

Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter or municipal meeting? Suggestions to Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Aimee Wonsik, asb@mdwainwright.ca or 780-842-4454

The Municipal Agricultural Connection



Partners in Rural Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca



CALL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD for TOADFLAX (*Linaria vulgaris*) found in municipal roadside ditches 780-842-4454



Up to 120°F (49°C) not considered to cause serious forage quality loss. 121-140°F (50-60°C) less digestible, brown colour, tobacco smell, caution zone. 141-160°F (61-71°C) check temperature every day or hour! Chemical reactions escalating very rapidly. 175°F (80°C) Notify fire department, danger of fire. 195°F or hotter (90.5°C) Spontaneous combustion possible, do not attempt to move bales without fire department.

HEATED BALES, HOW WET IS TOO WET??

Chances are if you baled your hay or greenfeed too wet (over 20% moisture) there is a risk of prolonged heating. Moisture levels above 20% allow the respiration process to continue and mould to develop, producing heat. When hay or greenfeed heats beyond 100°F (38°C), browning or caramelization occurs. Wet hay or greenfeed bales also produce internal heat that may result in **SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION**.

Plant material and micro-organisms on the plants continue to respire after cutting. Once the forage is baled up, it will go through a heating or sweating out process. Under normal conditions, the bale will reach temperatures no higher than 130°F (54°C). The factors that govern the extent of heat-

ing include: forage moisture content at baling, bale type (large, small, round, square), bale density (soft or hard core), environmental factors

cycle of heating and cooling may occur several times during the weeks after baling as the microbial population increases and decreases. However, the maximum temperature decreases during each subsequent cycle. Baled feed becomes a potential fire hazard when the internal bale temperature does not cool after the 1st heating cycle. Bales should be checked 4-5 days after baling to monitor initial temperature. (a thermometer that reads up to 200°F (94°C), 18 to 36 inch is adequate or use a probe to



Figure 2. Hard centre of round bale has been extremely hot

(relative humidity, ambient temperature and air movement), and storage site. The internal bale temperature should peak at about 3-7 days after baling. After that, the temperature should decline within 15-60 days. A

insert for hot spot. Check the most tightly packed part of the bale, this is where the heat tends to build, generally 6-12" from center . **Consider feed testing, as forage heats, nitrate converts to nitrite, and nitrite is ten times more toxic than nitrate.**

(ropintheweb.ca)

BERTHA OUTLOOK GOOD FOR WAINWRIGHT & AREA



Bertha armyworm caterpillar on canola pod

The Municipal area of Wainwright, Edgerton, Chauvin and Irma looks to be safe from Bertha Army worm caterpillar outbreak this year in 2013. Canola seeding was slightly behind this past spring; and with the huge devastation in County of Minburn and Two Hills in 2012, it was looking to be a questionable growing season for our local canola growers. However during June and July when local moth counts at 2

separate sites were being recorded (near Edgerton and Irma), numbers remained low. Initially it was believed the numbers would start tracking high, however at the end period of reporting, numbers were almost negligible. Thanks to our 2 farmers for allowing the pheromone traps to be set in their fields. The timing for farmers starting to open up fields doing first round swaths, and swathing whole fields; farmers can be relieved not losing yields to Berthas.

NORWAY RAT, FOUND IN OUR MUNICIPALITY

The M.D. of Wainwright has had its first confirmed Norway Rat found in the Rat Control Zone since the early 1980s. A single female Norway Rat was found killed by dogs in a farmyard near Hwy 14 in the eastern part of the M.D. of Wainwright. The landowner then called the M.D. Rat Control Officer, Rod Gabrielson, who verified it was a Norway Rat.

It is likely, that the rat may have come off a vehicle driving on the highway.



Even though we believe this to be a single animal occurrence, additional precautions are being taken as part of our due diligence. Rod Gabrielson is inspecting and baiting the yard where the animal was found as well as in and all yards, buildings sites, grain bins, feed stacks etc, in a 5 mile radius.

Norway Rats are a declared pest under the Alberta Pest Control Act and the M.D. of Wainwright works hard to ensure these

animals do not establish a permanent home in our area. As part of our Municipal Rat Control Program, we routinely inspect locations in the rat control zone along the provincial border that could potentially harbour rats. In addition inspections are completed on the Saskatchewan side of the border in the RM of Manitou Lake to provide an additional buffer zone.

Residents in our area are an important partner in helping us to ensure our area remains rat-free and we encourage anyone who believes they have sighted a rat to contact the Municipal Office. Norway Rats are mostly a nocturnal animal and are rarely seen during daylight hours preferring to remain hidden from sight. In the vast majority of cases' reports to our office turn out to be muskrats, pocket gophers, Richardson Ground Squirrels, mice etc. But it is better to be safe than sorry. All reported sightings are taken seriously and investigated, because we want to ensure rats do not become established in our

area. For more information, please contact the M.D. office @ (780) 842-4454 or Rod Gabrielson, Municipal Rat Control Officer @ (780) 842-7285.



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With Harvest around the corner, Farm Life can be stressful and at times a bit depressing. There are the everyday issues of family life, balancing budgets, planning for the future and keeping up with developments in your area of farming. The added pressures of managing a farm during difficult times like floods/droughts/hail/frosts, market fluctuations with weather dependency can sometimes seem overwhelming.



Watch out for stress signs!

- Loss of sleep
- Becoming irritable, angry and bad tempered
- Consuming more alcohol
- Loss of appetite and just not feeling well
- Feel like you are at the end of your tether

If you see or feel these signs, take notice and take action. If you don't you could become depressed or put yourself in danger. **You need to talk about it.** Many farmers, who are used to working things out for themselves, don't want to share their problems. But, it's really important that you talk to family or trusted friends about issues that are upsetting, stressful or difficult. You may be helping someone else as well if you open up and say how you feel.

Check inside canola pods to see stage of ripening of seed.....



(thanks to S.Leggett for sharing her recipe)

PRETZELS + Chocolate + M&M's = Dynamite YUM!

This quick, fun and easy snack is a hit for the harvest crew; simple to throw together! Line baking sheet with foil, organize mini-pretzels face up, place a bulk chocolate baking melt chip on each pretzel (either milk or white) and then place tray in oven on super low heat. After a minute or two (keep checking), once chocolate is soft, remove tray and quickly place an M&M in center of chocolate. Let cool, then store in an air tight container until ready to share with your hard working, snack loving farmers!

Beet-Pickled Deviled Eggs

6 eggs, hard-boiled and peeled
1 jar pickled baby beets
2 teaspoons prepared yellow mustard
1 teaspoon prepared horseradish
2 tablespoons mayonnaise (more as needed)
Pinch of salt
Several grinds white pepper



Put the cooked, peeled eggs in a storage container that's not too much larger than needed to store the eggs. Pour the pickling liquid from the beets into the container. Add water to just cover the eggs. Cover the container and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight. If you think of it, move the eggs around a bit so they color evenly - if the eggs snug too closely or are smushed against the side of the container, those places won't absorb the purple color as much.

Remove the eggs from the refrigerator. Drain and discard the liquid, and dry the eggs. Cut the eggs in half, remove the yolks, and place the yolks in a small bowl. Add the yellow mustard, horseradish, 1 tablespoon of mayonnaise, salt, and pepper. Mash the yolks. Add as much more mayonnaise as necessary to get a smooth mixture. It should still be thick, so you can pile (or pipe) it into the egg whites. Fill the whites with the yolks, then garnish the devilled eggs, with whole small beets, half-beets, sliced or diced beets. Serve chilled.

PLASTIC MULCH ROLLER FOR SHELTERBELT TREES; WE HAVE ONE FOR YOU!

Plastic mulch is a very beneficial means of managing a newly planted shelterbelt. It keeps moisture from evaporating from the soil surface and reduces weed competition. A plastic mulch applicator is available for use by M.D. of Wainwright residents. Please arrange a booking date for the mulch applicator by calling 780-842-4454. Plastic mulch material is available from a number of suppliers. Two that can be contacted for availability and pricing are:

- Bio-Way Gardens - 780-986-1067
- Innovative Plastics - 780-454-8162

It is best to order your preferred mil (weight) of plastic by knowing how long it will take to get your newly planted tree line established. For instance, poplar trees are fast growing, therefore a lighter weight

of plastic could suffice (a minimal amount of guaranteed time plastic is durable); however since spruce trees take much longer, a heavier weight would be well worth the added cost. Autumn is an awesome time to plant spruce trees, as they are in dormant stage.



AUGUST FINDS, ACROSS A FIELDMAN'S DESK

Here are some of the caterpillars that were found in the municipality this past August and brought into the municipal office for identification:

Blue spikey caterpillar with orange spots, **Morning Cloak Butterfly** larvae. Feeds on a variety of hosts (poplar) and can cause moderate localized defoliation.



Hairy yellow caterpillar, **American Dagger Moth**, feeds on maple, poplar, willow and other deciduous trees, can cause moderate localized defoliation. **Both of these larvae can overwinter in the duff (leaf litter).**



..different varieties can be deceiving when looking at overall colour of field.

PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEED, KEEP ON THE LOOKOUT SPOTTED KNAPWEED, WAINWRIGHT

Spotted Knapweed, *Centaurea maculosa*, has now been found outside of Camp Wainwright boundaries. This weed is being carefully managed and controlled on the army base.

This past August a new, unrelated site was discovered near the town of Wainwright area. The patch was hand-picked, and incinerated.

The main problem with Spotted Knapweed is it's ability to take over vast areas of rangeland and reduce the availability of desired forage. Spotted knapweed has allelopathic properties, which means it gives off a chemical to it's surrounding growing area that prevents other plants from germinating or growing there also; in a way it's own natural herbicide. This chemical that is contained in the plant is bitter-tasting to livestock which makes it unpalatable, although not poisonous.

Spotted Knapweed forms a large tap root, and in the first season is found as a rosette. The 2nd year, hairy, erect stems and branches form with ovate flower heads produced at the top of plant. The flowers are pink to purple and resemble a thistle head. Underneath the purple petals are black-tipped fringe oval bracts resembling false eyelashes. When found this plant should be picked immediately and incinerated.



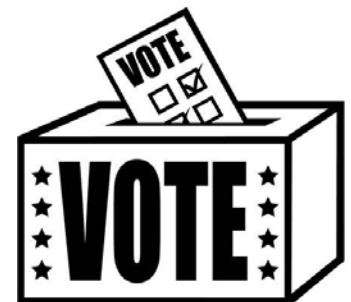
Spotted Knapweed is a serious invader, that requires quick attention to effectively manage!



PROOF OF ELECTOR ELIGIBILITY

All electors in the upcoming Municipal Elections will be required to provide proof of a person's identity and current address in order to vote. This may include one piece of identification issued by a Canadian government, whether federal, provincial or local that contains a photograph of the elector and his or her name and current address.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A PIECE OF
ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOU VOTE ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2013**



If you have any questions, please contact the M.D. of Wainwright office at 780-842-4454.