

The Municipal Agricultural Connection



Partners in
Rural
Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca



PLUGGED CULVERTS



WASHED OUT ROADS, POTHoles



CALL PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT
780-842-4024

FUNGICIDES ON CEREALS



Using fungicides to control disease on cereals must benefit growers, and the decision to utilize fungicides depends on:

- ✦ the cost of both the product and the application, and
- ✦ the revenue anticipated as a result of an expected yield and or quality increase.

The risk of disease developing in a crop will be influenced by environmental factors and management practices. Favourable environment for fungal disease development are influenced heavily by moisture in the form of precipitation or humidity (e.g., under a crop canopy). Each disease will develop under specific conditions, affecting certain crops and causing specific symptoms. Studies show that a 22-per-cent increase in yield of field peas can be seen with the use of fungicide when moisture conditions are suitable.

Several management practices can also have an impact on the development and severity of disease. These include crop variety, seeding date, rotation, seeding rate, row spacing and fertility levels. In a study spanning 14 site-years at the Melfort Research Station, a significant increase in yield was seen when fungicides are used with longer rotations.

The use of disease-resistant varieties has a large influence on whether the use of fungicide will be beneficial. Resistance can occur in plants at the seedling stage and/or the adult plant stage. For example, a study using barley varieties Harrington, Metcalf and Newdale shows that use of fungicide on Harrington resulted in a yield increase of 19 to 41 per cent. Incidence of barley leaf spot disease symptoms were more advanced on the

Harrington variety.

The Case of Stripe Rust on Barley: The effect of variety choice and seeding date can be seen in the example of stripe rust on barley (a cool-temperature disease). Yield losses ranged from 15 to 35 per cent in susceptible varieties, less than 20 per cent in MR/MS (moderately resistant and moderately susceptible) varieties and less than 10 per cent in resistant varieties.

Plants that were seeded earlier (May 21) showed better disease control with fungicide use than those seeded later (June 4). The best control was seen on plants at the 50-per-cent anthesis stage.

The Case of Crown Rust: Through data amalgamated from several Saskatchewan and Manitoba locations, it was shown that the severity of crown rust did not affect yield on an earlier seeded oat crop (mid-May) as badly as on a later seeded crop (mid-June) regardless of fungicide application. Although earlier seeded crops showed no significant difference in yield among varieties tested, the later seeded crop showed lower overall yields, but a significantly higher yield when fungicide was used.

The Question of Timing
A frequent dilemma for growers is to find the perfect timing for fungicide application. The most efficacious time for fungicide application varies from disease to disease, from crop to crop and is always influenced by environmental conditions.

On a barley crop with leaf spot, the highest yield was seen when

spraying occurred when the flag leaf was fully emerged. Very little or no benefit was seen when fungicides were applied at the seedling stage. For fusarium head blight (FHB) control on cereals, application is most effective at the heading stage when 75 per cent of heads on the main stems are fully emerged.

Integrated Pest Management

It is beneficial to use a combination of control methods when dealing with fungal diseases. Some things to consider include:

- Avoid a cereal-on-cereal rotation;
- Use resistant varieties but keep in mind that resistance is moderate only; and
- A fungicide application results in suppression only, so using all three of these methods is important.

Summary

- *Rotating fungicide groups is good practice to follow to reduce the risk of fungicide resistance.*
- *Knowing when to spray (or not) requires knowledge of the pathogen, the crop, and the management practices.*
- *Know the impact weather has on all of these factors.*
- *The best time for application depends on the host-pathogen-environment interaction.*

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



Keep an eye on spruce trees NOW (until middle July), Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly larvae ARE here in the M.D. and can attack your White Spruce and Colorado Spruce Tree lines.

Grazing School for Women Another success!

On June 10th and 11th, the Grazing School for Women held it's annual school, this year in the County of Lamont. This is the 12th year for the grazing school, and once again the 40 attendees were happily satisfied with how the school was hosted.

The school kicked off with a bus tour of Elk Island National Park, where the women got a tour of the Bison facilities and hydraulic squeeze. Afterward, the group toured a few different spots of the park, where bison rotationally graze in a wildlife preserved natural area. If any bison escape the park boundaries, they are refused re-entry. This is to protect the integrity of the DNA specific to that of the Plains bison herd contained at the park (on the north side of highway 16; the south side of high-



way 16 houses the Woods bison herd.) The 2nd day of the school was held at the Red Barn facilities at the Ukrainian Cultural Village. One of the headliner speakers Anne Wasko (nee Dunford), who was sponsored by the M.D. of Wainwright, had a high energy presentation with charts and slides of the amazing cattle feeder and slaughter price outlook current cattle producers are experiencing.

Anne touched on the frustrating situation that the COOL product of origin County labelling has created for Canadian Beef cuts in the



American marketplace.

This small label change has brought unfair market separation and processing challenges to Canadian beef. Anne, as always, had an awesome presentation with her frank, straight foreword approach, and brought insight to the grazing school for the upcoming beef markets and projections.



Anne Wasko

Porcupines on Spruce Trees

This past winter and cold spring was extremely harsh on shelterbelt tree lines, plus ornamental shrubs, perennials and junipers in local municipal yards. However, one unexplained tree loss that Aimee Leggett, assistant Agricultural Fieldman, tended to was a yard west of Gilt Edge that had 2 beautiful semi-mature spruce that had quickly lost limbs and branches during the latter part of this spring. The trees owners would find branches and small limbs of the tree on top of the snow drifts, and were puzzled as to what was causing the destruction.



After some questioning, and to the extent of damage on the tree, Aimee suggested that the problem was coming from porcupines. Porcupines enjoy gnawing on spruce trees and will chew the bark right off limbs! Porcupines are also



nocturnal, so they may be missed in the morning when you go outside to find your tree has had damage in the night, as they have already left the site. Once a porcupine has found a place of enjoyment, it is difficult to deter him away from a spot.

Bertha Army Moths

Counts within the M.D. of Wainwright are well on their way within the M.D. for the Bertha Armyworm moths and will continue until the end of July. However to the benefit of local canola farmers, counts



of moths currently remain low (more than likely because of the amount of rain we are experiencing.) There are 2 trap sites in the municipality, one trap is located 3.5 miles south of Irma, and the other is 9 miles north of Edgerton to get a better representative of pest populations for the M.D.

Warmer temperatures coming up in the next few weeks could cause an increase in Bertha Armyworm moth populations.

Monitoring moths provides an early warning system for farmers, extrapolating the moth count data to project what oncoming larvae caterpillar number populations may be. The past two years, Wainwright area has not seen the same infestations levels of caterpillars on canola such as what the County of Minburn and County of Two Hills have experienced.

Prevention is the best form of Pest Control

Rural Routes Supper

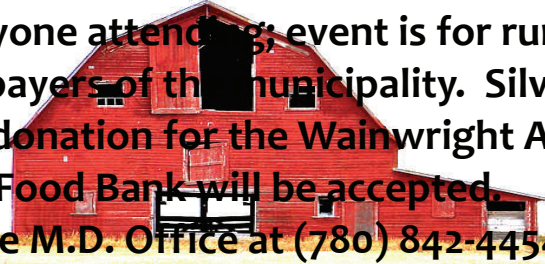
Date: Friday, August 8, 2014

Location: Wainwright Elks Hall

- ◆ *Doors Open at 5:30 p.m. (Cash Bar)*
- ◆ *BBQ Steak Supper at 6:30 p.m.*
- ◆ *100 Year Farm Family Awards at 8:00 p.m.*
- ◆ *Kid's door prizes, plus \$500 adult draw to be used at a local agricultural dealer of winners choice*

Registration by **August 1st** is required by everyone attending; event is for rural ratepayers of the municipality. Silver plate donation for the Wainwright Area Food Bank will be accepted.

Call the M.D. Office at (780) 842-4454 to register, as available space is limited.



2014 Honoured Family of the 100 Years of Family Farming Award:

1. Taylor Family (1914)

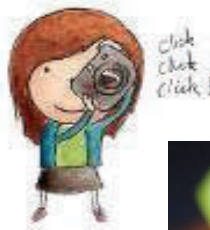
WATCH OUT FOR LARCH SAWFLY CATERPILLARS (in larch trees), these worms found June 30, 2014



MUNICIPAL PHOTO CONTEST!

Send in your photos before Friday, August 15.

There are 13 chances to win \$100 and have your photo in the 2015 municipal calendar. Stop at the M.D. office for contest forms or go online to mdwainwright.ca and look under Agricultural Service Board section for contest details!



GOOD BUG!



Ladybug (at top) and Ladybug larvae (at bottom) are very beneficial to your yard eating aphids and other garden pests!



GOOD BUG!



Good Idea! If you have an old rake in the yard, why not use it as part of your "garden décor" and feed the Orioles birds! This rake has 2 slices of oranges to help attract the birds, which have a very beautiful and unique song! They also help eat the mosquitoes and insect pests in your yard! Thank you P. Makay for sharing the fun and useful idea!

...monitor for suspicious pests!

Clean • Drain • Dry

Attention: Boaters and Anglers



Every time you remove your boat from the water, remember to **Clean, Drain and Dry**, your watercraft and equipment.



Zebra Mussels



Quagga Mussels



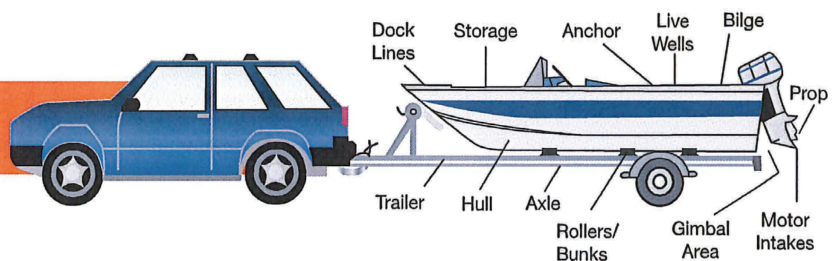
Eurasian watermilfoil

Clean and inspect watercraft, trailer and gear. Remove all plants, animals, and mud.

Drain all water from bait buckets, coolers, bilges, internal compartments, livewells, ballasts, transom and motors.

Dry watercraft and gear completely between trips. Sponge out standing water and allow the wet areas of your boat to air dry.

Inspect and remove plants, animals and mud.



Report any mussels that are attached to your boat.

1-855-336-BOAT (2628)
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