

NOVEMBER 2012

Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

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The Municipal Agricultural Connection

**MUNICIPAL TAXES DUE
NOVEMBER 30TH**



**Partners in
Rural
Conservation**
www.mdwainwright.ca



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

WEEDS MOVING WITH BALES AROUND THE M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT

**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS
WEED?
HOARY ALYSSUM,
RECENTLY FOUND IN
HAYFIELDS, CAN BE
TOXIC TO HORSES!**

Two years ago, Hoary Alyssum was first discovered in the M.D. of Wainwright on the east end of the municipality near the highway 17 border. This weed is categorized as a Prohibited Noxious, which means on discovery, the weed must be eradicated. Local landowners that have found this weed (on cultivated and pasture lands) have been actively destroying it; however late this past September a new location was found.



When the new location of a hayland with Hoary Alyssum was found, the hay bales that were taken from that field were tracked down to the bale yard, where more plants were found. The land owner was unaware of this plant, and also stated that all the hay work had been hired out to a custom outfit for the past few years.



The new location is in the area of Gilt Edge, found in a hay field. Unfortunately this means that the initial discovery of Hoary Alyssum is not the only location within our municipality. Hoary Alyssum is reported to be toxic to livestock, especially to horses, and it seems to be spread easily enough with its seed pods. Along the stem of the plant, below the tiny flower head, are seed pods that when opened up contain approximately 8 tiny round ball seeds (that resemble canola seed).

Landowners should be aware of what weed seeds can be spread through machinery; custom outfits that are not local may be carrying weed seeds, such as Scentless Chamomile, Nodding Thistle or others. Requesting machinery to be cleaned off if from a different area will reduce weed seed movement. Also, be cognitive of where bales are being hauled from and what is contained in the bales to be used for feed. And finally, keep an eye on your bale storage area, as that is another place for weeds to accumulate and spread.

Hoary Alyssum, a new site has been located in the M.D., in a hayfield and also in the bale yard where the hay is being stored near Gilt Edge.

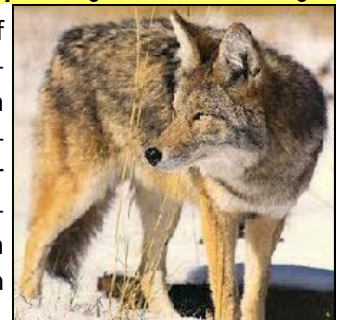
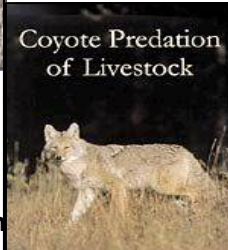
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WAINWRIGHT NO. 61
2013 CALENDAR



**M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT
2013 CALENDARS
HAVE ARRIVED!**

**Stop in at the administration
office to pick up your copy!**

The M.D. of Wainwright has copies of "Coyote Predation of Livestock" available for ratepayers. This 31 page booklet explains how Coyotes cause over 75 per cent of the predation losses of livestock in Alberta. This booklet helps livestock producers reduce or prevent losses from coyotes and other predators, and gives you detailed information on how to reduce or prevent coyote predation with fencing, good herd management, guardian animals, frightening devices and various lethal control methods. Contact the M.D. office for your complementary copy at 780-842-4454, or stop in the office for your copy. If you are having livestock kills on your farm, contact Rod Gabrielson Municipal Pest Control Officer, 780-842-7285.



Coyote numbers seem to be higher than average this fall going into winter.

"You can make a small fortune in farming—provided you start with a large one!" Anonymous

THE SMELL OF MONEY, AND UPSET NEIGHBOURS

Yup! A cow chip in the municipal newsletter!!



Living out in the rural municipality and enjoying the country life can seasonally come with an unpleasant odour of livestock manure being spread out onto the land. When livestock operations need to clean corrals, pens or manure storage, one of the most common actions is to spread manure on cropped acres and work it into the soil. This is an economical option as

manure spread on fields also improves the fields ability to grow crops with the increase in fertilizer, and also increases the soil's ability to hold moisture in times of drought. However, when spreading manure there is also the smells and odours associated with the manure, and sometimes neighbouring land owners have held issues with this.



Direct injection of manure minimizes nitrogen losses, however ensure adequate soil coverage of after application to reduce chances of de-nitrification and increased odour.

If you are impacted by odours you can begin by talking to your farmer neighbour about your concerns. The best way to resolve any conflict is through open, frank and thorough two-way communication. Ask questions so you can learn more about your neighbour's operation. Help them understand your situation and concerns. Remember that some odour is to be expected and acceptable in agricultural areas and that it is normal and not possible to completely eliminate livestock odour.



Basically, you live out in the country, not in the big city!

If after talking with your neighbour there is still unresolved issues that can not be accepted by either side, the NRCB's (Natural Resources Conservation Board that governs the Agricultural Operations Practices Act, AOPA),

has a 24-hour, toll-free phone line at 1-866-383-6722 to register the complaint, however this should be done as a last resort; the best way is to work things out with your neighbour.

The majority of complaints that the NRCB receives are about odour, non-compliance issues, water quality and nuisance issues—for example dust or flies. On average, the NRCB responds to complaints regarding approximately 250 confined feeding operations each year.

The AOPA requires operators to ensure that they have sufficient available space for nine-months of manure storage before winter. As a result, operators must ensure that manure that has accumulated over the summer months is spread before the onset of winter. Many operators practise good neighbour relations by advising neighbours in advance of spreading. In



Broadcast manure application is fast, cheap, however wasteful of nutrients because a large area of manure is exposed to the atmosphere, very large Nitrogen losses occur by ammonia volatilization. For the same reason odours and surface runoff can occur.

some circumstances where there is a limited time suitable for spreading, operators may have little choice regarding their window of opportunity for notice. An operator must not apply manure within 150 metres of any residence or structure occupied by people, without incorporating the manure. The operator also needs to ensure that the spreading or incorporation does not create a risk to the environment or an inappropriate disturbance, such as spring runoff.

Fire PERMITS

Municipal Fire Permits are required for rural people wanting to start fires on their property, for the purpose of burning brush piles, root piles, lumber or yard clean up. Fire permits are required all-year round. Fire permits for buildings can be authorized by a fire chief. Fire permits have a 2 week effective time period, and are free to obtain. If you are wanting a fire permit, contact a local fire chief, Municipal Councillor or stop in at the M.D. Office and talk to the Agricultural

Fieldman or Assistant Ag-Fieldman. Municipal area Councillors can be contacted on their cell phones for a Fire Permit:
 Division 1, Oscar Buck, 780-806-3538
 Division 2, Ted Wilkinson, 780-806-0315
 Division 3, Myron Zajic, 780-842-8333
 Division 4, Phil Valteau, 780-842-8874
 Division 5, Bruce Cummins, 780-842-8515
 Division 6, Shelly Andersen, 780-209-4412
 Division 7, Bob Barss, 780-842-7309

BABA'S DAY OFF HOLUPCHI CASSAROLE.

Submitted by S. Wonsrik

- 3 cups "pearl" rice, boiled
 - 1 jar sauerkraut with juice
 - 1 large can of diced tomatoes with juice
 - 1 pound of bacon, cut into 1/2" cubes, fried
 - 1 onion diced, fry with bacon
 - 1 tbsp. garlic powder
 - 1 tsp. pepper
- Stir all ingredients into a large casserole dish to avoid

spilling over while cooking. Cover with lid, bake slow at 325°C for 2 hours. Nice comfort food casserole, with the addition of sauerkraut that imitates sour cabbage roll flavour.



FREE SEEDLINGS PRAIRIE SHELTERBELT PROGRAM 2013

The Prairie Shelterbelt Program began accepting applications June 1, 2012 for final tree delivery in spring 2013. As it is the final year that trees are available under the federally funded Prairie Shelterbelt Program, the number of applications and requests for trees has increased significantly. To-date, more than 6700 applicants have applied requesting over 5 million seedlings for spring 2013 delivery. The Prairie Shelterbelt Program will



Snow trapping is one of the excellent benefits of shelterbelts. It is amazing how much wind a well planted shelterbelt can slow down.

due to the increased demand it is anticipated that the Program may have significant shortfalls for some tree species for 2013. In addition to the priority ranking system, limits may be applied to the quantity of trees provided to each client. Limit levels, if applied, will be based on total supply and demand of trees. We encourage clients to complete their applications based on their agroforestry planting plan. The priority ranking system is based on the proposed planting's impacts in the landscape. If clients request assistance in developing their agroforestry planting plan, please call the Agroforestry Development Centre at 866-766-2284. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2013.

continue to use the priority ranking system that is currently approved and has been in use for the past number of years. Tree orders are not allocated on a first-come-first served basis. While the 2012 tree harvest is progressing well, and harvest numbers are encouraging,

Why Alberta farmers should have a current Environmental Farm Plan *It makes sense to be prepared*

Many Alberta producers are wondering if they need a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). "The EFP is meant to be reviewed and updated regularly for each operation," says Perry Phillips, EFP program coordinator in the province. "Here are four reasons why revisiting and maintaining an EFP makes sense."

It's simple to do. The program is handled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and EFP Technicians are available across the province to provide assistance. The M.D. of Wainwright participates in the program, and EFP Workbooks can be obtained from the office. **You may qualify for funding support.** A completed EFP is required for the Stewardship categories of the Growing Forward program. More information on those programs is at the Stewardship Programs area of the Growing Forward website www.growingforward.alberta.ca. **Be prepared for future opportunities.** Stewardship is being tied more closely with business opportunities. **Show commitment to stewardship.** The agricultural industry is realizing this is a partnership with the food industry in meeting consumer expectations. Being able to document that makes this process more powerful in all areas. "There may be a day coming in the not too distant future where farmers are asked if they have an updated, 'current' EFP," says Phillips. "It makes sense to be prepared." More information on EFPs in Alberta is available on the website www.albertaefp.com or by calling the toll-free help line 310-FARM (3276), or the M.D. of Wainwright office 780-842-4454.



Grain Marketing Improves, Demise of CWB single desk prompts farmers' desire to store grain longer. GRAIN THEFT!

Increase in on-farm grain storage is giving farmers more marketing options for their grain, say industry officials. There is an estimated 25% increase in on-farm storage capacity in the past 5-10 years, not only through more and bigger bins but also through the widespread adoption of storage bags. Grain stored on farm may be the next target for crooks looking for easy access to high-dollar commodities.

Under the open market, growers are equipping themselves with the ability to hold their grain longer to wait for a potential price rally. Bins and aeration equipment have become more sophisticated, which allows farmers to keep grain longer without it spoiling.

There is a trend toward larger farmers buying much larger bins; 48 feet in diameter and nine rings tall, which can hold 55,000 bu of grain. This is compared to the common 18 foot diameter bins that can store 3,500 bu of grain.

Large size bins make it possible for farm's ability to store three quarters of its annual grain production for up to one full year. Because of that, growers can hold grain on farm longer and wait for certain premiums in the marketplace before they sell it.

However, with all this can come hardship with rural crime; thieves are generally looking for a place where they can unload grain quickly and not get caught. Preventing access to a grain storage facility is probably impossible, but discouraging access to your premises could really help keep thieves away.

REMOVE OR DISABLE GRAIN UNLOADING SYSTEMS. An easy way to make sure stealing grain won't be easy is by taking away access to unloading equipment. If you're using an auger system to unload the bin, disconnect the power source and lock it in the off position. Thieves don't want anything to look conspicuous, so they're probably not going to be toting around their own auger. Lock tractors, render them unusable. **ILLUMINATE YOUR BINS.** If the area is well-lit, it's easier to identify who may be there, and that's something thieves really want to avoid. You can either purchase a permanent, low-cost sodium-vapour light that's on all the time, or install a motion detector that triggers a light. Notices of lights coming on can even be sent to your cell phone.

ADD GATES, ALARMS, SECURITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS. You can add a heat sensor or motion-detector that can notify you when someone is there when they shouldn't be. High-tech security warning systems are readily available in today's marketplace. There are products that let you know if power is running on one of your remote sites, and there are products that allow you to remotely watch and monitor your sites. You can also put up a video camera, even if it's not connected to anything except a motion detector.

There is also the ability to use the power of persuasion, and put up warning signs that the bins are monitored by security (even if in fact they are not), as the potential thieves may just not bother with finding out one way or the other. And the old standbys: Disable power to your bins, leave the snowbanks in place, and the old harrow upside down in the grass works too.



DRILLING WATERWELL ON FARM, \$\$\$ AVAILABLE

Across Alberta, the year-to-year variability of water supply is an increasing concern. Historic sources of water are frequently no longer sufficient to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers who are searching for solutions. Producers (any active farmer with a minimum of \$10,000 in farm commodity production annually) can access grant money in the Growing Forward Water Management Program. The goal of the program is to provide technical and financial assistance for producers to create a Long Term Water Management Plan (LTWMP) at the farm level. This program aims at water security, ensuring the farm has a sustainable volume of water for current and future needs. **Program deadline is March 2013.** If you are considering a pro-

ject, you must contact the program first before breaking ground on your project, CALL Melisa Orr-Langer at 780-422-1791 Alberta government water specialist. If you are a farmer and are considering drilling a water well this fall, you may qualify for one third of eligible costs of drilling a water well (up to \$5000).

- New water wells (including test drilling, new pump and well casing)
- New dugouts (including aeration, fencing and floating intakes)
- Dug out expansions of 200,000 imperial gallons or greater.

Payments will be made at the following funding levels:

1. Construction during the Final Year, up to the following maximum:
 - (a) Applicants may receive one third of the eligible costs incurred for Standard Incentive Projects constructed during the Transition Period or the Post-Transition Period, up to a maximum of \$5,000;
 - (b) Applicants may receive one third of the eligible costs incurred for additional Standard Incentive Projects constructed during the Final Year, up to a maximum of \$5,000;
 - (c) Applicants may receive one half of the eligible costs incurred for Special Incentive Projects:
2. Construction during the Transition Period or the Post-Transition Period, up to the following maximums:
 - (a) for the purchase and or installation of well meters, up to a maximum of \$1,000;
 - (b) for the purchase of well logging equipment, up

to a maximum of \$1,000; and (c) for the decommissioning of a well or well-pit conversion by a certified contractor (when required), up to a maximum of \$2,000; and 3. Constructed during the Final Year, up to the following maximum:

- (a) for the construction of Tie-Ins, up to a maximum of \$5,000.
- The maximum total payment an Applicant may be considered for under the Program is \$19,000.



Standard Projects

Wells

Note:
To be eligible, wells must be constructed by an approved water well drilling contractor and constructed according to requirements provided in the Water (Ministerial) Regulation of the Water Act (ALBERTA REGULATION 205/98)

Dugouts

Note:
To minimize potential adverse environmental effects, dugouts should be sited at least 30m from existing water bodies and not result in the release of a polluting substance.

Eligible Costs

New well construction, including test drilling, dry holes, well casing, and new pump.
Electro-seismology tests for well siting.
Pump tests (less than 1 day) and a water quality test for the new well.
Well rehabilitation (expansion) will be considered if recommended by the approved water well drilling contractor.
Chlorination of a new well.



Developing a new dugout. Dugouts must be a minimum of 13 ft deep, (exception: elevated reservoirs). Dugouts must have a minimum 1.5:1 side/end slope (Horizontal/Vertical). The spoil pile must be a minimum 15 ft from dugout edge.
New dugout volume construction must exceed requirements determined in your approved LTWMP or 440,000 Imp gal, whichever is less. (Smaller, non-runoff filled reservoirs such as elevated reservoirs, permanent transfer /storage systems, or groundwater dugouts may be considered at the discretion of the ARD Water Specialist on a case-by-case basis).
Expansion of existing dugouts will be funded if the original capacity is increased by a minimum of 200,000 Imp gal to contain no less than dugout volume determined in your approved LTWMP with a minimum depth of 13 ft and minimum side/end slopes of 1.5:1.

Non-Eligible Costs

Equipment warranty or insurance.
Routine maintenance such as shock chlorination, cleaning, or acid treatments on existing wells.
Replacement pumps.
Water witching.
Extended well monitoring, consultant fees or groundwater studies (these are usually completed for licensing purposes and beyond the scope of the program).

Contact Melisa Orr-Langer, ARD Water Specialist for specific details that may help you out in your individual situation, 780-422-1791.

Cleaning the perimeter of a dugout to eliminate weed growth.
Unprotected groundwater dugouts will not be covered as they can cause contamination of groundwater and a loss of water during drought periods.
Livestock access ramps into dugouts (producers are encouraged to consider off-dugout watering).
Large (6,250 cu meters or 1.38 million Imp. Gal) irrigation dugouts or dams within Irrigation Districts (however, partial costs can be considered on an individual basis for non-irrigation agricultural or domestic use).
Excessive spoil transport cost.