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Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

The Municipal Agricultural Connection



M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT HAS 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.



Partners in Rural Conservation



Re-Launch, M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT WEBSITE! www.mdwainwright.ca

If you haven't visited the M.D. of Wainwright's website lately, there has been some exciting changes to it! Actually the website has experienced a total "facelift" to keep it fresh and informative!

www.mdwainwright.ca

Chris Volk, Computer / Information Analyst for the M.D., has been working on the re-launch adding new information links that are frequently asked at the administration office. "One thing that was really focused on, was how quick and easy the website needs to be for people to be able to find specific information on what's happening in the M.D. People want information fast, the M.D. website now facilitates easier navigation, with new menu bars and quick links."

Each municipal department has its own subsection and menu for easier navigation; Administration, Agricultural Service Board, Development, Public Works, Transportation, Safety & Utilities, Parks & Attractions, and Protective Services.

Chris mentioned that "the M.D. website now offers a more liquid layout that works better with different resolutions and devices as well. It is more compatible with iPhones, iPads and is also smart phone friendly. This helps to have the information right at your fingertips when you are on the go!" One example of this, is in the redesigned "Parks & Attractions" section. There are interactive maps for Riverdale and Arm Lake. So if you are wanting to

know if a specific camping site will fit your trailer, or if it has hookups, or if it is a treed site or maybe if it is a multiple booking site with room for your neighbors to come down, you can see instantly on your device.

Another section that has seen some major upgrades is the "Agricultural Service Board" Section. The information has been honed down to what is current and local. For example, one important issue in the municipality is always weed identification. Rural people are always on the lookout for new and invasive weeds, yet maybe not sure if what they are looking at is a problem. One option is to bring the plant into the municipal office for positive weed identification, however most people don't have the extra time. The second option is to click on the M.D. website to search what invasive weeds are found "locally"; without being overwhelmed looking at assortment of plants that may have never been located in the M.D. The newest "surprise" weeds that have been found the last two years by the Agricultural Service Board, are also showcased there (Yellow Clematis, Hoary Alysum and Nodding Thistle). You can find specific information about these weeds, plus see them growing in their natural environment as part of the ASB Photo Gallery section.

There have been many additions to each department, however the ASB has seen the most change and additions. If you are wanting information on Magpie trap rentals, Fusarium/Clubroot/ Wheat midge survey results, tank loader locations, 100 Year Farm Family Award Applications, garden tour photos etc; anything that falls into the realm of the Agricultural Service Board is easily at your fingertips.

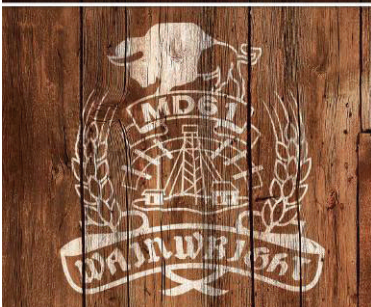
Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter?
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Aimee Wonsik, asb@mdwainwright.ca



Aimee Wonsik holding Natalie Heimdal (future agricultural fieldwoman!) hanging-out together outside Aimee's greenhouse.

M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT 2012 CALENDARS NOVEMBER 1ST!
Stop in at the administration office to pick up your copy!

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WAINWRIGHT NO. 61
2012 CALENDAR



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

Time to think "PLANTING TREES" for Spring 2012

www.agr.gc.ca/agroforestry

People get really excited when they think about getting new tree seedlings in the spring! But then the idea of added workload creeps in, and soon the excitement fades to just another chore that will require time and energy. But, let me tell you, the effort initially invested will return you with a beautiful treeline, that can protect your yardsite from howling winds, plus increase the value of your rural residence. **Something to Think About...** [Acreage owners \(5 acres or more\) and Farmers are eligible for free tree seedlings through Prairie Shelterbelt Program.](#) The M.D. of Wainwright has a tree planter, that can quickly make short work of

planting a couple hundred to a couple thousand trees, as long as you have the area where you are planting well cultivated. (the tree planter's plow opens up the soil to easily drop in the seedling; if you have disked grassland the plow does not work very well.) Once cultivated, to keep the weeds under control, you can continue to cultivate your planting area, or you can install plastic mulch ground cover (note—proper weed control is the key to successful tree establishment and success. It is so important to ensure there is no competition on your little trees.) Another roadblock may be that you do not want to cultivate (you don't own a tractor, you have too many rocks in your planting

zone, you only want to plant a couple trees). Consider planting with a shovel; dig out a basin 3 foot wide for seedlings, which helps to hold water for the tree. Consider using a chemical such as glyphosate to control grass & weeds—remember that any competition is detrimental to tree success. (some people like grass planted under their spruce and pine; and wonder why the tree looks to be struggling; its either the grass is giving too much competition or the tree is being exposed to too many whipsniper nicks!) If the grass is still green under your little trees, now is a great time to spray since the tree's needles have a hard, waxy coating protecting



The M.D. tree planter at work!

them. Important Note—in the spring, coniferous trees come out of dormancy and have a very sensitive growing tip, called a "candle", this candle is highly susceptible to chemical applications.



The M.D. tree planter is free to use, we deliver the machine and supply the workers, all you need is the tractor!

Maybe you are an acreage owner, and you own LESS than 5 acres (so you don't qualify for the FREE seedlings)... don't despair! There are other companies that do offer tree seedlings for sale. You may have received in the mail, an order form for Alberta Nurseries in Bowden Alberta. They offer the same quality and size of tree seedlings, and there is no minimum amount of acres to order. However, they charge for their trees; prices are about \$20 bucks for application, plus another \$20 per 10 set of trees. Seedlings from Alberta Nurseries (which is not affiliated with the Provincial government) ships out trees via bus in the springtime to your postal station. The trees are packaged very well, and are in a dormant stage. If you are wanting to purchase trees from this program, stop in at the municipal office to pick up an order form.

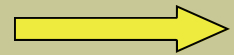
TIP—if you have a newly planted shelterbelt, going into the 1st or 2nd winter is a crucial time. Consider using more protection for your newly established seedlings, to help get them through winter's bitterness! Using mulch around the base of the trees, if you have access to bark chips is great! Using burlap covers specifically

common culprits of tree disorders of diseases and insects in our area.

Important—when you are filling out your tree application form, there is one checkbox that requires new applicants to enclose a copy of your current property tax notice that indicates total acres owned. This is to verify that you are eligible to participate in the shelterbelt program with at least 5+ acres being owned land. It is very crucial to include this notice, as incomplete applications will be returned (and your selection of trees may not be available if you miss the bus!) If you do not have a copy of your latest tax notice handy, stop in at the M.D. office and we can easily print one off for you!

on small coniferous trees in open, unsheltered wind spaces or utilizing fresh snow cover by gently covering them will help protect them (hard ice snow should be avoided to reduce limb damage). Also, give extra water when you can; you are in no danger of spoiling a tree that is surviving in our drought conditions.

FILLING OUT YOUR TREE APPLICATION FORM FOR FREE TREE SEEDLINGS



Maybe you are not sure what types of trees you want to see growing on your place since the list of free seedlings available can be overwhelming! (Willows, Maples, Caragana, Spruce, Pine, Larch, Choke Cherry, Oak, Green Ash and Poplar are all available, just to name a few!) If you are feeling unsure, stop in at the M.D. office to pick up a free tree info package, where-in you will find a tree catalogue that has photos, spacing recommendations (so you can tally up how many trees you will need for your project!) plus general species info. This tree package also has information on mulch applications, plus chemical weed control options and is a handy resource to have. You can also grab a tree-pest print off, that has the most

Fill out and send away your Shelterbelt Form now for next spring...

2011 Seed Cleaning Plant, Canola Plot Trial Results

The 2011 harvest has wrapped up at the Wainwright Seed Cleaning Plant plot trials, 4 miles west of Wainwright on highway 14.

This year, RoundUp Ready Canola Hybrids were showcased.

Special thanks to Raymond Pare @ Raynda Seeds, Dennis Dalton @ Dalton Seeds, Brad Birn @ Viterra Wainwright, Neil Pugh @ Andrukow Group/ V.I.P., for donating the canola varieties. Also much appreciation to the Wainwright Seed Cleaning plant for allowing the M.D. to utilize their land for a community partnership trial, with unbiased results. And finally, a large "Thank you!" to Ken and Ty Murray for all their farming time, labor, machinery expertise and guidance.

The year started out tough, with delayed seed germination because of the lack of moisture, strange strong winds, and then the unfortunate late frost on June 2. However, the canola hung on and the plots did start coming good after that; and at harvest the combined weight results showed it turned out to be an average to good year.

One of the very interesting facets of the plots, is the lineup of varieties growing side by side. These are current, available choices for area grain farmers, product that can be purchased from retailers. All of the varieties are popular and high marketability. However, at the plots they are all treated the same with normal, regular amounts of crop inputs and herbicide applications being used; no special preferential

treatment is given. The results are what a farmer would harvest on marginal land with regular farming practices. The canola varieties that were planted in 2011 were 7265RR, 7345RR, 7355RR, 9553RR, Nex1014RR, 45S52RR, and 45H29RR. Within this line up, there were a couple "cool" varietal properties. 45S52RR is the new Pioneer hybrid with sclerotinia resistance trait. Sclerotinia resistance does not necessarily eliminate the need for fungicide application however is it cheap insurance for \$3-\$4/acre extra seed cost. Also 45H29RR from Pioneer offers the built-in Clubroot resistance; with which local area farmers may be more concerned with, since a positive Clubroot field was found this summer near Vermilion. (there have been no positive

Clubroot fields located in the M.D. of Wainwright yet). Aimee was especially excited to welcome a Nexera variety to the trials! She was curious to find out if yields (and premiums) gained for the Omega 9 Oil stacked up to the rest of the hybrids performance.

The plots were showcased on August 11, with a pancake breakfast at the Seed Cleaning plant. On September 27 the plots were combined and weighed at the seed plant. Aimee worked with Ty Murray combining, and Ken Murray hauling. After harvest, the weight conversion of the bushels per variety per acre: 7355RR at 43bu/ac, Nex1014RR at 38bu/ac, 45S52RR at 38bu/ac, 7265RR at 43bu/ac, 9553RR at 48bu/ac, 45H29RR at 53bu/ac, 7345RR at 53bu/ac.

Wainwright Seed Cleaning Plant, Plot Trial		SW10-45-7-W4		
harvest date: September 27, 2011				
Variety Name	Weight on Truck lbs.	lbs. (difference)	bu. (canola 50lb/bu)	bu./acre (.442 acre plot)
7355RR (Dekalb)	36120	940	18.8	43
Nex1014RR (Viterra)	36960	840	16.8	38
45S52RR (Pioneer)	37800	840	16.8	38
7265RR (Dekalb)	38760	960	19.2	43
9553RR (Viterra)	39540	1060	21.2	48
45H29RR (Pioneer)	40540	1180	23.6	53
7345RR (Dekalb)	41540	1180	23.6	53



All varieties combined at same speed.
 30'x196m plot strip
 1m=3.281 feet
 196mx 3.281= 643.076'
 643.076x 30'=19292.28'sq
 19292.28'sq/ 43560= 0.442 acre plot



...to ensure your quantity and type of tree choices for 2012!

KEEP ALBERTA RAT FREE!

The Province of Alberta currently maintains a rat free status. It is something that all Albertan's should have pride in, in the fact that there is no other place on Earth, that can claim this!



What "rat free" status is all about, is that specifically Norway rats are a declared Pest, on the Pest Control Act of Alberta (declared in 1950).

Phil Merrill

is a premier rat specialist; and authority; one of the current control program officers in the Province working for Pest Regulatory Services ARD. Phil's knowledge and expertise are second to none.

Since 1950, appointed Pest Control officers, in the six rural municipalities bordering Saskatchewan carry out the majority of responsibility for rat control. (M.D. of Bonnyville, County of Vermilion River, M.D. of Wainwright, M.D. of Provost, M.D. of Acadia, Cypress County; with Special Areas being covered by ARD staff.)

These pest control inspectors check every premise within the first three ranges (29 km) west of the border between SK and AB, distributing bait and encouraging rat-proofing and rat-awareness.

The Agricultural Pests Act makes rat control mandatory. Property holders who fail to control rats and disregarded repeated encouragement and warnings from pest control inspectors are served a notice under the Alberta Pest Control Act. In the past few years, there has

been a more relaxed attitude toward rats, since they are more main stream popular. People keep rats for food for other pets (like snakes), plus even keep rats as a pet, as rats are very smart!



Rat excrement is about 3/4" long.

However, to harbour a live Norway rat is against the law. Rats cause ultimate de-



struction as the most destructive vertebrate in the world, both in terms of economic loss and transmission of disease. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Tularaemia, Rat Bite



A typical formation of rat control officers, at a site where rats are present. A front end loader is used to lift the bales, into an awaiting bale processor. Any rat that attempts an escape is shot, the other rats within the bale are shredded. Bait is used afterward to control rats that may be on the premises.

Fever, Leptospirosis all can be transmitted to humans. Rats eat 10% of their body weight, which is about 10-20lbs per year, however they contaminate 10 times the amount of grain that they eat (200 lbs. per year!)



Adult rat is 7-10 inches long and 1 lb,

The most amazing statistic of Norway rats, is that a pair (one male and one female) can have 7 litters of young in one year, with up to 12 babies per

litter. Rats are sexually mature in 12 weeks, therefore one rat pair can EXPONENTIALLY increase their population to over 15,000 (with each adult, of each litter having the ability to reproduce in 2 months)!

If you ever have a concern of a potential rat situation; whether it be at a farm site, or near a residence, or even as a housed pet, please contact our Rat Control department, Rod Gabrielson, 780-842-7285.

KEEP ALBERTA RAT FREE!!!

