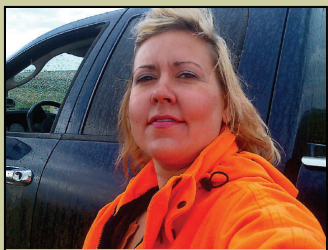


The Municipal Agricultural Connection



Even a little rain didn't dampen the fun at the Annual Ladies Grazing School, more details on the back page.

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



Partners in Rural Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca

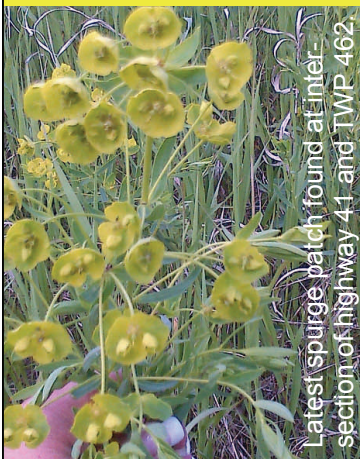


ENERGIZE YOUR GARDEN

HORTICULTURE & AQUATICS BUS TOUR!



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WEED?



Latest spurge patch found at inter-section of highway 41 and TWP 462.

Leafy Spurge, has been found sporadically in the M.D. control immediately; it has the potential to overtake pasturelands by "exploding" seed pots. It is toxic to live-stock (snap off a piece of the plant, you will see white "milky" substance exuded). If you see this weed in road-sides, contact the M.D.

Upcoming Horticultural Bus Tour being hosted by the M.D. of Wainwright; Tuesday, July 17!

The Bus will depart Wainwright Elk's Hall parking lot first thing in the morning, and travel up to the Sherwood Park area. First on the agenda is a stop at Aqualine Waterfeatures Gardens, where they have numerous operational ponds running. Next stop, Hastings Lake Gardens to tour their perennial flowerbeds. Then we will stop over for lunch at the Footloose Cafe. After we'll load the bus and drive to Sherwood Park and stop at Salisbury Greenhouse.

We will get a tour of the facility, which will be neat since Salisbury is an actual large scale greenhouse for production, and not just retail center. During the tour, we will learn exciting ways to en-

energize our gardens. This guided bus tour will showcase water-feature planning, energizing garden techniques and greenhouse operation, inspirational horticultural design that can work in a prairie garden. Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, will also cover Prohibited Noxious weeds that can be mistaken as garden perennials. There is a \$10 charge to cover lunch. This tour will be all day (rain or shine, or hail like in 2011!)

bus tour, full of horticulture information! Call into the Municipal Office to reserve a spot, this tour fills up fast!

Call into the M.D. office to reserve your spot, limited seating!
780-842-4454



Gorgeous perennial gardens of Barb and Dennis Teeter from the 2011 Horticultural Tour.

Even "small" farmers can make a positive impact on the environment! We all do our part, small changes can add up to larger favourable outcomes!

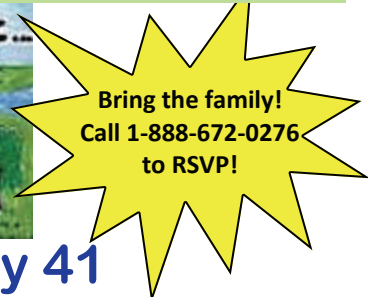


You are cordially invited to the...



Battle River Watershed Festival !!

**Saturday August 18th,
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
At the Riverdale Mini Park,
10 minutes north of Wainwright on highway 41**



All Day Fun for Everyone includes...

- Saskatoon Pie Contest
- Face Painting, Crafts
- Guest Speakers
- Nature Walks
- Bird House Building
- Butterflies and Bugs learning
- Beach and Swimming
- BBQ Lunch!

For more information go to www.battleriverwatershed.ca or call 1-888-672-0276, Nathalie



Hope to see you there!!

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WEED?

Field Horsetail, starting to be more commonly found in field situations under reduced tillage; reproduces by creeping roots and also spores (not seeds). It is difficult to control, has a waxy coating, enabling it not to be affected by glyphosate.



2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE NOTICE FOR FARMERS

The majority of the Richardson Ground Squirrel (RGS) control efforts (poisoning) is coming to an end for the 2012 season, since gophers prefer to eat lush vegetation instead of dry bait. June 26, 2012 will be the last Tuesday afternoon that the M.D. will be set up at the Municipal Rec Shop to distribute strychnine. However, farmers can still purchase strychnine after June 26 (as supplies last). 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (LSC) has received its Permanent-Use Status from the Federal Government, which means that there is no start or stop date for utilizing 2% LSC. Farmers will need to contact the Municipal Office to set up and appointment time with the Agricultural Fieldmen at the Mu-

nicipal Office, 780-842-4454 to arrange a product purchase and pick up. LSC is available to be sold to ONLY bonafide farmers; acreage owners and urban persons are not authorized to purchase or use this product. LSC is labelled to be used for the purpose of controlling RGS (gophers); other off-label use is strictly prohibited. This product is to be used with the utmost care and attention. Consider other rodent control options when situations allow.



Natural gopher control by predator; Coyote.

YELLOW HEADED SPRUCE SAWFLY, here in the M.D.



If you have spruce trees in your yard (particularly white spruce, however Colorado and other exotic species of spruce (*Picea spp.*) can be attacked as well), be on the look out **NOW** for the Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly (YHSS) larvae.

On June 22, 2012, a sample was submitted to the M.D. office, that was infested with the tiny larvae/ green worms. Usually, tree owners find the larvae at the start of July, when the worms are about half inch long (and trees showing bare spots near their tops). However, the cooler than average spring (and a diligent, watchful tree owner), these larvae were spotted about 3 weeks earlier than average. The sample was submitted in a white plastic bag (if you are submitting samples to the M.D. of any pest, please place in a bag so that whatever pest you are bringing in does not get loose in the office!) Also found inside the bag, was frass (small pieces of spruce needle, dust particles). This frass is commonly found because YHSS are typically "messy" eaters, meaning that they will chew one needle half way, then make a hole in another needle, and so on.

Tell tale sign that you have a YHSS problem are: top 1/4 of spruce tree

partly chewed needles impart a brownish colour and ragged appearance. (no webbing is produced by the larvae, if you have spider-web looking indications on your tree needles, you are dealing with a different conifer pest.) You can also see the green worms (although tiny, not as big as a Tent Caterpillar). If you see YHSS worms, that is the best time to spray your trees with an insecticide such as Malithion (easiest to kill larvae in the caterpillar stage as the most susceptible time).

Larvae feed first on new needles and

limbs do not have needles left.

The upper portion of the tree crown is where feeding damage is most intense, the remaining

then on older foliage, and develop to maturity in 30-40 days. When mature, the larva drops to the ground and spins a tough, brown, leathery cocoon around itself and overwinters at the base of tree. Pupation occurs the following spring (therefore you must continue to monitor your trees after you have sprayed to insure you do not have a repeat infestation the following spring.) The yellow headed spruce sawfly damages it's hosts by causing repeated defoliation. Trees become susceptible to attack 3-5 years after planting and remain susceptible until they are about 8 meters in height.



Two or more years of severe defoliation can result in death of tree.



10TH ANNIVERSARY, LADIES GRAZING SCHOOL

On June 13 & 14, the Annual Grazing School for Women was held in Vegreville, Alberta at the BarnLoft Inn for day one, and the Vegreville Train Station for day two.



Barn Loft Inn, Vegreville AB

This is a rotating location school, which last year was held in the M.D. of Wainwright at the Mistahiya Resort. The Grazing School celebrated its 10th year Anniversary this year! The rain tried to wreck the agenda, but the committee quickly re-arranged sessions so that the ladies did not get soaked! The ladies enjoyed having a session on quad maintenance and troubleshooting tips, since



Aimee being "caught" in the quad calf-catcher! The women had a good laugh!

most livestock farms have a 2 or 4 stroke engine for livestock herding and checking. The ladies appreciated having the ability to ask questions in an environment that was non-intimidating. This made learning about quad maintenance enjoyable, and even entertaining with some light-hearted jokes.

On day 2, the ladies were taken by tour bus to Highland Feeders/ Kotelko's Feed Lot, with a feedlot capacity of 40,000



Bus tour of the feedlot pens.

head. There they got to see the pens of cattle, each holding up to 250 head. The pens are designed so that the water troughs are located in the middle of the pens. This design is more accessible and cheaper to feed for the penned cattle, since at Highland, they have seen more higher gains, and increased efficiency, since cattle walking over to the feed bunk to eat are more willingly to drink water, verses having to go "out of their way" to a corner in the pen to drink. More water makes a healthier, happier, satisfied, quenched animal.

After the livestock pens were toured, the bus travelled past the manure bio-digestors, which operate under an anaerobic system.



The manure bio-digestors in operation, showing their peaked dome.

There are 4 bio-digestors at the site, however during our tour, only 2 were processing. The domed top, made out of heavy duty, black rubber, rounds up and expands in size as the resulting gas is captured and not released into the atmosphere.

Highland feeders also plan to have their ethanol plant online creating fuel by autumn 2012.



The gals that have been attending the school for the past 10 Years!

