

# THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

June 2022 Volume 16, Issue 3



## RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

Spring rat inspections have concluded. One location was confirmed as positive in Range 1 following a visual sighting by Inspectors on a routine check. The location continues to be baited and monitored for further activity. It appears this was a single rat who likely hitched a ride on a recent grain shipment from Saskatchewan. It is important to be vigilant with monitoring for signs of rats no matter how far from the border you reside, especially if you have brought in feed (including hay) or seed from our neighbors to the East. Visit the Government of Alberta website for further information on the Rat Control Program, how to rat proof your property, and how to identify a rat. Signs and sightings of rats can be reported at any time to the Assistant Fieldman Shelby at 780-842-4454 or [soracheski@mdwainwright.ca](mailto:soracheski@mdwainwright.ca)



## HAVE YOU HEARD?

The M.D. of Wainwright enters a purchasing program with other municipalities to get deals on fuel, supplies, utilities, and equipment. This helps keep our prices low, stable, and deal with supply chain challenges.

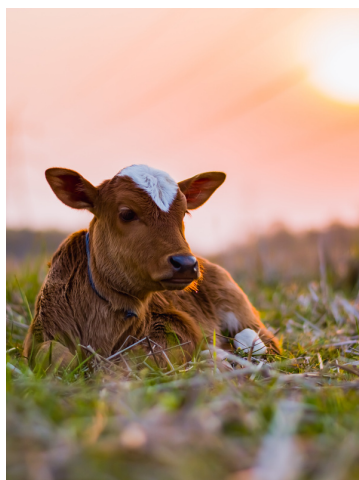
The golf courses at Riverdale and Arm Lake are open and ready for visitors!

The M.D. of Wainwright requires development permits to help ensure properties comply with a variety of provincial and local regulations.

## MUNICIPAL WEED INSPECTORS

Dennis Fuder  
780-842-7060  
Divisions 1, 5, 6 and 7

Laine Maron  
780-842-8579  
Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5



## PODCAST FAN?

The Growing the Future Podcast features conversations on innovation, entrepreneurship, and growth that will inspire, educate, and motivate you.

Join hosts Dan and Terry Aberhart as they talk to the folks in their network about how they find success in their endeavors.



Firstly, why do we have a vegetation management program? There are several reasons, some of which include:

**Public safety:** overgrown vegetation reduces site lines on roadways, leading to an increased risk of collisions with wildlife or other vehicles.

**Control of invasive species:** the Municipality is legally bound to abide by the *Alberta Weed Control Act* which mandates that prohibited noxious and noxious weeds are controlled in right of ways (ROW's). Controlling weeds in ROW's also decreases the likelihood of these species spreading into adjacent private land, such as crops and pastures. Controlling weeds proactively is also more cost effective in the long term.

**Protection of Municipal infrastructure:** maintaining appropriate vegetative cover along roadways increases bank stability.

The Vegetation Management plan is coordinated in an integrated manner. Spraying and mowing are some of the tools used to achieve control of encroaching brush and invasive species.

**Municipal Spray Program:** Brush spraying is completed on a two year rotation, where all Municipal roads are spot sprayed once every two years for brush under 2m in height. Trees over 2m in height may be mulched by the Public Works Department. Weed control is completed on a three year rotation, where roadsides are blanket sprayed for prohibited noxious, noxious and general weeds once every three years. Spot spraying for prohibited noxious and noxious weeds is still completed annually in the areas that do not receive a blanket treatment. Municipal staff hold current pesticide applicator licenses through the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, which is the highest level of certification through the Alberta Government for the management and application of pesticides. Staff continue to use selective herbicides according to label directions to ensure the health and safety of residents.

Private landowners can request assistance when dealing with prohibited noxious and noxious weeds on pasture lands. A weed inspector can visit your property and if an invasive weed is identified staff can assist with control (excluding Canada and sow thistle) at a cost of \$25.00 an hour plus the cost of chemical. Municipal staff can also work with you if you choose to administer control yourself.

**Municipal Mowing Program:** Approximately nine hundred miles of Municipal roadside is mowed annually through this program. Mowing reduces vegetation height along roadways, which increases visibility for motorists.

**Municipal No Spray/Haying Program:** this program is available to landowners who wish to control brush under 2m in height, weed species identified in the *Weed Control Act*, and/or hay the ditches adjacent to land they own. An agreement (due May 1st annually) is required to participate in this program. The agreement is available on the M.D. website or can be picked up at the Administration Office. Please note that the M.D. does not spray adjacent to maintained yard sites and maintained tame shelterbelts, and an agreement is not required for these areas.

**Municipal Roadside Seeding Program:** the Agricultural Service Department works in conjunction with the Public Works Department on the remediation of newly constructed Municipal ROW's and borrow pits. Landowners have the choice of what grass seed mixture they want their owned land reseeded to.

Be on the lookout for these invasive species all found within the M.D. of Wainwright. Photos from top to bottom: Scentless Chamomile, Nodding Thistle, Common Tansy, Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Hoary Alyssum, Toadflax, Orange Hawkweed.





There is something about the ranching way of life that is good for the soul. A trio who knows this to their cores are sisters Becky Guenthner, Jackie Davidson, and Jess Fenton (pictured at bottom right), the visionaries behind Ranch Raised Clothing Co. These women were raised on a purebred Hereford ranch, which instilled in them a deep love and passion for the lifestyle this granted them. This legacy continues to serve them today as they actively ranch, raise cowkids of their own, and channel their passion into their thriving small business.

It all started in the winter of 2021, as the sisters came to find there was very little Canadian made clothing representing the ranching and agricultural lifestyle they so cherished. Naturally, they took to the drawing board to design logos and embellishments to adorn clothing for themselves and their children to fill that gap. The intention had not been to build a business, but their brand resonated so strongly that their personal project quickly evolved and took on a life of its own. Happy patrons now proudly sport their own Ranch Raised gear, available for the whole family from infant to adult. Bibs, onesies, t-shirts, sweaters, sweatpants, windbreakers, hats and more can be purchased online, in two retail locations, or in person at events such as the Simply Bee Christmas Market or perhaps a Hereford show! They have loved these in person events where they have had the opportunity to interact with like minded people and share stories of ranch living.

As is the case for many entrepreneurs, the biggest challenge they face is time. Jess, Jackie, and Becky are busy women being pulled in several directions. Finding the time to get together is often difficult but they continue to overcome this obstacle in any way they can. As is also the case with many entrepreneurs, a commonality is also gratitude. The sisters are thankful and honored for the outstanding support they have received from their communities. They have experienced the desire of people to shop local and are truly flattered at how well received their products have been. It remains a moment of joy and pride when they are out and about and spot someone wearing the designs they carefully crafted together.

Collaboration is yet another thing these women are adept at. They have felt encouraged and supported by many other small businesses in the area and have enjoyed opportunities to work together on some projects. For Christmas 2021 they were pleased to put together men's and women's gift boxes that included contributions from other makers in the Wainwright, Irma, Provost and Lloydminster areas.


Looking to the future, the Ranch Raised trio is aiming to launch two to three new collections annually, experiment with new products and collaborations, and hope to expand in to more retail venues.


Ranch Raised Clothing Co was built on a foundation of inspiration. Jackie, Becky and Jess continue to be inspired by their everyday lives of doing what they truly love and are inspired too, by the people that share that passion. They encourage people to reach out with questions, comments, and feedback, as the next design might just be sparked from a conversation with YOU!

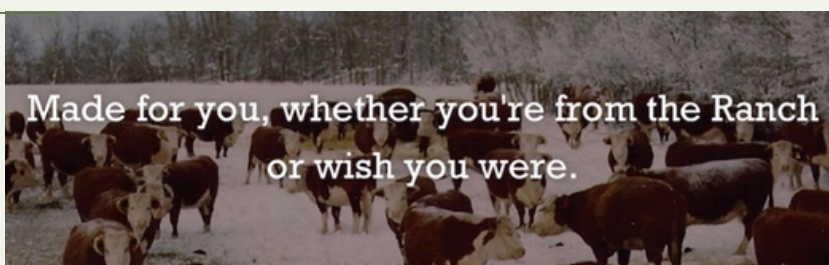


CHECK THEM OUT ONLINE AT:

[ranchraisedco.ca](https://ranchraisedco.ca)

 [Ranch Raised Clothing Co.](https://www.facebook.com/ranchraisedco)

 [ranchraisedco](https://www.instagram.com/ranchraisedco)







## PRAIRIE STAPLES

Golden Bean/Buffalo Bean - *Thermopsis rhombifolia*

One can't help but notice the beautiful flowers adorning the prairies throughout our brief, albeit beautiful, summers. One such wildflower is the vibrantly yellow Golden Bean (or Buffalo Bean) that is one of the first to decorate the landscape in late spring. This prairie staple typically grows in large patches from creeping rhizomatous roots and can be identified by its alternate, compound leaves with three smooth margined, oval leaflets. This legume thrives in grasslands and open forests, and can often be spotted in ditches. What should be noted is that this innocuous species is reportedly poisonous, especially to children, in both the flower and seed stages. It is said that first nations peoples' used the flowering time of golden bean or "buffalo bean" to indicate that it was time for the spring hunt of buffalo bulls. The flowers were also frequently made into a dye used to color skin bags and arrows.

An old farmer was walking down the path to the pond when he spotted a bullfrog. He reached down and grabbed the frog and started to put him in his pocket when the bullfrog said, "Kiss me on the lips and I will turn into a beautiful farmers wife." Again the old farmer started to put the frog in his pocket. The frog asked, "Didn't you hear what I said?" The farmer looked at the frog and said, "At my age I'd rather have a talking frog."



Don't miss out on the action at the 69th Wainwright Stampede on June 24-26, 2022. Four CPRA Rodeo performances, three days of CPCA Chuckwagon races, midway, parade, pancake breakfasts and dances! Find the details or purchase your tickets online at [wainwrightstampede.com](http://wainwrightstampede.com)

Clean + Drain + Dry all boats and equipment to help reduce the spread of invasive plants and organisms to Alberta waters.

Boats, other watercraft and associated equipment are often vectors in introducing invasive species into the province's lakes, streams and wetlands. Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra or quagga mussels and even aquatic plants, can be spread from one waterbody to another via boats, other watercraft or associated equipment that has not been properly cleaned, drained and dried between uses.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, especially when it comes to aggressive invasive species. We can all do our part to ensure our water bodies can remain for generations to come.



## THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES Facts from The Alberta Beekeepers Commission

- A Queen Bee, the life of the hive, can lay up to 800,000 eggs during her lifetime.
- Worker honey bees are always female, and in a hive, they outnumber the male (drone) bees about 100 to 1.
- Bees communicate through dances, vibrations and chemical signals. When scout bees find new sources of pollen, nectar or water, they return to the hive and perform a 'round dance' or a 'waggle dance' that helps the other scout bees find their way to these resources during their next flight.
- A bee typically visits 50 to 100 flowers to collect pollen and nectar. They carry pollen in hairy receptacles or 'pollen baskets' on their legs. Nectar is stored in a special honey stomach, or 'honey sack', so it can later be transferred to the honey-making bees.
- According to the Canadian Honey Council, to make one pound (454 g) of honey, bees will tap about two million flowers and fly 50,000 miles (80,000 km).
- Honey bees are efficient workers, only flying as far as they must. That's typically between one and six kilometers from the hive, but some bees have been observed flying up to 16 kilometers to forage.
- During her lifetime, a worker honey bee collects enough nectar to produce just 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey.