



THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION



HAVE YOU HEARD?

The M.D. of Wainwright offers contract equipment rentals each year.

A member of the M.D. Council sits on the board of the Battle River Lodge.

The M.D. crushes our own gravel at several locations. Ratepayers can arrange to purchase gravel through the administration office (780-842-4454) at a cost of \$10/mt plus hauling.

TAX NOTICES

Please note that tax notices were mailed out on June 30. The deadline for payment is Thursday November 30th, 2023. Contact the office at 780-842-4454 for any inquiries.

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR CONTEST

Help us celebrate the diversity within the M.D. of Wainwright by participating in our annual calendar photo contest! Winning photos will receive a \$100 cash prize and be displayed in a beautiful twelve month calendar. All Municipal ratepayers/residents are eligible to enter!

Deadline for submission is August 18th, 2023.

Find the contest rules and entry forms at mdwainwright.ca, stop in at the Administration Office, or email Shelby at soracheski@mdwainwright.ca

MUNICIPAL BURSARIES

The M.D. of Wainwright is proud to offer of two \$1,000 education bursaries available to ratepayers and municipal residents!

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Bursary is for students enrolled in an agricultural or environmental science related program and the General Bursary is for students enrolled in any program at an accredited post-secondary institution (university, college or trade school).

The deadline for applications for both bursaries is September 1st. Visit mdwainwright.ca or stop in at the administration office for full details and applications!

RURAL ROUTES SUPPER REMINDER

The Rural Routes Supper will be taking place on Friday August 11th at the Elks Hall in Wainwright. Doors open at 5:30pm. Registration is required by August 4th to attend the event. If your plans have changed, please inform M.D. staff by calling 780-842-4454. No shows cost money and take seats away from those on the wait list. We look forward to seeing you there!

M.D. SOCIAL MEDIA

The M.D. is on Facebook and Instagram! Follow us for regular updates and to participate in online contests.

KOCHIA - A GROWING CONCERN



Though not a regulated species, kochia (aka summer cypress or burning bush) is certainly becoming a significant weed of concern in our area. It used to be a species primarily associated with southern parts of the province. However, it has steadily spread over the years and is proving to be a serious problem in more northern latitudes. Kochia was initially introduced as an ornamental and in some instances as an alternative cattle feed. Its feed value is slightly lower than that of alfalfa and, as described below it is well adapted for poor growing conditions where traditional forages would not be successful. Kochia is highly salt-tolerant and starts to grow in areas where salinity prevents many other species from growing; giving it the opportunity to spread into fields and have a huge effect on crop yield. In extreme cases, kochia has been reported to reduce crop yields up to 100%. It has several competitive advantages, such as an immense tap root that can reach depths up to 10 feet (giving it an edge in drought or hot conditions) and it can grow up to 6 feet tall, aggressively competing with crops. Kochia is also a very prolific seed producer, with a single plant capable of producing up to 25,000 seeds. Once mature, the stem breaks off from the root into a tumbleweed that spreads seed everywhere it travels in the wind. Kochia is able to both self-pollinate and cross-pollinate, giving each seed a unique and diverse genetic package which can quickly lead to herbicide resistance.

When all things are considered, it is apparent that kochia poses challenges when it comes to control. If you have kochia in your field, assume it is group 2-resistant. Glyphosate resistant populations are on the rise, as is the occurrence of group 4 resistance. The real problem is populations that have multiple mode of action resistance, rendering herbicides entirely ineffective. Another option is to apply limited cultivation to patches, as it can be controlled with tillage. Thankfully it is not all doom and gloom. The one saving grace is that kochia seed does not remain viable for long in the soil and with consistent effort the seed bank can be depleted.

Kochia is certainly a weed to watch and take seriously. The sooner it is noticed and control efforts are undertaken, the higher the likelihood of success. If you find yourself battling a seemingly herbicide resistant population, be sure to reach out to an advisor. Recommended by a Corteva Agriscience representative are their fluroxypyr containing herbicides OcTTain XL, Attain XC, or Prestige XC.

MUNICIPAL WEED INSPECTORS

Dennis Fuder
780-842-7060
Divisions 1, 5, 6 and 7

Laine Maron
780-842-8579
Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5

Holly Arychuk (Seasonal)

James Schwindt
Agricultural Fieldman
agfield@mdwainwright.ca
780-842-0212

Shelby Oracheski
Asst. Agricultural Fieldman
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780-806-9498

ARE YOU GETTING MORE THAN YOU BARAGINED FOR IN YOUR HAY?

With the challenging environmental conditions gripping the province over the past couple years, many people are having to look far afield to source hay. Whether feed comes from near or far, it is important to pay close attention to what may be travelling with it. Hay harvested from a field containing weeds has a high likelihood of bringing viable seed with it, leading to a potential long term problem in your backyard. Many weed species can quickly overrun native or desirable plants and once established take years to remove completely. In fact, many noxious and invasive weeds are nearly impossible to eradicate once they have become established in a field, pasture, or rangeland.

Prevention is the most cost effective way to manage invasive species, second best is closely monitoring feeding and storage sites and responding quickly to any emerging issues before the problem escalates.



SPOTLIGHT COUNTRY COOKIES

Some things in life are meant to be. For Ashley Paré of Chauvin, Country Cookies was just one of those things. All her life, Ashley has had a love for sugar cookies. Early one October morning in 2019, she found herself scrolling through Pinterest, admiring the edible works of art on her screen and decided to try a batch for herself. That was all it took for Ashley to know she had discovered a new passion. Before she knew it, she found herself caught up in the whirlwind that is a thriving custom sugar cookie business.

Ashley did not anticipate the extraordinary response she has received to what she thought would be a humble business venture. She began without an end goal, hoping she would pick up orders for the odd birthday party. After some practice and with encouragement from her sisters, she created an Instagram page and the business took off immediately. Ashley is busy filling cookie orders on a daily basis, starting her mornings at 4:30 or 5:00am. Her clientele is primarily local, though she has filled orders for clients as far as southern Alberta, carefully packaging the delicate goodies for the journey by mail.

Looking at the finished product, it is apparent that a tremendous amount of time and attention goes in to each cookie. When she first started out, Ashley would mix each batch of dough and make the icing to order. Decorating was a slow process as she acquired the necessary skill through experience. As the volume of orders increased, Ashley found more efficient ways to operate. She now makes large batches of dough, rolls it out and freezes it in sheets and has upgraded her equipment. She spent the first year working entirely free hand, so the addition of a projector was a game changer for decorating. However, this remains the most time consuming aspect of her work. Depending on the intricacy of the design, she estimates a dozen cookies still takes 6 to 8 hours of careful crafting to complete, turning each blank slate into a work of art. Finished cookies will stay fresh for three weeks, and can be frozen fully decorated for 3 to 4 months for those that want to make them last!

What Ashley has found to be the most surprising as she has ventured into business is how natural it has felt to incorporate Country Cookies in to her life. She is so grateful for the opportunity to do what she loves every day and to have such a fulfilling creative outlet. She also feels incredibly fortunate to have such kind clientele, and has been flattered by the many repeat customers and recommendations she has received. Watching her Instagram page grow is also an exciting and unexpected joy. The success of Country Cookies also proves to be the biggest challenge Ashley faces, as meeting the demands of her many orders can be a juggling act. Full time business aside, Ashley is also a mother of three and busy farm wife, especially during seeding and harvest. She appreciates the help and support from her sisters and close friends to ensure everything continues to run smoothly. She has loved seeing how her business has tied in to her home life, and living with a cookie maker certainly has its perks! Her children all love to decorate cookies, and with practice are becoming more skilled and particular. It is also not uncommon for nieces, nephews and friends to gather at the Paré house to partake in the fun as well. The family, especially Aric, are also happy to eat any broken or spare cookies that come their way.

Aside from custom orders, Ashley has also hosted public and private cookie nights. This forced her to take a big step out of her comfort zone as public speaking is not high on her list of favorite pastimes. She has also created themed cookie boxes for parties or events, where buyers enjoy a blank slate and getting creative with the decorating supplies in the box. A special event that Ashley looks forward to every year is the Chauvin Christmas Market. In her first year she took 13 dozen cookies to the event, not sure if she would manage to sell that many. To her astonishment she sold out within the first hour and she now takes up to 90 dozen carefully crafted festive cookies to the market. In the future she hopes to fit in more markets in the local area as well as hosting more events. But for now, she is content with where she is at.

What sets this rural business apart is the genuine passion that fuels its success. Ashley is a true artisan and the care she puts in to her work shines through in every aspect of her business. As Country Cookies continues to flourish, it serves as an inspiring example of how pursuing one's passion can lead to unexpected success. Through her remarkable talent and unwavering commitment to quality, this farm wife turned entrepreneur has transformed simple ingredients into edible masterpieces that bring joy to all who indulge.



Owner and creator
Ashley Paré

 [countrycookiesap](https://www.instagram.com/countrycookiesap)





PRAIRIE STAPLES - HORSETAIL *Equisetum arvense*

Horsetail is an ancient fern-like species that has been around since before the ice age. It is also known as 'scouring rush' due to the high silica content that made it useful in the pioneer days to scour pots and pans and for use as sandpaper. It is commonly found in moist areas and easily identified by its uniquely jointed stems, surrounded by a whorl of tiny scale-like leaves at the stem nodes. Horsetail produces both vegetative and fertile stems and spreads via creeping roots and spores, a trait of the fern family. The thought of consuming something used to scour pots may have many people turning up their noses. However, horsetail has been used medicinally and as a food for centuries in many cultures across the globe. Fertile shoots can be eaten cooked or raw. They are not known to be flavorful raw, however, after giving them a quick fry with some oil and garlic, these young shoots have a crunchy, slightly sweet and savory flavor. People consider vegetative shoots as a tonic rather than food due to the rich content of silica, diuretic, and minerals in them. It is said to improve hair, nails, bones, bladder, and kidneys. They can be dried and stored as tea leaves.



PODCAST FAN?

Sharkfarmer Podcast. Agriculture's most entertaining & boundary-pushing podcast with farmers, ranchers & attitude.



Releasing domestic pond water, fish or other aquatic species (dead or alive) is illegal.



It is illegal to transport a boat with the drain plug in. Violation of this law could result in fines up to \$100,000.

SUSTAINABLE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (S-CAP)

This federal-provincial partnership delivers grant programs that generate sustainable economic growth in the agricultural and agri-food sector. There are several cost sharing programs available to farmers and ranchers, including the Efficient Grain Handling, Farm Technology, On-Farm Value-Added, Resilient Agricultural Landscape and Water Programs. Visit alberta.ca/sustainable-cap.aspx to learn about these programs and what they can do for your operation!

ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANS (EFP'S)

A valid EFP is a requirement for some of the S-CAP programs. An EFP is simply a self assessment tool in the form of an online workbook that is entirely free and confidential. It is simple to work through and valid for 10 years. You will receive as much assistance as needed from your local technician. Visit albertaefp.com to learn more and sign up today.

The person often credited with being Alberta's first farmer is Peter Pond. (Calgary Stampede)

Women accounted for over 30 per cent of farm operators in Alberta in 2016, making the province the second-highest proportion of female operators in Canada. (Stats Canada)

Alberta has countless examples of agricultural innovation within the sector. For instance, GoodLeaf Farms is expected to open a 74,000 square-foot vertical farm in Calgary by the end of 2022 that plans to grow fresh lettuce year-round. (Producer)

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) has made a 10-year, \$370 million deal with the Alberta government. This capital will go towards research regarding enhanced productivity, profitability and competitiveness, sustainable and responsible agriculture, food safety, diversification, and more. (AG)

Alberta is home to Agri-Trade Equipment Exposition, Western Canada's largest indoor/outdoor agriculture exhibition (Agri-Trade Equipment Expo)