

THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION



REMINDER:

The Municipally run Empty Chemical Container Collection Sites located at Irma, Wainwright, Edgerton, and Chauvin, are now PERMANENTLY CLOSED. Collection of these materials has become the responsibility of Agricultural Retailers as of January 1st, 2024.

Gopher Control

Don't be caught unprepared! Four weeks after you spot the first gopher in the spring is the most effective time to implement chemical control measures. At this time all adults have emerged and new litters have not yet arrived. This is of course a very busy time of year for producers of every variety, however, neglecting this window of opportunity means increased costs to manage gopher populations over time. Ideally, populations are managed using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, where multiple control measures are employed. When looking at toxicants, consider products which have the active ingredient Zinc Phosphide (ZP). ZP is an acute rodenticide, meaning a lethal dose is ingested in a single feeding, making it a similar product to strychnine. In recent studies it proved to be equally as effective and actually more cost effective per acre than strychnine. Contact your ag retailer or the Edgerton Seed Cleaning Plant to inquire.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our workshop series is kicking off! Mark your calendars for these educational days:

Optimizing Reproduction & Calf Development

February 10 - Prairie Rose, Wainwright
Featuring Powerhouse Embryonics, Bluerock Animal Nutrition, Lakeland College and the Border Vet Clinic.

Thriving Pastures: Unlocking Grazing Success

February 24 - Edgerton Ag Hall
Featuring DLF (formerly Pickseed), Corteva Agriscience, Cows and Fish, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, and Union Forage. *Not just for cattle producers. Includes a presentation about grazing through drought.

Innovations & Strategies for Horticulture with Jim Hole

March 5 - Prairie Rose, Wainwright

Resiliency Through Drought

March 12 - Prairie Rose, Wainwright

Farmer Drone School with LandView Drones

March 27 and 28 - Edgerton Ag Hall

Renewable Energy Developments: What Landowners Need to Know

April 10 - Location TBA

Equine Education 2.0

Coming in April

Detailed descriptions and registration information for all events can be found on the M.D. Facebook page, website, in your mailbox, or by emailing Shelby at soracheski@mdwainwright.ca as they come available. We can't wait to see YOU there!

Never stop learning; for when we stop learning, we stop growing.
- Loyal Lewman



A PIECE OF LOCAL HISTORY • The Battle River Trestle

The Battle River Trestle is a longstanding piece of local history. Like many communities across our nation, Wainwright as well as multiple villages and hamlets within the M.D., are where they are today because of a railway. At the time of completion, it was the longest free standing trestle in Canada. Today it has been bumped to the second place position with the Lethbridge Trestle claiming the top spot. It is certainly worth the short drive to check out this iconic structure, where you will also be treated to a beautiful view no matter the season. A snippet from one of the information signs on site:

West of Wainwright the railway met a deep challenge, a glorious valley that was home to the Battle River. In 1907, the concrete footings of the bridge that would span the valley were poured. Farmers and other contractors hauled supplies to the site by wagon from Hardisty. When the railway crept to the eastern side of the valley, supplies could be brought in by rail. The construction site became a tiny community all its own with a store, cafe and hospital. When three men working on the trestle drowned after their scow was swamped in mid-stream, their fellow workers erected a cairn in their memory.

The Battle River Trestle, completed on December 10, 1908, is 2775 feet long and stands 195 feet above the river. The high earth fill beyond the west abutment of the steel trestle conceals wooden trestle work built to correct grade elevation.

The first train to cross the trestle was the construction train, bringing supplies for the railway to continue its westward crawl to Edmonton. By November 1909, that part of the line was finished, and trains could travel all the way from Wainwright to Edmonton.



Photo by Blake Wildeman

M.D. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The MD of Wainwright is getting ready for a busy summer season! We are currently seeking high quality summer staff from May to August for:

Riverdale Mini-Park

- Clubhouse Staff
- Grounds / Outside Maintenance (could be extended into September)

General Parks & Rec / Public Works positions

- Class 5 Driver's License required.

Many of these positions are tailored to post-secondary students.

Want more info? Phone the MD Public Works shop at 780-842-4024 or email safety@mdwainwright.ca

Application Deadline for all positions is **Friday, February 9, 2024**. We thank all candidates for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



Whether it's accessing resources for yourself, or pointing a farmer in the right direction, AgKnow is your key partner in the evolving landscape of farm mental health. Their vision is to create a shift in farming culture to one where caring for mental health is a natural part of farm life. They want to increase resiliency in farming communities, de-stigmatize mental health, reduce barriers to services, and stay relevant and current with the issues impacting the agriculture industry in Alberta. Visit agknow.ca to learn about their programs and access support today.

DUMPSTER DON'TS

List of items **not** acceptable for M.D. of Wainwright Dumpsters.



- Explosive substances
- Radioactive substances and wastes
- Hazardous chemicals and wastes
- Waste oil and petroleum products (including paint)
- Materials that are on fire or above a temperature of sixty-five (65) degrees Celsius
- Chemical wastes originating from commercial or industrial operations
- Any loose refuse that is not contained within a cart or bin
- White goods such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, hot water tanks, dishwashers, stoves, etc.
- Wet batteries or other vessels containing acid or caustic substances
- Metal products
- Automotive parts
- Industrial and commercial trade waste
- Uncontained organic waste
- Construction or demolition waste
- Wood waste
- Tires
- Dead animals
- Free liquids of any kind

2024 monthly rates :

3yd \$39.41	4yd \$45.63
6yd \$60.15	8yd \$72.59





Stephen Pelkey has always had an interest in beekeeping. In fact, a road trip with him invariably means a stop at a honey farm if one happens to be on the route. It was this keen interest that led Stephen to begin paving the way towards his dream hobby in 2010 and 2011 by taking in numerous bee keeping courses offered through Alberta Agriculture. That spring saw the humble beginnings of what has become both a genuine passion and fascination, as well as a roller coaster ride of learnings for Stephen.

Armed with information, Stephen began his endeavor with two hives in 2011. Honey bees in Alberta can be sourced locally which is the route Stephen took at the beginning of his journey; or packages of bees to be imported (often from New Zealand) to replenish stock in the spring. Expectations were tempered as it is not unusual to have a false start in bee keeping. However, much to Stephen's surprise and delight, his first season was a resounding success with over 300 lbs of honey harvested. He was hooked. Over the subsequent years, Stephen steadily expanded his apiary and worked his way up to as many as 25 hives. By 2015, he would lose track of the volume collected, but it would easily surpass a 1,000 lbs a year. Things were certainly looking bright for Natural Beeginnings. 2019 saw the first true speed bump in the road when the apiary was relocated to a more challenging location and losses in the hives started piling up. At present, Stephen has six happy hives and is working to rebuild his stock back to its former might.

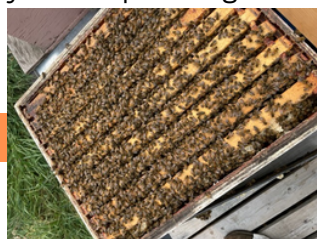
Beekeeping certainly comes with a myriad of complex challenges. The two primary struggles Stephen faces annually are overwintering and varroa mites. Honey bees stay active through the winter, constantly beating their wings and moving in order to maintain a temperature of over 30 degrees within the hive to keep their Queen warm and healthy. Though the boxes are well insulated, there are always losses throughout our frigid winters. This season has been especially interesting. With the milder weather, the bees have been more active, feeding heavily and even venturing outdoors to their peril. Varroa mites have become a huge struggle across the apiculture industry in recent years. These pesky mites carry viruses and disease; left unchecked, they can decimate a hive by fall. It is important to monitor vigilantly and treat hives in both spring and fall to prevent catastrophic losses.

Part of the fun of bee keeping is processing the honey and byproducts. In the early years, this sticky task was completed in the house. With the high production volume, it soon became apparent that another solution was needed, enter... the honey house. Built in 2014, this 20x50 space houses all the processing equipment and finished products. Stephen typically processes two to three boxes a day starting in mid August. Frames are removed from the hive and take a trip through the extractor, which spins the frame and uses centrifugal force to extract the honey. The sweet nectar is then filtered to remove any wax and then goes straight to packaging. Stephen has begun dabbling in flavored honeys as well, with garlic, chocolate and cinnamon being the mainstays. The wax itself is also sold or utilized to make candles and lotion bars, with plans to add more products into the mix down the line.

Natural Beeginnings, like so many other small businesses, began as a hobby. At first, Stephen did not have much by way of plans for sales, but it turned out he had an excellent salesman in his corner. In his late 80's at the time, Stephen's father John would regularly disappear with cases of honey and return with cash after selling the products in Wainwright and surrounding area. He became well recognized as an ambassador for Natural Beeginnings, and has been missed dearly since his passing in 2020. Since that time, Stephen has explored other options for sales and marketing. His products have been included in the Wainwright Biz Box since its inception and he has become a mainstay at the monthly Wainwright Farmers Market. A farm store in Ponoka has also carried Natural Beeginning products for several years. Direct sales are available at any time; in fact, Stephen will deliver right to you. Prices have never been raised on these products, as Stephen aims to keep competitive with grocery store products and make shopping local accessible for all.

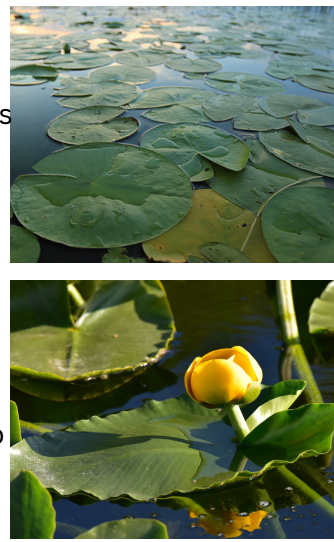
Stephen has a true passion for bees and finds he learns something every day working with them. Their complex societies are nothing short of fascinating, and he anticipates many years ahead of honing his skills. Once he retires, he looks forward to spending more time in the apiary and hopes his granddaughters will become little apiculturists themselves.

The RAW Difference: Raw honey (meaning unpasteurized) has been utilized by humans as a remedy throughout history and boasts a range of health and medicinal uses. Aside from being a delicious natural sweetener, raw honey is known to be a good source of antioxidants, contains micronutrients, and is antifungal and antibacterial. Much of what can be purchased at box stores has in fact been heat treated. Though this does not alter the alluring flavor, many of the benefits have been lost. For this reason, be sure to check that the label specifically says 'raw' when making a purchase, ignore the BUZZwords like natural, organic or pure. Or better yet, shop locally from a raw honey producer.



PRAIRIE STAPLES Yellow Pond Lily – *Nuphar lutea ssp. variegata*

Yellow Pond Lilies are floating aquatic plants with long stalks growing from spongy rhizomes anchored in the muddy bottoms of water bodies across North America. The stems are slippery and often slimy to the touch, terminating in leaves that are mostly floating, although occasionally submersed, with a smooth, slightly wavy margin. The flowers of the Yellow Pond Lily emerge on separate stalks, rising several inches above the surface of the water. This species has ample wildlife value and it utilized as shelter and/or a food source by insects, aquatic life, amphibians, birds and even some mammals, such as beaver and moose. Historically, this common aquatic was utilized as a food source by boiling or roasting the roots or drying and grinding them into meal or flour. The roasted seeds were also eaten like popcorn. Yellow Pond Lily also has medicinal value and was used to treat a variety of ailments including skin conditions, rheumatic pain, and heart conditions. It is also reportedly used as an analgesic and anticonvulsive. Keep an eye out for this prairie staple on the edges of ponds and lakes, in marshes and slow-moving rivers and streams.



WORRIED ABOUT WATER?

With drought conditions predicted to persist into 2024, now is the time to make preparations and plans for the upcoming season. Of high concern is water sources for cattle. With many sloughs and dugouts sitting dry it is imperative to have an alternative mechanism in place. If you are considering installing a new well, dugout, or off-source watering system, it is worthwhile to look in to the Water Program through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP). The on-Farm Water Supply Stream of the grant program can cover 25% of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$35,000. An Environmental Farm Plan is not required for this program. Visit alberta.ca/sustainable-cap to learn if you are eligible to apply under the Water Program and check out the other S-CAP programs available to producers.

A great one stop shop for resources pertaining to drought is alberta.ca/drought and checking out the 'Farming in dry conditions' page. Planning and preparing for drought conditions, insurance, water and livestock management, grain contracts, and programs and services are some of the topics covered.

For current conditions across our country and region, search for 'Canadian Drought Monitor' online.

Don't be caught unprepared!



As farmers, we hear a lot of jokes about sheep.

We'd tell them to the dog, but he'd herd them all!

What farm animal keeps the best time?

A watch dog.

Why did the pig take a bath?

The farmer said "hogwash"!

What kinds of pigs know karate?

Pork chops.

How did the organic vegetable die?

Natural causes.

Why were the baby strawberries crying?

Their ma and pa were in a jam.

THE M.D. ONLINE

Website: mdwainwright.ca
Facebook: Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61
Instagram: [mdofwainwright](https://www.instagram.com/mdofwainwright)
LinkedIn: Municipal District of Wainwright #61



PODCAST FAN?

The Beef Cattle Health and Nutrition Podcast - A podcast featuring conversations with veterinarians, nutritionists and researchers about topics related to beef cattle production with a Canadian perspective.



**BEEF CATTLE
HEALTH & NUTRITION
PODCAST**

Hosted by Dr. John Campbell



Facts about Alberta

Alberta is named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's fourth daughter. They named the province after her when it was established in 1905. Princess Louise was very much involved in charity work, arts and education, and she was a big animal rights advocate. Sadly, she passed away in 1939, but Alberta still carries her name and honors her spirit through its awesome cultural scene and rich history.

Alberta is Canada's 4th largest province. With an area of roughly 661,848 square kilometers, this western Canadian province towers over the other provinces in terms of size. That's almost four times the size of the UK, or enough to fit eight countries the size of Switzerland. Alberta has a population estimated at 4.75 million people, which is around 11% of Canada's total population. When it comes to cities, Calgary is the biggest one in Alberta, with over 1.64 million folks and Edmonton has around 1.54 million people. Together, they make up more than half of the province's population.