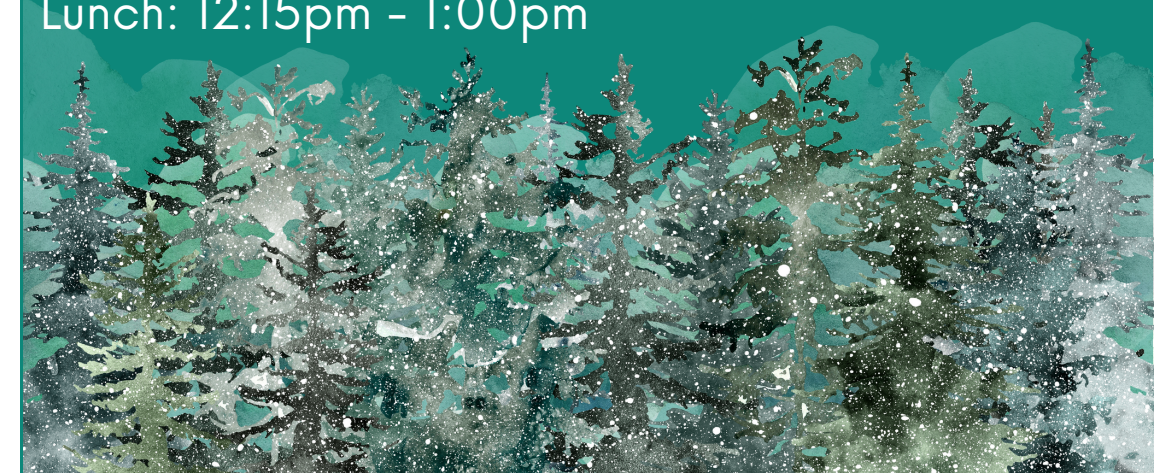
The M.D. of Wainwright is pleased to host hemp researcher and expert Dr. Jan Slaski and the Alberta Hemp Alliance as they demystify industrial hemp and build your foundation of knowledge in a pressure free environment. Learn the benefits of diversifying your operation with hemp and the opportunities in this expanding industry. This workshop will focus on growing hemp for fiber in our regions soil and climate conditions.

Registration for this workshop taking place on Saturday December 10th at the Wainwright Communiplex is required. Contact Shelby at soracheski@mdwainwright.ca or call the M.D. office at 780-842-4454 to register. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, December 7th.

This workshop is offered at a cost of \$10 per participant for M.D. of Wainwright ratepayers and \$20 for all other attendees. This covers coffee and refreshments, as well as a delicious catered lunch prepared by Vera's Catering. Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions at the time of registration. Also note that payment may only be made in cash at the door.

Schedule:

Registration and coffee: 9:30am-10:00am
Presentations and Q & A Sessions: 10:00am - 12:15pm
Lunch: 12:15pm - 1:00pm



cleanfarms

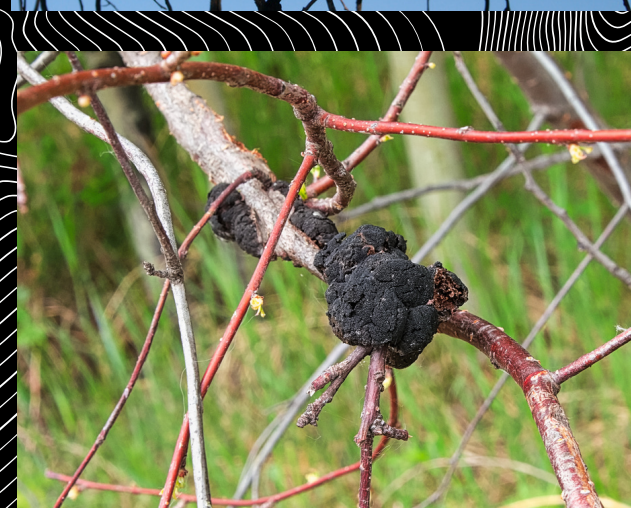
DEALING WITH BLACK KNOT

Many will be familiar with the unsightly 'black knots' caused by the fungus *Apiosporina morbosa*. This widespread fungus commonly infects plants of the genus *Prunus* (cherry) such as choke, pin and Nanking cherries. The most distinguishing symptom of Black Knot is of course the characteristic black, tar-like swellings that develop on branches of infected plants.

In the early stages, small olive-green galls or swellings develop at growing points or fruit spurs as a result of fungal spores landing and infecting the location. These swellings will grow until mature after 2-3 years. The mature galls are hard, black, 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 inches) and may be somewhat ruptured. Mature galls will produce and release a vast amount of spores during the bloom period, resulting in a rapid increase in infections. The fungus continues to grow internally and externally, with the branch eventually becoming girdled and dies.

The best method for controlling Black Knot is to remove the source of inoculum (spores) to prevent further disease spread and halt the progression of the disease within a plant. This is done by using proper pruning methods at the correct time. Improper pruning (either at the wrong time or incorrectly) is one of the biggest spreaders of the disease, but can easily be avoided by following a few tips:

- Now until April is the best time to prune out Black Knot. It is important to prune only when susceptible species as well as the fungus is dormant. It is also easier to see all galls when the infected plant is leafless. Avoid pruning in late fall and early spring, or anytime during the growing season unless you are noticing a new infestation for the first time (immature galls).
- Prune infected branches to at least 15-20 cm (6-8 inches) below a knot. It is preferable to prune an infected branch further back, such as to a healthy collar, rather than leave a stub. This will also ensure all spore bearing tissue is removed. Failure to remove branches beyond the internal growth will result in re-growth of the fungus.
- As a precaution, cutting blades should be cleaned and disinfected after pruning, and even between cuts, especially if cuts have been made through obviously infected material.
- After pruning, be sure to remove infested wood IMMEDIATELY. Branches may be burned, buried or removed from site (such as by taking them to landfill). This is an important step, as spores can spread even four months after pruning.



CALVE HEIFERS EARLY

There are a number of reasons to calve heifers before cows, but calving heifers, which may be at higher risk for dystocia, 2-3 weeks prior to cows allows for concentrated surveillance. Early calving for heifers also allows them to calve in the cleanest calving environment, especially if it is not possible to move the herd and calving of the entire herd occurs in one location. This will help reduce the risk of disease in calves born to heifers. Although this helps to reduce the disease burden, it is not a substitute for other management procedures that reduce disease. Heifers also need more time to return to estrus than cows do, since it takes them longer to start cycling after they have had a calf. Breeding them early gives them a chance to catch up with the cows and be bred early in the breeding season next year. This greatly increases their chance of remaining in the herd longer.



RACOONS IN ALBERTA

Alberta's raccoon population has traditionally resided largely in the province's southeast. However, in recent years raccoon territory has expanded to include central Alberta. A few facts from the Government of Alberta on these pesky visitors:

- Raccoons have a highly developed sense of touch. They use water - not for washing - but to soften the tough bristles on the bottom of their paws. This makes the bristles better able to pick up and transmit information about the object that the raccoon is handling.
- Like bears, raccoons must spend the warmer months fattening up for winter dormancy. Though not true hibernators, raccoons still become inactive enough to lose up to 50% of their body weight.
- Raccoons are omnivores that can easily adapt to whatever food sources are available. In the wild, raccoons feed on fruits, nuts, berries and insects, and foods that can be found near water such as fish, birds, eggs and frogs. Near human habitation, raccoons will eat whatever we deliberately or inadvertently provide, such as garbage, chickens, corn, compost, bird seed or pet food.
- Raccoons are nocturnal, though they may also roam in the day. They make their dens in culverts, attics, chimneys, outbuildings, tree hollows, barns, abandoned buildings or rock crevices.



Anyone who has encountered raccoons on their property will know how big of a nuisance they can be, not to mention their ability to spread disease and parasites (such as raccoon roundworm, canine distemper, or leptospirosis).

What to do about raccoons on your property? Raccoons may be hunted or trapped throughout the province at any time of year without a license on land which the person has the right of access for hunting. To prevent additional raccoons from visiting your property, you must remove the food or shelter the animals are seeking. The M.D. of Wainwright has raccoon traps available for use by ratepayers within Municipal boundaries. Contact the Public Works office in Wainwright to inquire about use.

WHAT'S STOPPING YOU FROM COMPLETING AN ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP)?

Don't be scared off by the word 'environmental' in the title. An EFP is simply a self assessment of your operation and all information shared is entirely confidential. It is free, valid for a period of ten years, and is completed in an online workbook with the assistance of your local EFP technician (Assistant Fieldman Shelby Oracheski).

There are many benefits to completing an EFP. A big motivator for many is that an EFP is a prerequisite for most Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) programs, which will translate over to the new funding framework that will be launched in the new year - the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). Aside from funding, other benefits include increasing your awareness of what environmental risks may exist in your operation, highlighting what you are already doing well, and aiding in increasing efficiencies and reducing production costs (and therefore improving your bottom line). An EFP is also key for marketing and sustainable sourcing requirements.

Don't miss out on opportunities to fund on farm projects. Learn more and register your EFP today by visiting albertaeefp.com

When you speak to someone truly passionate about what they do, it shines through like nothing else. One such person is Harmony Gramlich, owner and operator of Winter Haven Advanced Esthetics Ltd. in Chauvin.

There is no such thing as perfect skin. A rare few are blessed to go through life without encountering an issue, but for most of us this is simply not the case. Whether you have struggled with acne, texture, or signs of aging, many of us wish to seek out professional assistance to combat these issues. Unfortunately in rural Alberta, seeking this sort of expertise and service often comes with travelling long distances. This lack of access is what inspired Harmony to head back to school in 2019 to pursue her Diploma in Advanced Clinical Esthetics at the renowned Esthetic Institute in Calgary, all while continuing to work as a Registered Nurse. Harmony persevered through pauses in her education and the struggles of nursing through the pandemic, and opened her doors in Chauvin with the goal of bringing advanced skin care to her small town and surrounding community.

Opening an advanced esthetics business was not always in the plan for Harmony. In the past, she had dreamed of opening a small town café, a safe and inviting place where people could gather, a haven. So when she decided to pursue advanced esthetics, the concept of 'haven' stayed with her and became the foundation that she built her business on. She strives to create a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for her clients and knew the word had to be a part of the name. Choosing a name was of course a small hurdle compared to the daunting task of launching your first business. Facing the steep learning curve was not a move for the faint of heart, especially in the midst of the pandemic, but Harmony was undeterred. She credits this to the huge amount of support and advice she has received from friends, family and her mentors at the Esthetic Institute, all rooting for her to succeed.

Harmony is also immensely grateful for the support she is receiving from the community. This support continues to be one of her biggest and most welcome surprises since embarking on her business journey. When she initially set out she had tempered her expectations and was prepared to see a slow first six months as she set up shop, but this was soon proven to be unfounded as her books began to fill up. She quickly saw herself rearranging her schedule to accommodate a rush of clientele, and was able to move her initially home based business into her own shoppe in Chauvin in the summer of 2022. Harmony is incredibly humble about this success, calling it luck, but every small business owner knows luck is only a small fraction of it. Now that Winter Haven is on its feet, when asked what challenges she is finding herself up against, Harmony quickly responds with.... patience! She has big dreams for Winter Haven and is looking forward to the day when she has every possible tool in her belt. She is eager to continue expanding her skill set, introduce new modalities, investing in the most modern equipment, exploring every possibility within her reach and seeing how far she can push herself. She currently offers an impressive array of customizable services, from advanced facials, chemical peels, microneedling, microdermabrasion, and dermaplaning. But for Harmony, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Throughout her first year and a half in business, Harmony has found that her absolute favorite part about her work is the connections and trust she has cultivated with clients. She considers herself fortunate to have had many meaningful experiences helping people 'climb their mountain' and become empowered when they make progress on their skin care journey. It is not uncommon to see someone come through her doors struggling with a skin issue impacting their self confidence and self worth, so to be a part of a positive change in that persons life is incredibly gratifying. One particular client that stands out to her is a young bride to be who had struggled with acne on her back for many years, to the point where she did not even feel comfortable wearing a tank top. She worked diligently with Harmony through the winter and was able to wear a backless dress with confidence on her wedding day, a huge milestone for that young woman and Harmony both.

Looking to the future, Harmony plans to continue balancing her passions of nursing and bringing the best possible care to her Winter Haven clients. She hopes to collaborate with more providers and expand the services offered in the Chauvin area. When asked what she would say to prospective clients, she encourages them to take the first step and reach out. Everything begins with a simple conversation in person, over the phone or on Facetime, and there is no expectation of a commitment. Harmony aims to build trust, get to the root of each individual clients skin woes, and create a customized plan that will meet their needs. There is no one size fits all magic bullet solution when it comes to solving skin care troubles, but you can find a passionate and caring provider who will ensure the journey is worth embarking on.

If you are looking for high level service, but also a provider who is knowledgeable and empathetic, think Chauvin and make a trip to Winter Haven Advanced Esthetics Ltd.



“Beautiful skin
requires
commitment,
not a miracle.”
— Erno Laszlo



“Be good to your
skin. You’ll wear it
every day for the
rest of your life.”
— Renee Rouleau



PRAIRIE STAPLES Wolf Willow/Silverberry *Elaeagnus commutata*

Despite the name, this prairie staple is not in fact a willow, but a member of the Oleaster family. The genus is derived from 'elaia' meaning olive and 'agnos' which is Greek for 'chaste tree', which has similar foliage. Commutata means 'changed', referring to the foliage which changes from green to silver. This beautiful mid sized shrub can be found in a variety of habitats throughout the Province, from moist prairie edges, to dry hillsides, open fields and within the aspen forest, along river banks and tucked into coulees. This wide dispersion is in part due to the partnership between wolf willow and nitrogen-fixing bacteria in root nodules, giving it an advantage in harsh conditions. It also has the ability to reproduce rapidly, which can sometimes cause it to act invasively, such as in the case of overgrazed pasture. It is easy to spot from a distance, with its rust colored twigs and distinctive foliage. It is also easy to track down if you follow your nose when it is in flower through late May to June. Though the petite yellow blooms are not necessarily showy, they produce a strong musky-sweet scent that perfumes the air. The ripened fruits are a dry, silvery berry with a large stony seed within. These berries often continue to cling to the branches throughout the winter. Historically, wolf willow berries were used by Indigenous Peoples to make seed necklaces. The berries were boiled to remove the flesh and the pointed nutlets strung onto necklaces or used to decorate the fringes on clothing. Other uses included using the bark to make strong fiber baskets or cordage. Though the berries are mealy and dry, they were still sometimes consumed or used as an ingredient in certain foods. Currently, the essential oils derived from wolf willow have demand as an aromatherapy product.



Mikey, the farmer's son was returning from the market with the crate of chicken's his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden the box fell and broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but Mikey, being determined walked all over the neighborhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to the repaired crate. Hoping he had found them all, he reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst.

'Pa, the chickens got loose,' Mikey confessed sadly, 'but I managed to find all twelve of them.'

'Well, you did real good, son,' the farmer beamed. 'You left with seven.'



during busy times of year such as Spring planting and Fall harvest to lend helping hands whether it be long days in the tractor or providing a hot meal.

Congratulations from the M.D. of Wainwright to the Pare Family! (pictured above/left)

BMO FARM FAMILY AWARD

For 50 years, farm families from northern and central Alberta communities have been recognized as the recipients of the Farm Family Award. The Northern and Central Agricultural Service Boards select outstanding families who best represent values of the family farm within their rural community. The award honors both their farming business practices and community involvement. The M.D of Wainwright has the opportunity to nominate a family every two years. This is done at the recommendations of the four local Agricultural Societies within the M.D. on a rotational basis. This year, it was the Chauvin Ag Societies turn to make a nomination and they selected the Pare Family.

The Pare family has been in the Chauvin area since 1917, currently managed by the 4th generation with the 5th generation hot on their heels. Pare Farms is primarily a grain farming operation but historically have included small herds of cattle, horses, pigs and chickens.

In the past, Don and Louise farmed with Don's parents, Leo and Pauline Pare. Together they farmed only their own land (approximately 2,000 acres) while they ran a Chauvin based oilfield company on the side. They have three children, Leo (Amanda), Aric (Ashley) and Brenna (Andrew) along with nine grandchildren. While the family grew, time off the farm included hockey, volleyball, skiing, motorhome road trips and the odd hot holiday. Throughout their lives, Don and Louise have been active community supporters within Chauvin taking on different roles within the Fire Department, Ambulance, Museum Board, Agricultural Society, Scouts Canada, School Board and Parent Council.

Currently, Aric and Ashley have taken on managing the farm and continue working alongside Don and Louise. Family time away from the farm has included Aric's outriding career with the CPCA and WPCA chuckwagon circuits, beach time at the lake for swimming lessons, road trips and the odd hot holiday. Aric and Ashley are proud community members actively participating in numerous Chauvin organizations including the Fire Department, Agricultural Society, Elks of Canada, Arena Committee, Oilmen Golf Committee, Oilmen Golf Committee, Tiny Tots preschool committee and coaching hockey.

The Pare farm strives to maintain the family farm atmosphere by pursuing all aspects of farm life to benefit the family. The families of Leo Pare and Brenna Condin can be found at the farm

FACTS ON FARMING IN ALBERTA

- Agriculture is a crucial component of economic success in the province of Alberta, employing more than 75,000 Albertans. (Alberta Government - AG)
- Alberta is home to 50.3 million acres of farmland (2016). (Statistics Canada)
- With 40,638 farms, Alberta has the second greatest number of farms in Canada following Ontario (2016). (Statistics Canada)
- In 2020, Alberta's agricultural sector contributed \$9.68 billion to the economy (or gross domestic product). (Invest Alberta)
- Alberta's Agricultural exports totalled more than \$12.4 billion in 2020, including \$5.8 billion in primary agricultural products and \$6.7 billion in value-added products. (Invest Alberta)
- Farmers in Alberta export nearly 7 million tonnes of wheat each year to 70 countries around the world. (AG)
- Alberta's top markets for agricultural exports are the United States, China, Japan, Mexico, and South Korea. (AG)
- Alberta's top five agri-food exports in 2020 were (AG):
 - 1.beef (\$2.5 billion)
 - 2.wheat (\$2.3 billion)
 - 3.canola seed (\$1.7 billion)
 - 4.crude canola oil (\$1 billion)
 5. live cattle (\$689 million)