

M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT HAS NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENT:

MAGPIE TRAPS

Contact the M.D. office to find out more info, 780-842-4454. Traps are loaned out for 2 weeks, free of charge. Easy to use and works very good to trap. Magpies can cause problems for livestock and newborn calves.



Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter? Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Aimee Wonsik, asb@mdwainwright.ca



Aimee Wonsik (right), with the late Mary Burpee in July 2007 relaxing together, enjoying the Garden Tour. Mary was a wonderful woman, who loved to garden. Mary's last name is on garden varieties of peppers and tomatoes that you can purchase from local greenhouses.

It's time to start planning what you might plant this year in your garden; make sure you save a little room for something special and unique to try out ~ your garden should be a little fun and creative, not just functional! Try some new herbs or maybe a row of a perennial berry bush like haskub. Remember to add flowers for color that act as a welcome mat for inviting



Hardy Haskub Berry Bush

beneficial bugs to your garden to help pollinate and reduce

the other pests. Mother nature will smile at the creativity and your effort, just as Mary is smiling in our photo.

"Today will be what we make of it and we'll take tomorrow when it comes."

The Municipal Agricultural Connection



Partners in Rural Conservation www.mdwainwright.ca



Recycling AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS and METAL around the FARM

With the cold days of winter still upon us, it might be difficult to start thinking about spring cleaning...however warmer weather is just around the corner and it will be time to clean up around the farm! Whether it be the annual Spring Clean-Up (May) or the popular Toxic Round-Up (May), farmers have other options in the meantime as well.

The Wainwright Waste-to-Energy facility is the place to consider bringing your unwanted agricultural items. The facility has a recycling program for lots of different type materials. Marie, one of the awesome, hardworking individuals that greets you at the facility gate says "its just a matter of getting comfortable with the idea of recycling! Once farmers try it, and get into a routine, its really no big deal! Lots of farmers come in with stock trailers of stuff, it is best to have it sorted first, since some items have a cost and some do not. Easier to weigh in on scale when it's sorted"

Marie noted that one thing farmers can recycle at the facility is old barb wire. "Many farmers may not realize this but old wire can be recycled quite easily, as long as it is delivered in contained rolls." Barb wire is considered an "iron product" therefore it has a charge of \$34/tonne. Also other iron or metal pieces or parts can definitely also be accepted, just call ahead to Marie so she has an idea of what category or charge it may have. If an item arrives that needs to be land-filled (such as old wire still attached to wood posts) there is a \$102/tonne charge.

Another item that farmers are dealing with after a long winter is agricultural plastics. The Waste to Energy facility is prepared to accept all ag-plastics and there is no charge. Things such as silage plastic cover, bale wrap, bale twine, grain bags can all be recycled. Ensure that the plastic does not have other materials with it (such as frozen clumps of straw, hay or manure etc.) and that it is fairly contained and easy to maneuver with. The plastics come into the facility where they are processed in a baler. These bales of used ag-plastics are easy to store and can actually be used as bales while they are waiting for final recycling (for road markers or berms etc.).



A truck and trailer sit on the scales at the Waste to Energy Facility on February 17, waiting to be weighed. It is best to deliver a load of the same materials at the same time since it is easiest to weigh. Different materials have different costs, if loads can easily be separated that works too.

The Waste to Energy Facility business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Call Marie if you have questions about the disposal of an item, or other questions regarding agricultural refuse at 780-842-4051. Also, plan to attend the upcoming Toxic Round Up in early May with your un-used hazardous materials; hope to see you there, I'll be manning the BBQ grills again this year. AW

Not Your Everyday Agronomy Issues

(Canola Digest, March 2011 Issue)

Something to Think About...

Stand Establishment: Larger Seed Requires Higher Seeding Rate Canola seed is getting larger. Five grams per 1,000 seeds is a common size these days. So what?

Well, the larger the seed, the fewer seeds per pound. That means growers using the same pounds per acre seeding rate they've always used will see plant stand density steadily decline. If all of a sudden they cut the seeding rate to compensate for higher seed costs, the result could be a shocker.

"With the combination of lower seeding rates and larger seed, some growers are seeing

unexpected surprises when it comes to plant population," says Doug Moisey, Canola Council of Canada Senior Agronomy Specialist in Central Alberta.

Here's the math. If a seed weights five grams per 1,000 and you seed at four pounds per acre (1,800 grams), you're seeding only eight seeds per square foot. "That's bare minimum. Any lower and yield potential falls," Moisey says. The ideal target plant stand is 10 plants per square foot, which provides some margin for mortality.

Other key factors for canola stand establishment are as follows:

- **Level the drill.** A drill leveled from side-to-side and front-to-back places seed at the same depth.
- **SLOW DOWN.** At high speeds even a level drill will throw more soil over the front row of openers and equipment bounce may lead to highly variable seed placement (important for small canola seeds).
- **Reduce fan speed.** Higher application rates and faster seeding speeds often require higher fan RPMs. This can increase seed damage and seed bounce out of the seed row.
- **Keep a seed sample.** Put a minimum of two cups



Doug Moisey, senior agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada, says with larger seed sizes, canola seeded at lower rates may not provide the plant stand growers need for top yields.

from each seed lot into a seed lab bag. Record seedling date and rate, keep the blue seed tag. Store samples in a cold, dry place in a rodent proof container.

Waterline Problems??



Check this out!!

Whatever you want to call this little brass configuration of a tool, is one option when having waterline problems that you can access from "in the house" (as I had to this past winter with a frozen waterbowl line).

This configuration provides a quick and easy way to thaw a frozen waterline verses waiting for spring and a backhoe (as I was told). I am not a plumber, however I have seen this unit in action, and I'm sure by how fast it worked, and how easy it was to set up that most plumbers or contractors that work with water would have some type of similar set up. I want to share with you what this deal is about, as my way of passing along a good story-there are many frozen waterlines this winter.

I also want to thank the two neighbors that helped me out, I appreciate their expertise and know-how and above all their willingness during minus 40°C (we all need more

LIVESTOCK AND DRINKING WATER, You can lead a cow to water, but what if she doesn't want to drink??

Sometimes it seems livestock choose to use (or not use) a waterbowl that has been set up for their use. It can sometimes be a mystery, however water quality concerns may be the issue. If your cattle, for instance, have sometimes refused to drink from a watering bowl, you may want to get your water tested for Hydro Carbons and Light & Heavy Metals. Constructed livestock waterbowls that tie into waterlines and are supplied from bored or drilled waterwells can sometimes have fluxuating hydrological properties which is important to monitor, for the health of your livestock and also the profit of your farming business.

A Livestock Drinking Water test analysis should cover some basic metals as well as the pH, alkalinity, EC and a few

other things in the water. A hydrocarbon analysis can then also be completed to have a full spectrum for a baseline (and information that you should save for future use). Also another thing to think about is does the source of water stand stagnant or does it readily circulate? With the weather being so cold, if it is a standing water source there is a possibility of it becoming completely anaerobic. DO you notice any smells coming off the water? If it is anaerobic then it is possible for sulfur and methane to build up. Tests should also be run for Coliforms as well as sulfides. Christine from Exova Edmonton, can help with more livestock drinking water test questions, please give her a call at 780-438-5522.

neighbors like this, and we should all try to personally become more neighborly as well). The fitting on the left is connected to your frozen main line, attached by a lengthened hose with hose-clamp (to give more room to work with). The piece in the "down position" middle is attached to a garden hose (that provides the return water, into an accessi-

ble drain or sink- by the way do not direct return water into your toilet as porcelain can crack with hot temperatures.) The grey plastic piece on the right opens to allow a smaller 3/8" rigid line to pass through brass fitting. This rigid line is connected to a garden hose on your hot water tap that delivers hot steam water through the connection to your frozen blockage. AW



Pruning is Good, Doing it at the Right Time is Better!

There are lots of questions surrounding pruning, mostly as to why, how, and especially when pruning should be done.

While pruning may seem fairly straightforward, few scientific studies have been done on this topic and most of the information is essentially based on the experience of practitioners which sometimes cannot agree on the best time to do it. In view of the time and costs associated with pruning, it is worth taking into account a few basic principles relating to tree species as well as tree health, structure and physiology. The safest approach is to follow the basic principles and to consider the specific situation of the trees to be treated.

The best time to prune is early or late during the dormant season, while avoiding the periods of great frost in winter. Dead or weak branches can be removed anytime. A tree that is struggling to remain healthy and that only has a few more or less vigorous branches to carry on photosynthesis should not be pruned. When it comes to diseases, no time should be lost: pruning should be carried out as soon as symptoms appear. Conifers may be

pruned at anytime except the fall (fall pruned evergreens are more susceptible to winter injury). Some experts recommend that the operation be carried out during the dormant season to minimize sap and resin flow from cut branches. It should be kept in mind, however, that the secretion of resin is a defense mechanism that protects the tree from injury, including cuts made during pruning. Prune evergreen shrubs, such as juniper in late March or early April before new growth begins. Light pruning may also be done in late June or early July. Pines are pruned in early June to early July when the new growth is in the "candle" stage. Pinching or snapping off one-half to two-thirds of the candle causes the pine to be more compact and full. For deciduous trees, the dormant season (February, March) is an ideal time for pruning because, with the foliage gone, it is easier to identify branches that need to be removed. There are some exceptions to this rule of thumb. For example, birches and maples lose a lot of sap in the spring, so it is best to prune them during their active growth period in summer or in early

fall to provide enough time for callus tissue to form. Maples will, "bleed" heavily if pruned in late winter or early spring. However, the heavy bleeding shouldn't harm the trees too much. The trees should not bleed to death and the flow of sap should gradually slow and stop. If possible, avoid pruning deciduous

DUTCH ELM DISEASE -DED
Pruning is often the only method available for managing certain pests. Some pruning prescriptions are very specific and must be followed carefully for maximum efficacy. For example, with the exception of curative pruning which may be done anytime, elms should always be pruned in late fall or early winter to avoid attracting insect vectors of the pathogen that causes Dutch Elm Disease.

trees in the spring as they are leafing out. At this time, the tree's energy reserves are low and the bark "slips" or tears easily. Another poor time to prune is during leaf drop in the fall when the tree is going dormant. Spring-flowering shrubs bloom in the

spring on the growth of the previous season ("old wood"). An example is the lilac. The proper time to prune spring-flowering shrubs is largely determined by their condition and the amount of pruning required. Old, neglected spring-flowering shrubs often require extensive pruning to rejuvenate or renew the plants. The best time to rejuvenate large, overgrown shrubs is late winter or early spring (mid-February to early April) before the plants begin to leaf out. While heavy pruning in late winter or early spring will reduce or eliminate the flower display for a few years, the restoration of a healthy, vigorous shrub is more important. If spring-flowering shrubs need only light pruning, prune them immediately after blooming. Pruning immediately after bloom allows the gardener to enjoy the spring flower display and gives the shrubs adequate time to initiate new flower buds for next season. To prevent the spread of oak wilt, avoid pruning oaks from April 1st to July 1st. Pruning oaks during this period may attract sap beetles carrying the oak wilt fungus to the pruning cuts and transmit the disease to healthy trees. An excellent time to prune oaks is February and March.

??? Carbon Credits \$\$\$ Information Meeting

Learn About:

- * **Overview & Update, What Alberta Carbon Market is Doing**
Kerriane Koehler-Munro, Environmental Program Specialist, ARD
- * **Protecting Yourself, Signing a Carbon Offset Agreement**
Graham Gilchrist, Farmers' Advocate Office, ARD
- * **Tree Carbon - Opportunities for CarbonOffsets in Agroforestry & Afforestation**
Doug Macaulay, Agroforestry Specialist, ARD-AWES
- * **Club Root - Summary of 2010 County Survey**
Darwin Ullery, Agricultural Fieldman, County Of Minburn

**Wednesday, March
23, 2011**

Vegreville Legion
(5037-52nd Ave. Vegreville)

**Time: 6:30 PM -
9:00 PM**



**Everyone Welcome
Refreshments Provided**

To Register:

**Call: Mona Lee Kirkland @ 780-853-8104
Email: monalee.kirkland@gov.ab.ca**

...purchase for 2011. Watch for upcoming advertising on sale dates in April.

FUSARIUM

Fusarium graminearum fields may be within the M.D. of Wainwright! Farmers are being warned to take ACTIVE preventative measures for the 2011 planting season! Have your seed tested!!



•When purchasing WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS for use as seed, ensure that it is accompanied by a laboratory certificate showing that the seed lot was tested and found free of "Fusarium graminearum" specifically. Do not assume and that you are buying fusarium free seed!

•Test all seed for Fusarium graminearum prior to being cleaned at local seed cleaning plants. Ensure YOUR seed cleaning plant is working with this policy so that you are not getting secondary infection from other seed lots going through the plant before yours. The Wainwright and Edgerton Seed Cleaning Plants are actively testing for Fusarium.

•All cereal seed should be treated with a registered fungicide that includes the genus

Fusarium on the list of controlled fungi. Seed purchased from out of province or an unknown source should particularly be treated (SK + MB have tolerance levels for graminearum. AB is at zero).

•Do not use corn in rotation with cereal grain. CORN is a major host to Fusarium graminearum and therefore increased number of corn acres increases chance of contaminated local material. Neighbouring land planted to wheat or barley should be scouted if corn fields are nearby. Fusarium spreads by environmental factors as well (rain, wind etc.).

•STRAW can be fusarium infected! Know what you are buying and hauling for your cows, and where you are spreading it!

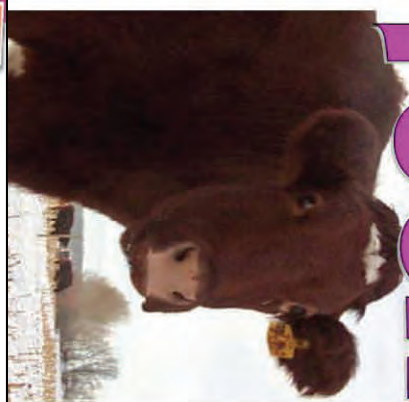
The Municipal District of Wainwright recognizes that Fusarium graminearum is a serious SEED and FEED industry problem and supports the prevention of an outbreak, control of spread and maintenance of a non-detectable status of Fusarium graminearum within municipal boundaries. Fusarium graminearum is designated a Pest under the Agricultural Pest Act. For more information or the most current Provincial Fusarium Action Committee Best Management Practices, contact: Amnee Wonsik, Asst. Agricultural Fieldman, M.D. of Wainwright 780-842-4454.



FARMERS, WATCH OUT FOR FUSARIUM

6 Tips you can reduce Fusarium Risk on your Farm

- 1) **Use healthy seed with no detectable levels of Fusarium (*F.graminearum*)** Test your own binned seed, and if you are purchasing seed from other parts of the province ensure you receive and read the seed analysis test. It is very important that it tests 0% or undetectable for Fusarium graminearum. A \$50 cost for a germination and Fusarium test could be an extremely important investment in the health of your land and farming business.
- 2) **Support local Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants that test for Fusarium.** Your seed cleaning plant is helping to keep Fusarium out of northeast Alberta; ensure your plant is testing all lots that are going through their facilities. This is for the benefit of all farmers using the facility (for contamination issues), plus farmers in the region as a whole for commerce.
- 3) **Variety.** Choose varieties with resistance, consult variety guide for more information. Scout fields during certain crop stages when moisture comes.
- 4) **Treat Seed.** Cereal and corn intended for use as seed should be treated with a registered fungicide to control Fusarium.
- 5) **Crop Rotation.** Keep rotations at 1 in 4 years to reduce the build up of infected material. Corn is a host to Fusarium, be careful when adding it to your cereal rotation.
- 6) **Purchasing Straw.** When purchasing straw from other locations of Alberta, (or Saskatchewan), be aware of the potential for infested material. Fusarium is on straw material; if you bed your cows on cropland, you could be infecting your land for the next seeded crop.



FUSARIUM