

THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

M.D. Accounting Program

The M.D. of Wainwright has upgraded to a new accounting program. As a result, you will notice changes to the look of your gravel and utility invoices, receipts and 2025 tax notices. If you have any questions contact the MD office at 780-842-4454.


Agriculture Service Board Member

The M.D. of Wainwright Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is seeking applications for a new farm member to join the Board. Applicants must be a resident and/or ratepayer in the M.D., and be familiar with agricultural concerns and issues. Applications are open until October 9th. Please contact the M.D. office for more details.

Podcasts

 **MAKE- Manitoba Agriculture Food Knowledge Exchange-** podcast covers timely research innovations and applications that make our food system better. Covering research at all points of our food system, improving foods journey from farm to table.

Municipal Walking Trail

 Did you know the M.D. of Wainwright has a 5 km paved walking trail? The M.D. walking trail runs along the army base located next to the Bud Cotton Buffalo Paddock. Benches are located along the trail to rest and enjoy the views of the prairie and wildlife. Access to the trail is available at 4 Ave S and 1 St, as well as Twp Rd 442 west of Ascot Heights.

Tax Deadline

The Municipal Tax Deadline is Saturday November 30th. Due to November 30th falling on Saturday this year, taxes will be accepted at the municipal office without penalty until 4:30pm, Monday December 2nd. Payments sent by mail must be post marked no later than November 30th. A penalty of 12% will be added to all outstanding taxes effective Tuesday, December 3rd.

Taxes may be paid in person by cash, cheque, or debit at the administration office. Payments may also be made online via online banking and Interac, or by credit card at paysimply.ca. Post dated cheques are accepted. The drop off box is located in the admin office main entrance. Call 780-842-4454 with any questions regarding tax payment.

New Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program

The On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP) began accepting applications on August 14, 2024. The intent of the OFEP is to support producers in achieving environmental benefits by improving the efficient use of agricultural inputs. The program has 4 Streams with funding values up to as followed: \$50,000 for Smart Farm Technology, \$50,000 for Energy Efficiency, \$2,000 for Farm Security, and \$100,000 for Efficient Grain Handling. Eligible expenses will be cost-shared at 50% grant and 50% applicant. Visit alberta.ca/sustainable-cap for more details.



Purple Loosestrife Progress

Purple loosestrife is a Prohibited Noxious weed native to Europe and Asia. It was first introduced to North America in the 1800's for beekeeping and as an ornamental. To date this invader is now found in every Canadian Province. It is a hardy perennial of freshwater habitats such as marshes and ditches. Purple loosestrife has a tremendous reproductive capacity, causing infestations to quickly take over. In turn, wildlife disappears as habitat for nesting waterfowl and wetland functions degrade due to infestations disrupting water flow. Control of Purple Loosestrife can be tricky. Mechanical measures such as tilling, digging and pulling (except with juvenile plants) can disturb the soil and bring more seeds to the surface, and if any part of the root system is left in or on the soil it can start a new plant. Methods such as grazing, mowing, cutting, flooding or burning have not proven effective for long term control. Fortunately, herbicide application is a proven effective control method.

Purple loosestrife was first discovered within the M.D. in 2019. Over the last 5 years management efforts have been made to eradicate the Prohibited Noxious weed. The MD Ag Department continues to monitor and treat the site throughout the growing season.



Pest and Disease Surveys

Quality assurance, market access and yield are key to the success of Alberta's agriculture industry. Surveillance and monitoring for insects and diseases provide a key piece to this success by gathering information about established species populations and new threats to the cropping industry. The information gathered from pheromone traps, field insect collections and counts, and surveys is used to create forecast maps and make control recommendations.

The data from the surveys is used for more than just creating forecast maps, it can be used to direct research priorities or researchers can use the collection of samples in their studies.

The M.D. of Wainwright partakes in a number of surveys each year. During the 2024 season the field surveillance and surveys included: bertha army worm counts, swede midge traps, canola flower midge traps, wheat midge sampling, grasshopper surveys, clubroot surveys, and wheat head surveys which are tested for bunts, fusarium head blight, smut, ergot, and aster yellows.

Results and insect forecast maps can be found on the Government of Alberta website under the Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network.

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IMPORTANT
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21 DAYS ARE UP!
BEGIN DEVELOPING

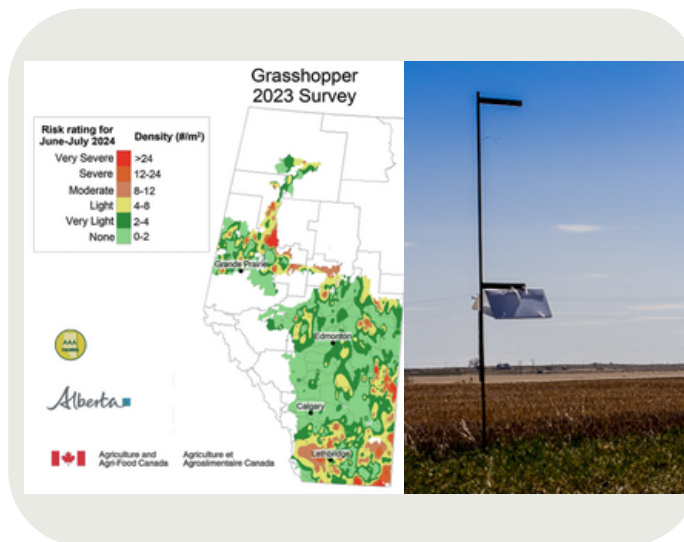
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Contact Dana
Smith with
Questions
780-842-4454

Did you Know?

In order to allow for appeal to the issuance of a Development Permit, it does not become effective until 21 days after the date of the order, decision, or development permit. Any development proceeded with, by the applicant, prior to the expiry of this period is done solely at the risk of the applicant.

Substantial progress has been made at the site over the course of the last 5 years. To the left are images showing the state of the the infestation when initially discovered in 2019 and todays state. As seen there are no visible plants remaining along the shoreline and the shoreline has been repopulated with native vegetation indicative of a healthy waterbody.





Pawsitive Healing is a groundbreaking mobile animal-assisted addictions and mental health counselling service that brings the remarkable benefits of animal-assisted support directly to those in need. This unique service is scheduled to launch October 1st, transforming lives by harnessing the power of animals to promote emotional and physical well-being. Their specialty is helping people who have not had success with traditional therapies. With a focus on reaching individuals in rural areas where counseling services might be scarce, Pawsitive Healing is dedicated to bridging the accessibility gap and providing emotional support where it's needed most.

Pawsitive Healing is founded by Colleen McKee, a registered social worker, who specializes in animal-assisted therapy. Colleen is driven by a passion for animals and a desire to revolutionize the treatment of addictions and mental health. Having worked extensively with seniors, she is profoundly impacted by the stories she hears and is inspired by the way animals bring joy to their lives. Colleen has had personal experience marked by both tragedy and triumph, which allows her to deeply empathize with her clients. Living on a ranch, she feels a strong connection to local producers, enhancing her understanding of community and resilience. She believes in the transformative power of animal-assisted therapy and is committed to providing compassionate, canine-assisted counseling tailored to each individual's needs. Colleen's dog Panda plays a crucial role as co-counselor. Panda is a St. Bernard with a gentle demeanor and love for people of all ages. His presence adds a unique dimension, as clients get to experience his charming comfort firsthand. As a licensed therapy dog, Panda and Colleen form a powerful team dedicated to healing and hope.

Animal-assisted therapy has been shown to offer a range of benefits, from reducing anxiety, lowering blood pressure improving overall mood, emotional resiliency, and development of skills. Animals have a unique ability to sense and respond to human emotions. This can be particularly impactful for people who may feel isolated or disconnected, helping them feel more grounded and understood. Colleen plans to help clients ranging in age from 12-100, providing personalized support to individuals across all stages of life.

The mobile service model eliminates the need for long commutes and creates a comforting environment that can be conducive to healing. Her office is a converted holiday trailer that is equipped with comfortable recliners; a calm serene environment sets the stage for relaxation and healing. The unit will be stationed in central locations within rural communities for convenience. The mobile unit is scheduled to be in Sedgewick Mondays, Wainwright Tuesdays, Vegreville Wednesdays, and Lac La Biche Thursdays. Colleen plans to tailor her time to locations with the greatest demand, working her way to being available 5 days per week.

Starting a business comes with an array of challenges, and Colleen has faced these head-on while launching Pawsitive Healing. She jumped in completing her Animal Assisted Therapy Certification, a 10-month course through Lakeland College, followed by a 3-day practicum at Dreamcatcher in Ardrossan. This invaluable experience exposed her to diverse techniques, materials, and a variety of therapy animals. Colleen navigated the complexities of logistics such as acquiring business licenses for each community she intends on visiting and parking restrictions. She worked to address misconceptions about her work, which is often mistaken for dog training. She has been busy yet thrilled to have her vision and passion for Pawsitive Healing to come to life. With dreams of franchising the mobile business allowing for increased accessibility to more rural communities. Future plans include integrating and expanding the roster of therapy animals to cater to a broader range of needs.

Pawsitive Healing is not just a mobile counselling service; it's a movement towards a more compassionate, accessible, and effective approach to mental health and well-being. By combining the therapeutic power of animals with a mobile counselling model, Pawsitive Healing is making a significant difference in the lives of those in rural areas, one paw at a time. It represents a vital step toward ensuring that everyone, regardless of their location, has access to the mental health support they deserve.





Prairie Staples Purple Prairie Clover- *Dalea purpureum*

Purple Prairie Clover is a perennial wildflower native to Canada. It originates from a sturdy taproot that supplies fertility to the soil through nitrogen fixing bacteria. Purple Prairie Clover is extremely resistant to heat and drought. Purple cone shaped flowers bloom from July to September, making it an excellent pollinator species. It is frequently used in seed mixes for erosion control due to its ability to establish on disturbed sites and its capability to condition soil with nitrogen. New growth of this legume is high in protein which increases its forage quality. Historically Purple Prairie Clover has been used for tea, and the roots were chewed as a candy or gum for their sweet taste.



Farm Family Award

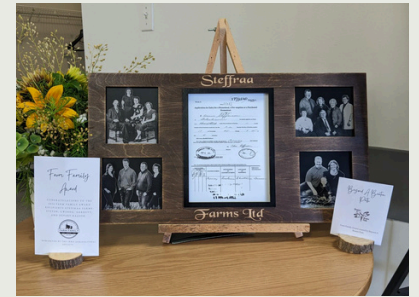
For 50 years, farm families from northern and central Alberta were recognized as the recipients of the Farmfair International Farm Family Award. Agriculture Service Boards selected outstanding families who best represented the values of the family farm within their rural community. In 2024, the Farmfair Award Program was discontinued. The M.D. of Wainwright will continue to celebrate and recognize deserving local families through the recently created annual Municipal Farm Family Award.

Every year an Agricultural Society within the M.D. of Wainwright will be designated to nominate a local farm family deserving of this award. The nomination rotation is as follows; Irma, Wainwright, Edgerton, and Chauvin.

Qualities the farm family should possess include maintaining a high standard in their operation, promoting agriculture through community involvement and rural citizenship, and acting as a role model within the rural community.

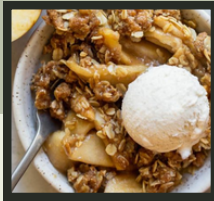
The Irma Agricultural Society nominated Steffraa Farms of Irma for the 2024 M.D. of Wainwright Farm Family Award. Steven and Gwenda Raasok and their son Garrett and his wife Devery live southwest of Irma and are fourth generation farmers. The Raasok farm dates back to 1908 when Steven's grandfather, Oskar Steffensen, emigrated from Norway. The Raasok family excels in growing high quality crops on their 3300 acre farm and calve out 120 head of cows annually. They are known for maintaining a high standard in their farming operation. The Raasok family has been very community-minded including previous involvement with the M.D. Agriculture Service Board, former Irma Kinsmen Club, Irma Recreation Board, Irma Curling Club, Irma School Enhancement Committee, Irma Elks, Irma Mens Club and the Sharon Lutheran Church.

Congratulations from the M.D. of Wainwright to the Raasok Family!



Apple Crisp

6 apples (chopped)
2 tbsp granulated sugar
1 3/4 tsp cinnamon
1 1/2 tsp lemon juice
1 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup old fashioned oats
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup cold butter (diced into small cubes)



1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter an 8x8 baking dish and set aside
2. In a mixing bowl, add chopped apples, granulated sugar, 3/4 tsp cinnamon and lemon juice. Stir to combine, then transfer into baking dish.
3. In a separate mixing bowl, add topping ingredients (brown sugar, oats, flour, 1tsp cinnamon, salt, and diced cold butter). Cut the butter into oat mixture, until resembling pea-sized crumbs.
4. Spread topping over apples in baking dish, and gently pat to even out. Bake 40-50 minutes, until golden brown

