

# The Municipal Agricultural Connection



Have an interesting municipal topic you want discussed in the Newsletter?  
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**Partners in Rural Conservation**



## WATERING CATTLE ICE THICKNESS

**"Thick and blue, tried and true; Thin and crispy, way too risky."**

This winter, iced water formed with a layer of snow, so determining thickness and how much weight ice can hold is difficult. There are mathematical calculations to determine this, however here are some basic visual factors dependant on the size of the water body. Look at the ice to see if you can see any cracks, breaks, weak spots or abnormal surfaces and to identify the color(s) of the ice. **You cannot rely on your eyesight alone.** If you see any of these signs, you may wish to not allow your cattle on iced dugouts or waterways: flowing water, springs under the ice, cracks, breaks or holes, ice that appears to have thawed and refrozen, abnormal surfaces that you have not seen before - e.g., pressure ridges caused by currents or winds are all bad signs of weak ice. Remember this ditty:

Although a useful indicator, color alone should not be relied upon. For instance, ice of any color subjected to a running water force underneath will be weaker than ice not subject to that pressure. In general, you can surmise the following from ice colors: Light gray to dark black - Melting ice, occurs even if air temperature is below 32°F (0°C). Not safe, its weak density can't hold a load, stay off. White to Opaque - Water-saturated snow freezes on top of ice forming another thin ice layer. Most times it's weak due to being porous from air pockets. Blue to Clear - High density, very strong, safest ice to be on if thick enough, stay off if less than 4 inches (10 cm) thick. Mottled and slushy or "rotten" ice - not so much its color but its texture. This ice is thawing

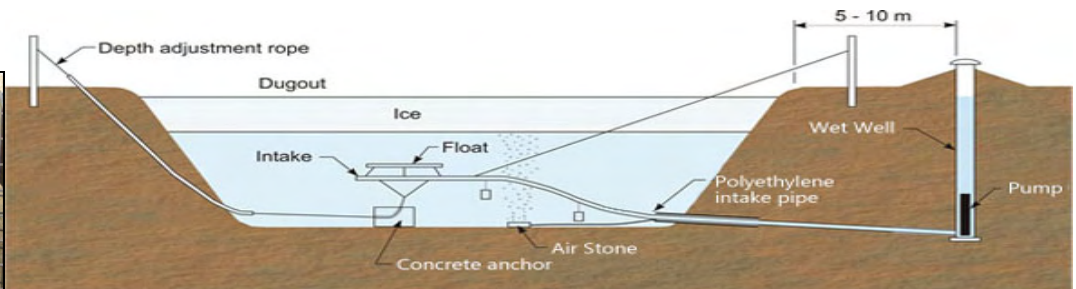
and slushy. It is deceptive - it may seem thick at the top but it is rotting away at the center and base. Most prevalent in spring, may be showing signs of browns from plant tannins, dirt and other natural materials that are resurfacing from thawing. **Not suitable for even a footstep.** Use an ice auger (tool which drills into the ice), for measuring the thickness through. In general, the rules for ice thickness measurements are: 3" (new ice) - **KEEP OFF.** 4" - suitable for ice fishing, cross-country skiing and walking (approx. 200 lbs.). 5" - suitable for a single snowmobile or ATV (approx. 800 lbs.). 8" - 12" - suitable for one car, group of people (approx. 1500 - 2000 lbs.). 12" - 15" - suitable for a pickup truck.



### M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT now has available for rent, **RACCOON TRAPS**

For rental use only, for 2 week period, \$30.00 deposit. Easy to operate, contact Mackenzie at the M.D. Public Works shop at **780-842-4024**

In addition to the Raccoon traps, the M.D. also has available Magpie traps and also Skunk traps for rent.



This system uses the concept of a "wet well", that moves water below the frost line, over to a shallow well, where water can be pumped up to a trough. The system avoids freezing, by pumping water only when cattle are there to drink it (by a motion detector switch) and by the fact that water in the trough drains back below the frost line once the cows are done. There are four benefits; first, there is the labour-savings. No one in the family has to make the daily trip to the dugout to chop a hole in the ice. Second, there is the reduced risk of livestock injury or death that can occur when cattle are accessing a dugout directly in the winter. Third, there are the livestock health benefits, resulting from the animals drinking cleaner water. Fourth, the off-site watering system means that the valuable nutrients in the cattle manure stay on the land where they are useful, and out of any water bodies.

***Some seeds require a cold snap before they can germinate and blossom, and life is a lot like that. Think about what season in life you are in right now, and how this season might be preparing you for what is next...spring!!***

## BEATING THE WINTER BLUES

Winter is in full force, (since October 2012!). Short days and cold nights, even the best of us can get a little down. The Winter Blues are characterized by the mild depression, lack of motivation, and low energy that many people experience during this cold season. Luckily, there's a lot you can do to both prevent the blues from coming on and get yourself back to normal.

**Exercise**—As if we needed another reason to get fit! Exercise isn't only for maintaining your weight and staying healthy, it's great for relieving the stresses of life. Plus, the effects of a good workout can last for several hours after you hit the showers. You'll have more energy throughout the day, and your metabolism will stay elevated too. Exercise also helps your mind by releasing those "feel good chemicals"

that improve your mood.

**Eat a Healthy Diet**—What and when you eat has a great affect on your mood and energy. Avoid refined and processed foods (like



white breads, rice, and sugar). These foods are not only devoid of the nutrients your body craves, but they zap your energy levels and can affect your mood—causing depression, lack of concentration and mood swings. Try to incorporate more complex carbohydrates (whole wheat breads, brown rice, veggies, fruit) and get your daily 8 cups of water. These healthy foods provide your body (and mind) with nutrients, and stabilize your blood sugar and your energy levels.

**Get Some Sun**—Most people know that sunlight provides us with Vitamin D. But did you know that it also improves your mood? Winter days are shorter and darker than other months, and because of the cold weather, a lot of people spend less time outdoors. Lack of sunlight can cause many people to become depressed—without knowing why! Similar to

exercise, sunlight exposure releases neurotransmitters in the brain that affect mood. Try to spend a little more time outdoors. Keep your shades up during the day to let more light in. Sitting in a tractor with all the windows lets the natural light in. Try changing the light bulbs in your house to "full spectrum" bulbs. These mimic natural light and actually have the same affects on your mind as the real thing.

**Act on your Resolutions** - healthy, positive shifts in behaviour and lifestyle can help lift



mood. Making conscious changes in lifestyle is the building blocks to a positive life change.

**Avoid Binge Drinking**—Staying in with liquor beverage or a glass of wine may seem like the only thing to do in the winter months, and many people who feel down also tend to turn to alcohol when they're feeling down. But alcohol is actually a depressant, and rather than improving your mood, it only makes it worse. Avoiding alcohol when you are already depressed is a good idea. Moderate drinking is fine for most people, but binge drinking (defined as having 5 or more drinks in one sitting) is never a healthy choice. The morning after will have you feeling sick, depressed, and even more tired, which will affect many aspects of your life. This will make your low energy and bad mood even worse.

**Treat Yourself**—Having something to look forward to can keep anyone motivated. Winter seems endless! But if you plan something exciting, your mood improves when you're anticipating it and when the event actually comes.

**Relax!** - You're busy! Farming, working, family, friends, appointments, meetings; even if you enjoy being busy, everyone needs some down time. Don't be afraid to say "No" to extra opportunities. Try to spend a few minutes each day

doing nothing! Read a book or magazine (or the Western Producer!), go to bed early, try some meditations, or take a yoga class or even some basic stretches. Relaxation, can alleviate stress and leave you with a calm energy. Mental exercises like meditation and positive thinking can help keep depression at bay.

**Embrace the Season**—Instead of always avoiding the cold and the snow—look for the best that it has to offer! Take the family out for a walk, or go ice skating, snowboarding, hockey, or even sledding! Enjoy these opportunities while they last—after all, they're only here a few months per year. Staying active will boost your energy. Seeing winter in a positive light, with all the fun activities that it has to offer, will keep your spirits high.

**Get Social!** - Don't underestimate the

power of friends, family, mentors, co-workers, and neighbors. Something as simple as a phone call, a chat over coffee, or a nice email



or a letter can brighten your mood.

**Catch some Zzzz's**—with everything going on, sometimes sleep is the first thing to go. With a little time management, and some self-discipline, you can meet your shut-eye needs. Aim for 7-8 hours each night, and try to keep your bedtime and waking time consistent. That way, your sleeping patterns can normalize and you'll have more energy. Try not to oversleep—those 12-hour snoozes on the weekend can actually make you MORE tired. Don't forget naps! A short (10-30 minute) afternoon nap may be all you need to re-energize mid-day.

## FIREPLACE SAFETY OPERATION

Fireplaces and wood stoves are designed to safely burn wood and expel the by-products of combustion up through the chimney. As these unburned substances rise and contact cooler surfaces, they condense into a tar-like residue called creosote. Creosote sticks to the inner walls of the chimney and is highly flammable. The creosote can build up in sufficient quantities and, if ignited, will sustain a destructive chimney fire. Conditions that allow the build-up of creosote are; restricted air supply, unseasoned wood and cooler than normal chimney temperatures. When

building a fire, place wood near the back of the burn chamber. NEVER use an accelerant or flammable or combustible liquid to start a fire. Open the damper before lighting the fire, and keep it open until the ashes are cool enough to touch. Use only dry, cured wood, preferably hardwoods (birch, ash, oak) to reduce creosote buildup. Never burn cardboard or other waste materials in the fireplace. Fires that are smaller and burn more completely produce less smoke and creosote. Fires should be attended by an adult at all times. Ensure that the fire is out before leaving the house.



# SNOW PLOWING ROADS & DRIVEWAYS



Living in the country can sometimes pose challenges, especially when it comes to snow covered roads and driveways! Here in the M.D. of Wainwright, gradermen work

this would be private driveways. (a) Order of Priority for Snowplowing  
 i. Medical reasons requiring hospitalization or doctor's care, and for funerals.  
 ii. School Bus Routes and School Bus Turn Around as provided by local School Divisions.  
 iii. Hamlets in the M.D. of Wainwright



diligently to keep roadways clear from snow. As part of Municipal Policy, certain roads have first priority. Policy #6.5.2 Winter Maintenance, Snowplowing, states the following: In the event of a major winter storm, the M.D. of Wainwright No. 61 snow removal crews shall strive to have all roads referred to in subsection (a) below cleared of snow within a 72 hour time period after the end of the storm. The exception to



No. 61 including multi-lot subdivisions. iv. All other roads in the M.D. of Wainwright No. 61. Snowplowing will be under-

taken in a manner that minimizes motor grader backtracking or excessive travel. v. Winging snow from shoulders and other maintenance will have second-

dary priority and may be done on second pass.  
 vi. Private Driveways and approaches may be done in coordination with winging. A Permission to Enter and Hold Blameless form (Schedule PW 4) must be signed prior to snowplowing.  
 vii. The Wainwright Airport runway as requested.  
 If you are wanting more information, or to sign an Enter and Hold Blameless form, please contact Mackenzie at the Public Works shop, 780-842-4024.

## STRAY DOGS IN THE M.D.



With the colder winter weather, if you find a stray dog located in the rural municipality, it is best to contact the M.D. of Wainwright which responds by sending out the Municipal Dog Control officer. It is our priority to find the owner of the dog and return the dog safely to it's owner!

If the dog is a stray and has no known home, it is held for 72 hours within the M.D. of Wainwright's custody. A log of the type and kind of

dog is recorded. The Municipal Dog Control Officer contacts local radio stations in hopes to find animal's owners and advertises the found animal. After the 72 hour period, the dog is released to the Lloydminster S.P.C.A. If any dog is located,

found or picked up in the M.D. of Wainwright boundaries, please contact the M.D. of Wainwright Administration Office at (780) 842-4454.



## NOTICE M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT NO. 61 LAND USE BYLAW NO. 1318



In accordance with Land Use Bylaw No. 1318, The Municipal District of Wainwright (M.D.) requires anyone wishing to conduct any development within the M.D. to contact the M.D. to determine if or not a Development Permit is required.

An application for a Development Permit can be picked up at the M.D. Administration Office, or downloaded from the municipal website [www.mdwainwright.ca](http://www.mdwainwright.ca) The cost an approved permit is \$30.00.

A "development" is described as:

1. An excavation or stockpile and the creation of either of them, or
2. A building or an addition to or replacement or repair of a building and the construction or placing of any of them in, on, over or under land, or
3. A change of use of land or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the intensity of use of the land or building.

Alberta Municipal Affairs requires building permits for the construction, relocation, alteration, addition, or demolition of almost all buildings including farm houses and residential garages. For more information on Development Permits or Building Permits, contact Jim Klasson, Development Officer, Municipal Administration Building, 717-14 Avenue, Wainwright, Alberta, T9W 1B3, or phone 780-842-4454 during regular business hours.

# 10 TIPS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF WINTERFEED

Feeding cattle is a fine balance. You want to feed cattle to perform, but to minimize the cost of getting this performance. Although this issue goes deeper than just what's put in front of your stock, feeding effectively within the system you use is a good first step.

- 1. Test feed ingredients, at a minimum, for moisture, protein, energy, Ca and P.** Silage with a pH over 5.2 doesn't keep very long so needs to be tested too. Deficient protein and energy result in low birth weights or weak calves and poor milking cows. Excess protein and energy are expensive and wasted. Feed for the requirements of the cattle, not how much they will eat. Periodically (every 3-5 years) have a chemical analysis of water sources. Mineral imbalances in water can interact with feed nutrients.
- 2. Estimate Feed Intake.** Feed intake will be dependent on feed quality and animal size and performance. Heavily pregnant animals cannot eat as much as dry or early pregnancy cattle. Older cattle eat more per unit body weight than younger cattle. DMI, as a % of body weight, can vary from 1.5% on straw to 2.75% on quality alfalfa hay. Cold stress on cattle may increase dry matter intake because it increases rate of passage.
- 3. Estimate and Adjust for Feed Waste.** Feed type and delivery method affects what and how much is wasted. Although tub grinders and hay shredders may reduce length of feed, fine material may be lost. The finer material may be the higher quality, higher protein portion of the feed. Hay and greenfeed typically have a feeding waste of 15-30%. Grain and pellets have a waste factor of about 5%.
- 4. Use Ionophores in Rations.** Rumensin provides in-

creased feed efficiency (8-12%), increased rate of gain (5-15%), prevents coccidiosis and decreases acidosis and grain bloat. Look for a \$2 to \$3 return for every \$1 spent on an ionophore. Bovatec is more expensive but acts less like an appetite suppressant compared to Rumensin. Cattle must have an adaptation period of about 5 days, after which they can be fed higher recommended rates.

- 5. Put Condition on Cattle Before High Demands of Pregnancy.** The high nutritional demands of late pregnancy make it difficult to put weight on cows which are thin. Feed intake of lactating cows is 30-50% higher than pregnant cows. Feed cows to gain weight when it is cheapest (fall weather) and when they are not heavy in pregnancy.
- 6. If Cold Stressed, Feed Cattle Later in the Day.** Some research suggests late afternoon feeding makes more heat available to them during and after digestion when they need it most. Heat increment of feeding will then be highest closer to the coldest part of the day.
- 7. Be Aware of Mineral Imbalances When Feeding Cereal Crops.** Winter tetany can be a problem if feeding only annual cereal crops (greenfeed, silages or straw). It mimics milk fever in symptoms. Supplemental minerals are cheaper in the long run than treating downer cows or lameness due to mineral imbalances. Supplement extra Calcium and or Magnesium to offset effects of high Potassium in annual cereal roughages.



- 8. Don't Change Ration Ingredients Too Abruptly.** High concentrate rations should be stepped up by no more than ½ pound per head per day. Grain added to high roughage rations should be introduced gradually. Start with no more than 1/3 of the ration as grain. Grain needs to be fed daily as alternate day feeding of grains at high levels can result in acidosis or bloat.
- 9. Test for Nitrates.** If feeds are suspicious (frosted greenfeed, heavily fertilized or matured annual cereal crops or heated greenfeed bales) test for nitrates. Greenfeed bales which are low in nitrates can be dangerously high in nitrites if they heat. Nitrate conversion to nitrite can be deadly.
- 10. Feed Heated Bales Before They Mold.** If not high in nitrates, feed heated bales early. Heated bales have less available protein and energy. Mold can be harmful for cattle while inhaling dust spores and ingestion.

## SEED TESTING OPTIONS FOR FUSARIUM GRAIN



*Fusarium graminearum, on Wheat, during fungal screen*



This past year our municipality received above average moisture conditions for the area; which in turn brought on the farming pests and diseases of field crops. One of those pests is the incidence of *Fusarium graminearum*.

**The incidence of *Fusarium graminearum* may be on the increase for the Municipality of Wainwright, with some producers receiving positive tests returned from seed testing laboratories for the 2012 harvest.**

Ensure that you are getting representative samples of your cereal grain for submitting to seed testing laboratories.

When in doubt, you may also consider submitting to an alternate laboratory for secondary conclusions.

The Canadian Grains Commission has a voluntary "Harvest Sample Program" whereby you can submit samples right off the combine in a postage paid envelope, and have testing for protein and other grade factors. One downgrading factor that can be detected in your sample is *Fusarium Damage Kernals (FDK)*. For assistance, including questions about getting a kit, creating your online account, getting your Harvest Sample identification number or signing into your online account, contact the Canadian Grain Commission at [itshelp-aidesti@grainscanada.gc.ca](mailto:itshelp-aidesti@grainscanada.gc.ca) or by phone at 1-866-873-1660 (toll-free).