The County Chronicle
County of Warner No. 5

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Message from Reeve

Looking back on the past year, we are proud of the strides the County of Warner has made in advocating for the needs of our community and collaborating with various levels of government and organizations to ensure a prosperous future for all. From addressing water resource management to working on healthcare solutions, the County of Warner has been actively involved in discussions and initiatives that will shape the region for years to come.

■ *Message from Reeve article continues on* **PAGE 15**

HAPPY EASTER

Sunday, April 20, 2025

The World's Largest Pysanka (Easter Egg) Vegreville is a town with a population of just over 5000. It is located 103 km (64 mi) east of Edmonton. Its primary economic base of the town is agricultural. A large percentage of Vegreville's population is of Ukrainian Canadian descent. The world's largest pysanka was created to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1974 and to celebrate Vegreville's ethnic heritage.

- **Dimensions:** It measures 25.7 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 31 feet high.
- **Construction:** The Pysanka is built of 3,512 aluminum pieces, including 524-star patterns and 2,208 equilateral triangles.

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County of Warner No. 5

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Spring Workshops

County of Warner Ag Service Board (ASB), in partnership with Lethbridge County, held the Growing Opportunities Workshop on March 12 and was well attended. Exploring funding, stewardship and resources for producers and insights into research partnerships in sustainable agriculture.

The Shelterbelt Workshop, hosted by the County of Warner ASB was held on March 27 at the ASB building in Warner. Speakers included Toso Bozic, Certified Arborist in Agro Forestry and City of Lethbridge Certified Arborist Lindsey Bell, Urban Forestry Technician. The topics of instruction included tree care, maintenance, planting and site preparation. Environmental conditions (insects, disease, drought, hail, salt, herbicide, wildlife and Livestock)

Please let us know what topics you would like to see covered in future events.

Contact Jamie Meeks, Ag Fieldman jmeeks@warnercounty.ca

Local Farming Family are the recipients of this year's 2025 Farm Family Award

Congratulations to

Keeler Farms Ltd.

They are the recipients of this year's Farm Family Award!

The Calgary Stampede and BMO Bank of Montreal will be hosting the Awards Ceremony during this year's Stampede to hand out this award to the deserving Southern Albertan Recipients that have been farming or ranching for 100 years or more in Alberta.

The objective of the award is to recognize outstanding Southern Alberta farm families "who best typify the value of the family farmer to our rural communities and society in general and to honor these families at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede." Each year the County of Warner Agriculture Service Board is asked to select a family that deserves recognition for both agricultural and community involvement. This year Keeler Farms Ltd. are that family!

Congratulations to the Keeler Farm Family!

Community Benefit Fund Recipients 2025

The Community Benefit Fund annually allocates funding to community projects, events, or other one-time capital improvements that will benefit residents of the County of Warner. The County of Warner is pleased to announce four recipients in 2025.

Riverside Community Golf Society is planning to purchase equipment and provide instruction for a Junior Golf Program to introduce golf to local students and to encourage physical activity in children.

Great Canadian Plains Railway Society is planning to increase the energy efficiency of the old Train Station museum located in Stirling by insulating the roof structure.

Tri Community Childcare Society is planning to create a natural outdoor play space for children to explore nature at a new daycare in Warner.

New Dayton Recreation Board is planning to install new windows in the classrooms of the New Dayton Stadium which is the community center located in the Hamlet of New Dayton.

The County would like to acknowledge and thank all community members who volunteer their time and effort in making their community a better place to live.

Stirling Wind Project

ROADSIDE SPRAY DRIFT CONCERN

The county asks that special care is given when farmers are spraying their crops. We are experiencing increasing spray drift incidents with glyphosate trespassing on county road allowances; killing the desired grass and vegetation in the ditches, which brings on unwanted weed infestations and erosion to shoulders and ditch bottom.

ROADSIDE SPRAYING

Weed Control in the County

The control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds in the county is a big part of the Agriculture Service Board's summer program and they work hard every year to ensure that these weeds do not spread. The following methods are used for control:

- Spraying all newly constructed roads.
- Spraying all established roads as deemed necessary by the Ag Fieldman
- Developed and Undeveloped Road Allowances
- Bladed Trails
- Spot spraying for Canada Thistle and other noxious and prohibited weeds.
- Spraying public areas as necessary.

If you have any questions about which weeds are Noxious or which weeds are considered Prohibited Noxious within the County of Warner, please contact the Ag Fieldman at the Ag Service Board Shop by calling (403) 642-2255.

Public Works Update

2024 Overview

Gravel: County crews dug out, screened, and transported gravel from local pits to use on County roads. In 2024, over 300 km of road were re-graveled. The Reclamation Certificate was received for one gravel pit – this process takes 3 years from the initial dirt work through the monitoring stage, until the site is established as useable grazing area.

Roadwork: Major roadwork was performed on the Wolf Creek bin road along with several trails which were bladed for maintenance, new approaches and approach upgrades were performed upon request, the patching program continued for all roads, culverts were placed and maintained where required, and snow was ploughed to clear roads as required throughout the winter. The road oiling program maintained roads in the County and within urban municipalities through cooperative agreements.

Mowing: Ditches were mowed during the summer, additional tree trimming and brush removal in ditches decrease the possibility of snow drift problems, and annual cleanup efforts reduced garbage in ditches.

Cemeteries: Prairie Round Cemetery crews filled holes, leveled graves, repaired fencing, cut down shrubs to encourage future growth, and replaced signage.

Health & Safety: The County Health & Safety program has seen some changes, with the priority remaining the safety of our crews and that of the public on County roads.

Looking ahead

Public Works crews will be out repairing culverts, replacing signs, patching, re-graveling, and upgrading roads. While crews are out working, please keep safety in mind, follow the signs that are placed, and slow down when passing workers.

Yard gravel request deadline: May 15th

Dust suppression request deadline: May 15th

Request forms are available annually between January 1 – May 15 and requests can only be made for services during the current application year.

We plan on trying to keep everyone informed of updated road construction and work being done, when possible, through posts on the County website.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD EMPLOYMENT

Seasonal Employment Opportunities

The County of Warner No. 5 has an opening for seasonal labourers and equipment operators.
Anyone wishing to apply for these positions must be able to work unsupervised and have a valid operator's license. Full safety and job training provided. Able to follow directions, good attention to detail and dependable. Pesticide Applicator's license and familiarity with crops and noxious weeds are an asset. Willingness to work long hours and weekends, as needed.
Apply to jmeeks@warnercounty.ca or use the application form below.
If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Agricultural Service Board department at 403-642-2255.
We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

ADMINISTRATION

Taxes

The County of Warner will be sending out the property tax bills by July 1, 2025. Taxes must be paid by November 30, 2025 in order to avoid penalties. Acceptable payment methods include online banking (ATB, BMO, CIBC, Credit Union, Scotia Bank, and TD), debit and cash in the Administration Office located at 300 County Road in the Village of Warner. Please note office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (noon). Credit card payments can made through our website but will include an additional processing fee. Cheques can be made payable to the County of Warner No. 5, and dropped off at the office or mailed in.

Fire Permits

A fire permit is required before lighting any open fire in the County of Warner. This does not include fire pits at recreational areas or screened burning barrels outside of the Hamlets. Burn barrels are banned in the Hamlets of Wrentham and New Dayton, but Acceptable Fire Pits, Acceptable Fireplaces, or a Portable Appliance for the purpose of recreation or cooking are still allowed without a permit. Please obtain a fire permit by calling your local Fire Chief. Their contact information is available on the County website. During fire bans no burning is allowed with the exception of CSA/ULC certified appliances with an on/off switch powered by propane, natural gas, or wood pellets. Fire bans are posted on the County website and on albertafirebans.ca. The county thanks everyone for their continued cooperation in responsibly lighting fires and keeping the region safe from wildfires.

Development Permits

Development permits are available through the Administration Office. The fee for the permit will depend on the type of permit being applied for. Adjacent landowners must be notified for any discretionary use permit. Non-residential farm buildings (barns, etc.) are exempt, but must meet the required setbacks for road allowances. Please contact the Development Officer for information on development including permitted uses, discretionary permit application timelines, and setback requirements. All County of Warner subdivision applications are handled through the Oldman River Regional Services Commission (ORRSC). You can contact ORRSC at 403-329-1344.

Elections

Municipal elections will be held in 2025. The nomination period is January 1 – September 22 at noon, 2025. An advanced poll will be held on October 8, 2025 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Election Day will be October 20, 2025 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Voting station location will be dependent on which Divisions have elections and will be announced after Nomination Day.

You are eligible to vote if you can provide authorized identification which shows that you are: at least 18 years old, a Canadian citizen, and a resident of the County of Warner in the Division for which there is an election.

Due to provincial regulation changes, voters must be on the permanent electors register. To register to vote, check to see if you are registered to vote, or update your registration, you can visit voterlink.ab.ca. if you do not register beforehand there will be an opportunity to fill out a form and be added to the permanent electors register at the voting station.

Blowing soil can affect not only your business but all those downwind

Soil Conservation

FARMERS please be aware of high winds that blow soil in the fall and expose your land. When the wind picks up and the sky turns grey with blow-dirt, everyone loses. For the farmer whose field seems suddenly half in the air, the economic impact of a major wind event can be nothing short of devastating. Topsoil is the most productive strip of soil. Losing any amount of topsoil impacts productivity. It's not just a heartbreak to see soil blowing east across roads and fields – it's also an infraction. Soil erosion has negative effects, not just for the landowner losing precious soil, but also for neighbouring lands, roads, ditches, and buildings. In Alberta, the Soil Conservation Act and the Agricultural Service Board Act pair up to provide protection for this soil and help ensure longevity of agriculture in the province. **Soil Conservation Tools and Erosion Soil Cleanup are available through the County of Warner Ag Service Board – please feel free to contact the Ag Fieldman at 403-642-2255.**

FARMING SMARTER
Growing new ideas

RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

County Transfer Stations

The County runs three transfer stations which collect different types of waste depending on the facility. The County and the towns and villages in the County are all part of the Chief Mountain Region Solid Waste Services Commission, so you can drop off your waste at other local transfer stations according to the regulations and hours set by the controlling municipality. For more details you can visit the County website at warnercounty.ca/p/waste-transfer-stations.

New Dayton
SE 32-05-18 W4
Saturday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Every 1st Tuesday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Masinasin
NW 27-2-13 W4
24-hour access

Wrentham
NW 23-6-17 W4
Friday 11:00 a.m.—7 p.m.

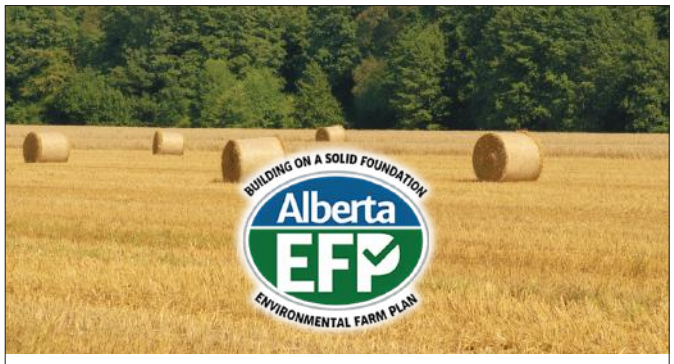
Milk River-Coutts
Tuesday 10:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

NEW
Used Oil Drop Off at Milk River-Coutts Transfer Station
A collaborative effort between the County, Town of Milk River, and Village of Coutts has led to a successful grant application for an additional used oil drop off location for all County, Town, and Village residents. Used oil can be poured out into the large drum under supervision of the Transfer Station Attendant. Used oil filters will also be accepted.

Hon. Grant Hunter, ECA, MBA
MLA Taber-Warner

6th Floor Federal Building
9820 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T1K 1E7

Constituency Office
(403) 223-0001
5402 50th Ave.
Taber, Alberta
T1G 1T9



https://www.albertaefp.com

Completing an EFP allows for greater awareness, education, and access to market opportunities for producers across the province. Once an EFP is completed, it is valid for 10 years and provides you with an action plan that you can implement as time and resources allow.

RDAR

For 2025 **RDAR** is pleased to offer two producer focused programs that provide grants for Alberta farmers to support with the adoption of new on-farm innovations and Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).

The **Producer Research and Evaluation Program** (PREP) has been created to support on-farm research allowing producers to evaluate emerging technologies, products, and production practices. PREP enables producers to gain sufficient data to make informed decisions and understand how to further adapt a new production practice to their specific operation.

The **On-Farm Climate Action Fund** (OFACF) program is now entering its fourth year and has proved incredibly popular with Alberta farmers. To date, over $43M has been distributed to producers across the province, covering over 2.1M acres of land. Amongst the program's areas of focus are nitrogen management, adoption of cover cropping, and the adoption of rotational grazing.
The 2025 OFCAF program will open for applications on April 9th.

Round-Up 2025: **RDAR's** annual producer event will be held at the Heritage Centre, Cremona, AB on June 11th. Details on how to book your tickets, and event details, will be published on our website and social media channels shortly – we hope you can join us!

For more information on the above please visit our website at rdar.ca or scan the QR code below:

Round-Up
RDAR
June 11th, 2025 - Cremona, AB

www.rdar.ca

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a five-year federal-provincial-territorial government investment agreement which reflects the principles of sustainable development, allowing the agriculture and agri-food sector to meet the needs of today, and grow for tomorrow. In Alberta, the Sustainable CAP includes a $508-million commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially.

There are several grant programs available under the Sustainable CAP specific to Alberta producers and agri-food processors. Individuals and organisations are encouraged to review the program webpage prior to starting a potential project. https://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap

On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP)
https://www.alberta.ca/on-farm-efficiency-program
This program supports producers to achieve environmental benefits by improving the efficient use of agricultural inputs. There are four different funding streams under the OFEP: Smart Farm Technology, Energy Efficiency, Farm Security and Efficient Grain Handling. Eligible applicants for the OFEP must have a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate or letter of completion or must be able to receive an EFP certificate or letter to submit with their final report.

On-Farm Value-Added Program (OFVAP)
https://www.alberta.ca/on-farm-value-added-program
This program supports primary producers in adding value (processing past the harvest or slaughter) to their agricultural products to grow sales, expand production capacity, explore market opportunities and create jobs in Alberta. Funding for OFVAP falls into four categories: Processing Capacity Expansion, Food Safety Improvement, New Product and Process Development, and Market Development and Access.

Value-Added Program (VAP)
https://www.alberta.ca/value-added-program
For those applicants who have made the transition from primary producer to value-added food and bio-industrial processors, the VAP provides support for continued diversification, innovation, growth and prosperity. Eligible processors can apply for grants for value-added projects that increase company sales and production capacity, expand market opportunities and create jobs in Alberta. The two program streams depend on the applicant's annual sales.

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)
https://www.alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program
The objective of RALP is to increase the environmental resilience of agricultural landscapes by introducing beneficial management practices. Available funding falls into four categories: pasture management, cropland conversion, tree establishment and wetland. Funding may cover up to 100% of eligible expenses over a three-year term. Eligible RALP applicants must also have a current EFP (or their EFP to be completed before the end of the project term). Eligible applicants include primary producers, Grazing Reserve Associations and Operators of a Community Pasture.

Water Program
https://www.alberta.ca/water-program
The Water Program supports improved management practices of risks to water quality and supply, adaptation to climate variability, and the efficient use of water resources. There are two program streams: On-Farm Irrigation and On-Farm Water Supply (OFWS). Applications for dugouts, dams and spring development projects in the OFWS stream require the applicant contact an Agriculture and Irrigation Water Specialist to obtain an approved Construction Sheet prior to planning or construction.

Additional information on the various programs (important dates, funding list, eligible applicants, additional requirements, eligible expenses/activities, terms and conditions, and application forms) can be found on each program webpage.

Alberta
Canada

Little Fish Big Stewardship

Milk River Watershed Council Canada in collaboration with Cows and Fish, and local land managers are in their second year of the Little Fish Big Stewardship project. Producers play a pivotal role in the stewardship of the Milk River and tributaries. We are supporting that stewardship with tools to maintain or improve not only the habitat for these little at-risk fish species but also their operations! The goal of the projects is to protect fish habitat using beneficial management practices like riparian corridor fencing, remote off-site watering systems, and innovative practices like beaver dam analogs (BDA) that mimic natural processes on drainages to improve water retention on wetlands and livestock water sources. Do you have the perfect spot to try this out?! Let us know!! The Little Fish, Big Stewardship project is funded in part by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk, allows us to cost share up to 50% with land managers, often in-kind contributions can make up the landowner component. During 2024 six landowner projects were completed, and 18 Riparian Health Inventories (RHI) with producers. RHI's provide a holistic health indicator and score for our riparian areas along the Milk River; many of the 2024 sites were first visited during the late 1990's working with multigenerational farms and ranch operations. We would like to thank all the land managers for their hard work on these projects and stewardship of our watershed.

We are accepting applications for shovel ready projects in 2025 now, if you are interested in a project, please reach out to us! Please contact Tim Romanow at tim@mrwcc.ca or Marnel Muller at mmuller@cowsandfish.org to learn more or get started.

Another aspect of this project that we are excited to share is our research and monitoring efforts! Temperature and dissolved oxygen data loggers were deployed last spring at various locations along the Milk River. This data will help us better understand habitat suitability for different fish species. With the St Mary diversion failure in June 2024, we are learning what conditions would look like without 110 years of augmented flow on the Milk River, and the response to our unique fish species. The good news is producers along the Milk River have been in large doing a great job of maintaining habitat and refugia along the river and tributaries will hopefully help with the recovery of our little fish!

Unique Financial Services
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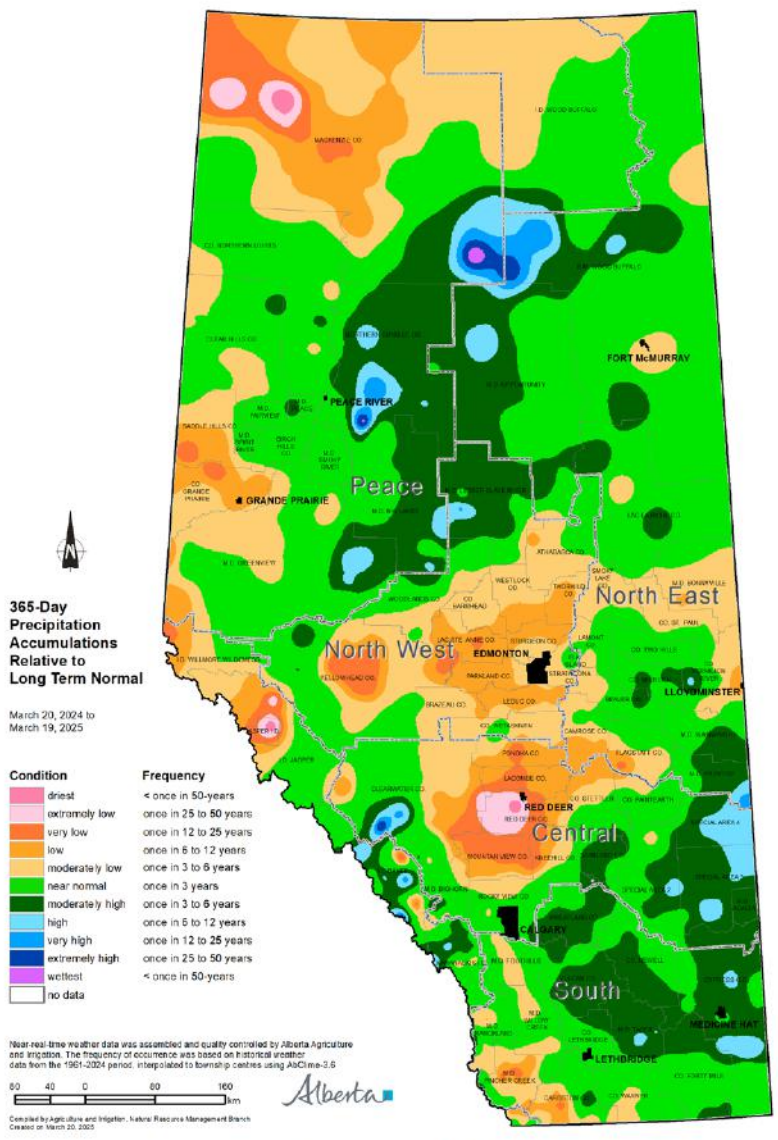
INSURANCE • LENDING • INCOME STABILIZATION

Agriculture Financial Services
www.afsc.ca > deadlines

Apr. 30/25	**Annual Crop Insurance**: Last day to file Land Reports for fall-seed crops.
Apr. 30/25	**AgriStability**: Last day to select optional reference margin methodology for 2025 program year.
Apr. 30/25	**AgriStability**: Last day to enrol, pay fees (without penalty) or opt out for the 2025 program year.
Apr. 30/25	**Perennial Crop Insurance**: Last day to remove grazing livestock from insured Hay fields.
Apr. 30/25	**Annual Crop Insurance**: Last day to apply, make changes to (including updating your declared acres) or cancel coverage.
May. 15/25	**Bee Overwintering Insurance**: Notify AFSC 10 days prior to unwrapping hives. Coverage will be denied if AFSC is notified after May 15.
Jun. 12/25	**Livestock Price Insurance – Calf** last day to purchase calf insurance for 2025
Jun. 20/25	**Annual Crop Insurance**: Last day to file Land Reports, and report acres that remain unseeded due to excessive moisture. Login to AFSC Connect to complete.
Jun. 25/25	**Hail Insurance**: Premiums received by AFSC the later of June 25 or within 15 days of billing date receive an early payment discount.
Jun. 25/25	**Perennial Crop Insurance**: Premiums received by AFSC the later of June 25 or within 15 days of billing date receive an early payment discount.
Jun. 25/25	**Annual Crop Insurance**: Premiums received by AFSC the later of June 25 or within 15 days of billing date receive an early payment discount.
Jun. 25/25	**Annual Crop Insurance**: Last day to file Land Reports (with penalty). Login to AFSC Connect to complete.
Jun. 30/25	**Bee Overwintering Insurance**: Last day to apply, make changes, or cancel coverage.
Jun. 30/25	**Honey Insurance**: Last day to return hives to their primary location and file Report of Producing Hives and Hive Yard Location forms.

Map 5



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update

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Classification: Public

AGRISYSTEMS
FACT SHEET

Grazing and Rest Periods

Controlling the amount of time a paddock is grazed is just as important as leaving adequate rest periods between grazing. If the grazing period is too long, newly grazed plants may grow back to be grazed again within the same grazing period and can be damaged. Ideally, use short grazing periods. Cattle graze selectively, they will eat the highest quality forage when first turned out onto a paddock and then forced to eat lower quality forage each day they remain in the same paddock. They also tend to eat more when first turned out onto a fresh paddock. If cattle are leaving excessive forage, you may wish to decrease your paddock size instead of lengthening the grazing period. Alternatively, you can increase the stocking rate or make hay in other paddocks. Controlling target stubble height on rotationally grazed pastures maximizes forage regrowth and extends the life span of the pastures. Overgrazing can severely damage forage growing points and deplete stored energy necessary for regrowth and winter survival, resulting in loss of desirable forage species and encroachment of weeds.

Stocking Density

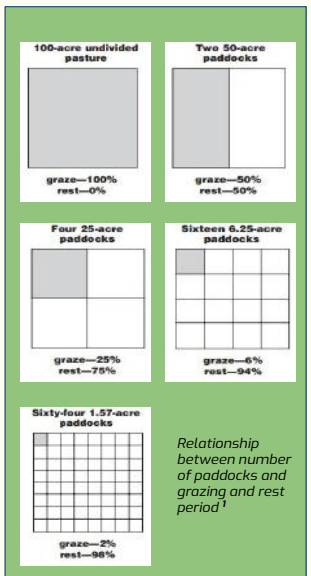
Stocking density is the number of animals on a particular piece of land at a given point in time. Concentrating the herd in one paddock at a time translates into a high stocking density. Using small paddocks also increases stocking density. A high stocking density increases competition for feed between animals, forcing each to spend more time eating and less time wandering. Competition also forces animals to be less selective when grazing. They will eat species of plants that would be ignored in other grazing systems. This results in a reduction of less desirable plant species in the pasture.

Fencing and Laneways

Good fencing is necessary in rotational grazing systems. The fencing system should usually include a permanent perimeter fence as well as permanent or movable fences to separate paddocks. Fencing should allow for lanes for livestock movement from one paddock to any other paddock, water sources or to the barn without moving back through a previously grazed paddock or through a rested paddock.

Water Management

Efficient water distribution within the grazing system is important. Providing water sources in or near each paddock helps ensure that livestock have access to fresh water without concentrating in one area.



Relationship between number of paddocks and grazing and rest period[1]

(Potential) Benefits of Rotational Grazing

- Improved forage utilization
- Increased pasture productivity
- Improved soil health through forages and manure distribution.
- Enhanced erosion control
- Better animal health

Adapted from:

1. *Pastures for Profit: A Guide to Rotational Grazing.*
2. https://www.beefresearch.ca/topics/grazing-management/

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE ALBERTA AGRISYSTEMS LIVING LAB

Producer-led practice change implemented on-farm in real-life setting.

Practices backed by sound scientific principles.

Strong partnerships with producers, researchers and industry organizations

Measure impacts of practices to improve overall sustainability

Key messages for Foot and Mouth Disease

Here are key messages Canadian beef producers need to know to prepare and respond to Foot and Mouth Disease:

- If you have a suspicion that FMD may have entered your herd, take immediate action. Stop all movement of animals and people on your operation and phone your veterinarian.
- Veterinarians are aware of the reporting process and will notify the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
- Thinking ahead and preparing an on-farm biosecurity preparedness plan in the event of an outbreak is good practice.
- Keep good records.

Travel to countries that have active outbreaks poses a risk to those returning to Canadian farms, so it is important to train all farm personnel on the importance of biosecurity and the specific measures to follow after travel. If international visitors will be on your farm, have a plan in place to prevent possible infection:

- Wear disposable boot covers.
- Prevent direct contact with cattle.
- Vehicles should be washed and disinfected prior to coming on-farm.

The main objective of this collaborative project between the BCRC and Animal Health Canada is to keep FMD out of the country and to empower producers to be able to recognize it quickly in the event that it did enter Canada. The resources created highlight the need for good biosecurity and travel protocols to help travelers, farmers and agricultural workers understand their responsibility in keeping Canada's beef industry safe by being aware of the symptoms and signs of infection of foot and mouth disease and the importance of reporting suspected cases immediately to ensure a rapid response. For more information and to access all of the resources created including posters, webinars for producers and veterinarians and topical webpages on biosecurity and FMD, visit www.BeefResearch.ca/FMD.

Prepared by: Dana Parker
Reviewed by: Michelle Irvine, Kristin Thompson, Ellen Crane, Stacey Domolewski

Avian influenza and small-flock poultry

What is avian influenza?

Avian influenza (AI), sometimes called "avian flu" or "bird flu," is a contagious viral disease that affects the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous systems of many bird species, including domestic poultry and wild birds.

Risks for small-flock poultry:

Wild birds can carry avian influenza, and they can pose a risk to your poultry. Avian influenza can cause severe illness and death in your flock.

Did you know…?
When wild birds migrate, it increases your poultry's risk of being exposed to disease!

During the migration of wild water birds, the risk increases because there's a greater chance your flock could come into contact with wild birds. Wild birds rarely show visible signs of the disease, but they can spread the virus to other birds or in the environment through their droppings, and through their mouth and nose.

If your birds contract avian influenza, it can also create a greater risk of the disease spreading to neighbouring flocks or to commercial poultry.

If you see signs of disease:

Call your local veterinarian.

Spotting avian influenza and reporting it quickly is critical to protect your birds and other flocks. If you see any symptoms, contact your veterinarian so action is taken as soon as possible. In fact, there is a legal requirement to notify a veterinarian or the government if you suspect a serious disease like AI.

Alberta Agriculture also has a program where small-flock owners or their veterinarians can submit birds for disease testing, **at no cost**. Call 403-948-8575 to find out how to participate.

Symptoms to watch for:

- Sudden drop in egg production.
- Swelling around the head, neck and eyes.
- Coughing, gasping, sneezing, diarrhea.
- Trembling, lack coordination, odd head position.
- Changes in food and water consumption.
- Sudden death or a large number of deaths.

Symptoms can vary, so it's better to be cautious and report any birds that might be sick.

Know the risks. Take action. Report signs of disease.

Help protect your poultry and the small-flock community.

To contact the Office of Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian about avian influenza, call 780-427-3448. You can call toll-free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000.

How to help protect your flock:

You can take steps to reduce the risk to your flock from avian influenza, such as reducing or eliminating contact with wild birds.

Reduce contact with wild birds:

- Keep your flock away from dugouts and other surface water.
- Keep birds inside or penned, if possible.
- Keep wild birds away from your feeders and waterers (such as through netting or wire fencing), or feed your birds inside. Clean up spilled feed so it doesn't attract wild birds.

Did you know…?
"Biosecurity" means steps you can take to protect animals, people, or plants from harmful organisms, such as viruses like avian influenza.

Viruses can be transmitted by people, poultry and other animals, equipment, and in the environment.

- Clean your hands, clothing and footwear before and after handling birds.
- Don't share equipment with other bird owners.
- Consider limiting visitors' access to your birds.
- Ensure the feed and water you use is free from wild bird droppings, or use a water treatment program like chlorination.

More biosecurity tips:

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry brochure http://bit.ly/1JoLfNr
- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association www.abvma.ca/biosecurity/smallflock.asp
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) http://bit.ly/1UfCyYZ

Did you know…?
Alberta small-flock poultry owners are required to have a Premises Identification (PID) Number.

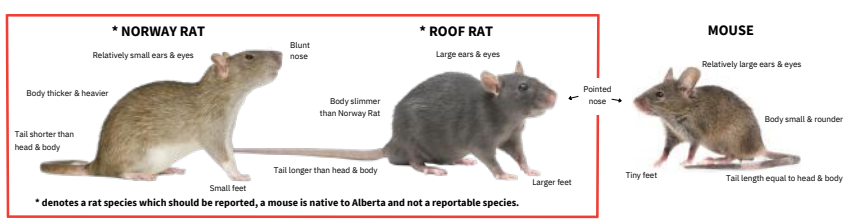
PID links animals with a location, and it can be used to contact animal owners in the case of an emergency, like a natural disaster or disease outbreak.

To register, visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises

Alberta Government

RAT ON Rats!

Rats are not present in Alberta but can threaten our environment and economy. They cause damage to cropland, properties, and ecosystems. They have the potential to transfer disease to humans.



Everyone has a role to play in preventing the spread of invasive species. Learn to identify the signs of rats:

Rats in garbage

Rat runways

Mouse (left) vs. rat droppings (right)

Gnawing

Nesting

Rat on Rats! Report all signs and sightings of rats.

- rats@gov.ab.ca
- your local municipality
- 310-FARM
- EDDMapS app

ATTENTION

Once you leave the water...

CLEAN plants, animals and mud from boat and gear

DRAIN all water from boat and gear onto land

DRY all parts of your boat and gear completely

Invasive species impact our waters

CLEAN DRAIN DRY
Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Report Zebra or Quagga mussel sightings to the
R.A.P.P. Hotline 1-877-952-7277
For more information:
CleanDrainDry.ca

Canadian Council on Invasive Species / Conseil Canadien sur les Espèces Envahissantes
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ISC Invasive Species Council of BC

CAMP PERMIT

Check Website for Opening Date

- ❑ DAY USE/BOAT DOCK FEE: $10
  Day Use Parties 5+ People: $10.00
  Day Use Parties 1– 4 People: $2.00/per person
  $120 Season Pass

Overnight

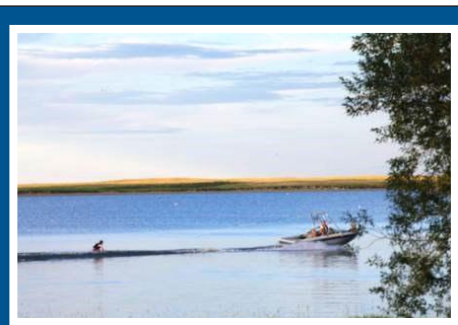
- ❑ $35 Camping Sites - Power
- ❑ $25 Camping Sites - No Power

Designated Sites, Overflow/Group Camping Available
Potable Water Available: Cistern

NO RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED

About 18 km south of Taber on Hwy 36, immediately off road on south side of reservoir crossing. Turn east off Hwy 36 into campground.

Info seasonally at www.warnercounty.ca •403-642-2285



RIDGE PARK • 403-393-4341
camp.ridgepark@gmail.com • Website: campridgepark.ca
Instagram: @camp.ridgeparkn Facebook: Camp Ridge Park
Check Website for Opening Date

Overnight

SITES: 82 | POWER SITES: $35 | BOAT DOCK FEE: $10
SERVICED SITES: 58 | NO POWER: 25

Day Use Parties 5+ People - $10.00
Day Use Parties 1- 4 People -$2.00/per person / $120 Season Pass
Designated Sites, Overflow/Group Camping Available
NO RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED
RV Dump Station • Potable Water Available

The Great Twine Round-Up

The Great Twine Round-Up continues in Alberta, with $9,000 in cash prizes still to be won for 4-H clubs and ag charities!

Cleanfarms, through the 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle-It!' pilot program is hosting 'The Great Twine Round-Up', a province-wide twine collection contest with a total of $12,000 in cash prizes for the winners' 4-H club or an Alberta-based agricultural charity of choice.

The first of four $3,000 cash prizes has already been awarded to the Northern Lethbridge 4-H Beef Club, and three more prizes are up for grabs. Two of the remaining prize draws will go to winning 4-H clubs/districts, and the final draw will be awarded to an independent entrant's Alberta-based agricultural charity of choice.

Here's how to participate:

- **Collect used plastic baler twine** in the collection bags provided for free at participating collection sites and select County offices.
- **Mark each bag** with your 4-H club/district name and the date if participating on behalf of a 4-H club or with your full name/farm name and the date if participating individually.
- **Drop off the bags** at a participating collection site before May 31, 2025, and snap a photo of your bags at the site!
- **Submit your photo** through the contest webpage to enter: greattwineroundup.ca.

The more bags you drop off, the more entries you'll have. You'll also be helping to keep used baler twine out of landfills and burn piles. For more information and full contest rules, visit the contest webpage: greattwineroundup.ca

Entry submission photo for the Great Twine Round-Up.

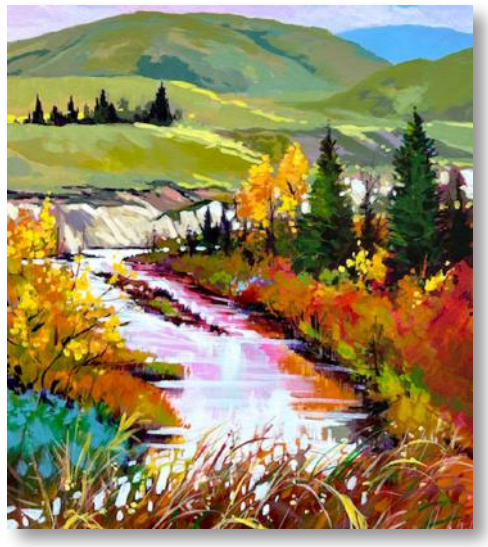
'The Great Twine Round-Up' is part of the 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle it!' pilot program, through which Alberta farmers returned to used plastic baler twine and grain bags for recycling. Last year, Cleanfarms recycled 673,000 kg of grain bags and 95,400 kg of twine through this pilot. The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG); funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers. Learn more about this program: https://cleanfarms.ca/alberta-ag-plastic-recycle-it-program-details/.

ALBERTA OPEN FARM DAYS IS A PROVINCE WIDE OPEN HOUSE

COME MEET YOUR RURAL NEIGHBOURS August 16 & 17, 2025

Alberta Open Farms Days is an incubator for agri-tourism and rural sustainability. We bring Albertans together through educational and experiential agricultural-based initiatives to learn about where your food comes from. As well, some of Alberta's most talented chefs and rural communities will be hosting a memorable series of farm to table culinary events that will be held around the province using Alberta farm products.

2025 THEME:
WATER, THE LIFEBLOOD OF EVERY FARM
For information about Open Farm Days, please email info@albertaopenfarmdays.ca



Products available for purchase through the Agricultural Service Board shop include:

- Rozol (anti-coagulant) Ready-To-Use Premix in 20 lb pail and 50 lb bag.
- Also registered for ground squirrel control in Alberta is the fumigant, aluminum phosphide and is available to producers with a valid Farmer's Pesticide Certificate (FPC).

To purchase these products please stop in at the Ag. Service Board Building or call (403) 642-2255.

CLEANFARMS' AG CHEM JUG RECYCLING PROGRAM IS CHANGING!

The County of Warner Sunshine and Border Pesticide Container Sites are closed effective December 31, 2024. After this date, your local ag retailer will be the primary drop-off location for these containers.

Local Ag Retailers

CORE AG INPUTS	Nutrien Ag Solutions	P&H	RICHARDSON PIONEER
Core Ag Inupts, Warner AB Ph. (587) 762-0122	Nutrien Ag Solutions, Warner AB Ph. (403) 642-3951	Parrish & Heimbecker, Milk River AB Ph. (403) 647-3633	Richardson Pioneer, Stirling AB Ph. (403) 756-3452

Grain Bag & Twine RECYCLING PROGRAM

Grain bags which must be empty, clean, tightly rolled, and tied. Twine, which must be clean, loosely placed in Cleanfarms recycling bags (Available from the County of Warner Ag Service Board) or bulk tote bags.

If you have any questions, please contact at the Ag Service Board at 403-642-2255.

All drop offs **MUST** be scheduled so we can ensure to have staff and equipment available to unload your plastics.

Do you have weeds or pests spreading on your property?

The Invasive Species Centre wants to learn more about how we can help!

Scan to fill out a quick survey and help us develop new training tools and free resources to support you!

bit.ly/3XZjfgO

Invasive Species Centre

Scan here to learn about the agricultural impacts of invasive species!

bit.ly/40hsuLg

County of Warner partners with ALTALINK

Resident Ferruginous Hawk Nest Relocation Project

A successful collaboration between ALTALINK, the County of Warner, Leeuwenburgh Dairy Farms LTD and a Senior Species at Risk Biologist from Fish and Wildlife Stewardship – South Region, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, made it possible to relocate a Ferruginous Hawk nesting site to a safer location. The hawk nest was transitioned from a precarious perch atop a gravel pile to a secure alternative nesting pole. Thanks to the seamless cooperation of all partners, the project was completed smoothly, ensuring a safer habitat for this at-risk species.

www.warnercounty.ca

ALBERTA invasive species COUNCIL

abinvasives.ca
info@abinvasives.ca

Last Updated January 2014

Downy brome

Bromus tectorum (Aka cheatgrass, cheatgrass brome, drooping brome, downy chess, early chess)

Provincial Designation: Noxious

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Overview:

Downy brome is an annual grass (Poaceae family), typically a winter annual, that reproduces by seed only. It behaves as a summer annual when early spring moisture or limiting fall moisture occurs. It is most active in the cool season and rapidly develops lateral and vertical fibrous root system to compete with perennial vegetation for moisture. Downy brome is native to the Mediterranean and southwestern Asia. It now occurs throughout most of Canada, the U.S., and northern Mexico. It was introduced to North America via ship ballast, contaminated crop seed, and packing materials (straw). It was even an ingredient of reclamation mixes at one time because of its ability to establish on dry, gravelly soils. Downy brome is very aggressive in dry grasslands, especially when accompanied by over grazing.

Plant size and morphology can vary greatly, depending on site conditions. Downy brome is capable of producing a second seed crop per season from additional tillers.[1] Seed production can vary from 25 to 5000 seeds per plant.[2]

Downy brome needs to germinate early or late season as hot, dry weather kills seedlings.[1] It is not a strong competitor with established perennials but established downy brome will out- compete perennial seedlings for moisture. It is commonly infected with a head smut fungus on cooler/moister aspects which can reduce stand density temporarily.[1]

Downy brome is strongly adapted to frequent fire regimes - it accumulates litter which dries completely by summer and is highly flammable.[1] Seeds can survive low-intensity burns, especially if already buried. It is a strong competitor post-fire. Fires in downy brome infestations can increase soil erosion.

It has altered the under storey plant communities of west coast Oak ecosystems it has invaded.

Habitat:

Downy brome requires cool, semi-arid environments with precipitation peaks in late fall or early summer.[2] It inhabits coarse-textured, sandy or deep loamy soils with sunny, south/west facing slopes. It is tolerant of calcerous and low-fertility soils but not acidic, nutrient poor soils.[1]

Identification:

Stems: Are erect and can be slightly hairy and can range in height from 10 to 70 cm. There may be 1 to 20 tillers (stems) per plant. The entire plant turns from green to purple to brown/tan as it matures.[2]

Leaves: Are 4-16 cm long and 2-4 mm wide. Ligules are about 2 mm and membranous with entire or jagged edges. Auricles may be absent. Sheaths are closed to near the top and finely hairy.[3] Seedlings have bright green, hairy leaves.

Flowers: Downy brome has perfect flowers which are usually closed and self-pollinating, but is also capable of cross-pollination.[1] The inflorescence is a drooping, one-sided panicle with 5 to 8 florets.[2] Florets are 2-4 cm long including awns and are usually purple at maturity.[2]

Prevention:

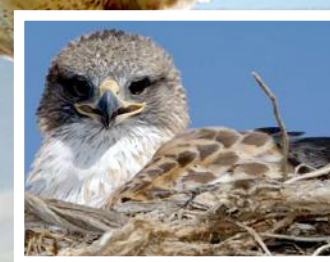
Most downy brome seeds fall near parent

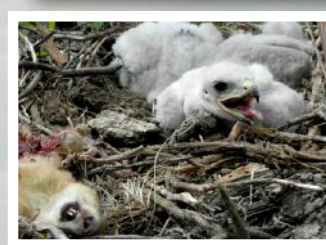
continued next page

ALBERTA invasive species COUNCIL

abinvasives.ca
info@abinvasives.ca

Artificial Nest Poles for Ferruginous Hawks





Helping a Hawk at Risk

The ferruginous hawk (Buteo regalis) has experienced dramatic population declines and range contraction in Alberta. The species is listed as Endangered under the Alberta Wildlife Act and Threatened under Canada's Species at Risk Act.

Nest sites are one factor that limit the number of breeding pairs. Installing artificial nest poles can help to increase the number of nesting hawks.

Few and Far Between

A 2010 inventory estimated the population at only 643 pairs (plus or minus 169). This is less than half the number of birds found in a 1992 population survey.

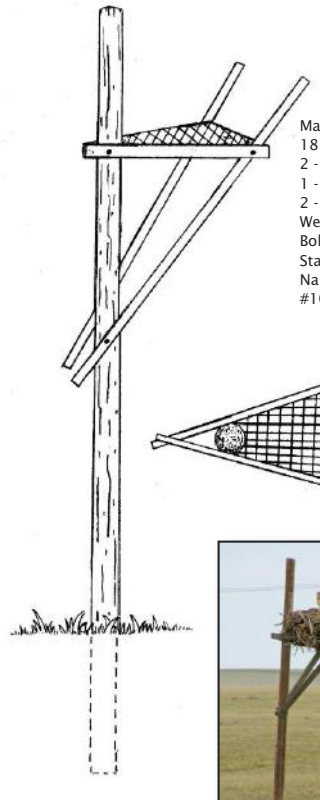
Pest Control on a Pole

By inviting ferruginous hawks on to your land, you will enjoy a lower ground squirrel population. One pair of nesting hawks will consume up to 500 ground squirrels in a single nesting season!

Design

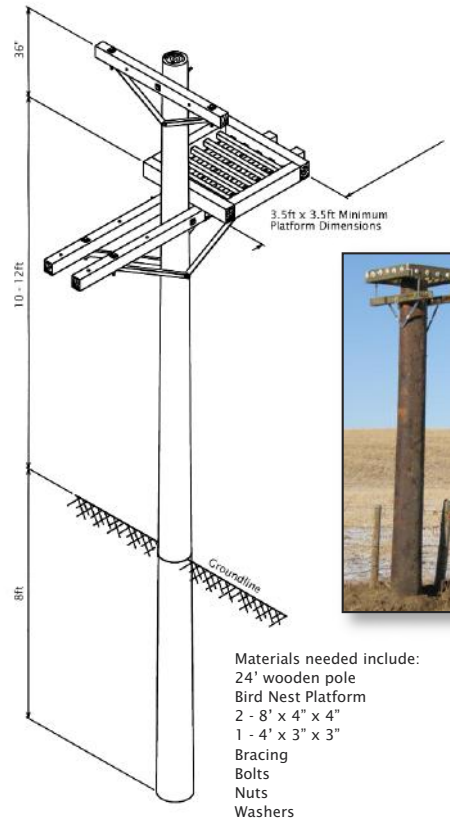
There are two designs that are successful in Alberta: The Triangle Pole (adapted from the North American Waterfowl Management Plan) and the design provided by AltaLink.

Triangle Pole



Materials needed include:
18 to 20' wooden pole
2 - 4' x 2" x 4"
1 - 3' x 2" x 4"
2 - 8' x 2" x 4"
Weld wire
Bolts
Staples
Nails
#10 gauge wire

AltaLink Design



Materials needed include:
24' wooden pole
Bird Nest Platform
2 - 8' x 4" x 4"
1 - 4' x 3" x 3"
Bracing
Bolts
Nuts
Washers

ATTS Group - Spring Tree Care

By Toso Bozic

As the long winter cold and frost retreats and the first signs of spring emerge, trees and shrubs awaken from their dormant state, ready to burst into vibrant life. Spring is a crucial season for tree care, offering a unique opportunity to support their growth, health, and resilience throughout the coming months. Below are some tips for landowners for spring tree and shrub care.

Tips for spring tree care

1. Assessing winter damages - Before diving into the active care of your trees, it's essential to assess any potential winter damage to trees and other landscape plants. Inspect the branches, trunk, and roots for signs of stress, such as broken limbs, cracks, or lifting roots. Snow and ice can cause substantial harm, and addressing these issues early on can prevent further damage and promote a healthy recovery.

2. Assessing for winter burn and dieback damages - Many coniferous tree varieties, including spruces and cedars, are displaying symptoms of winter burn, evident in the browning and bronzing of their needles. The combination of winter's intense cold and strong winds has led to the desiccation of plant tissues, causing the shedding of needles in evergreen trees and the dieback of branches in deciduous trees. This dieback mechanism is a survival strategy employed by the trees, enabling them to sacrifice needles and twigs to ensure the overall survival of the tree.

3. Assessing for pests - prior leaf comes out it is great opportunity to insect trees and shrubs for you pests. During your inspection, look for the following signs:

a. **Diseases** such as cankers (dead sections of bark on branches or tree trunks), blackened and curled twigs, black knot, Cytospora canker, and other fungal infestations and decays.

b. **signs of insect infestation** such as scales, mites, beetle and borer infestation (exit holes, sawdust).

c. **Lastly look up for wildlife damages** – porcupines, voles, deer, moose and beaver

4. Pruning - late winter and early spring is the best time to prune trees. Remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches to promote air circulation and reduce the risk of pest infestation. Additionally, shaping the tree by selectively pruning can enhance its structure and fruit production. However, be cautious not to over-prune, as this can stress the tree. Prune dead branches within shelterbelts as they pose fire risks.

5. Soil health assessment - Healthy soil is the foundation of robust tree growth. Conduct a soil test to determine its pH and nutrient levels and possible needs to add nutrients. Fertilize only based on soil lab test results and do not fertilize if your lawn is regularly fertilized, as your trees are probably receiving adequate nutrition for good health. Adjust ONLY pH if necessary and provide a balanced fertilizer to replenish essential nutrients. Slow-release fertilizers are often preferable, supplying a steady nutrient stream throughout the growing season. Avoid excessive fertilization, as it can lead to nutrient imbalances and harm the tree. Fertilizers injected into the soil and fertilizer spikes foster leaf growth in trees but force trees to neglect needed functions like root growth and pest resistance. Fertilizer spikes in particular burn roots, causing root dieback.

6. Mulching - Re-mulching and adding wood chips up to 4–6-inch-thick layer of an organic mulch, such as shredded bark or wood chips, replicates what nature creates on the forest floor. Known as duff, this accumulation of twigs, leaves and other organic debris fosters rich microbial activity beneficial to tree roots. Mulching is a fundamental practice to shield roots. One of the primary advantages of tree mulching is its role in soil enrichment. Organic mulches gradually decompose, releasing essential nutrients into the soil. This process enhances soil fertility, promoting healthier tree growth. The decomposition of mulch also improves soil structure, aiding in water retention and drainage. Mulching inhibits weed growth, protects roots from extreme heat, and retains moisture. Establishing a donut-shaped wood chip cover around your tree is a simple yet efficient approach to conserve moisture and minimize soil freezing.

7. Watering – as dry fall and winter with little moisture available to trees watering is crucial in early spring. Proper watering is critical in spring, especially during dry periods. Young trees, in particular, require adequate moisture to establish strong root systems. Water deeply and consistently, ensuring the root zone is thoroughly saturated. However, be cautious not to overwater, as excessive moisture can lead to root rot. Mulching helps retain soil moisture, reducing the frequency of watering. Test your soil and water for sodium levels and avoid watering with high levels of sodium

Conclusion

Spring tree care is a dynamic and rewarding undertaking that requires a combination of vigilance, knowledge, and proactive measures. By incorporating these tips into your tree care routine, you can create an environment where your trees not only survive but thrive, contributing to the beauty and sustainability of your landscape. Remember, each tree is unique, and understanding its specific needs is the key to successful spring tree care.

For more information:
Toso Bozic P.Ag
ISA Certified Arborist
CERT ID: PR 5356A
Phone (780) 712-3699
bozict@telus.net
www.yardwhispers.ca or www.attsgroup.ca

HEARTLAND TRAINING & SUPPORT HUB

FORMERLY KNOW AS: FARM SAFETY CENTRE

265 East 400 South | Box 291 | Raymond | Alberta | T0K 2S0 |403 752-4585 | www.heartlandsupport.ca

Heartland Training & Support Hub: Keeping Rural Kids Safe with Safety Smarts

For over 26 years, **Safety Smarts** has been delivering **vital farm safety education** to rural elementary students across Alberta, and the County of Warner has been a key part of making this possible.

Since 2016, Heartland Training & Support Hub (Formerly Farm Safety Centre) has provided **294 Safety Smarts presentations**, reaching **5,696 students** across **20 schools** in the County of Warner. Each student from kindergarten to grade six receives a unique, age-appropriate lesson, ensuring that safety messages build year after year. This means most students will have received multiple presentations by the time they finish elementary school—reinforcing safe behaviors both at school and at home.

Why Farm Safety Matters

Rural children often live, play, and learn in environments where farm hazards—like machinery, livestock, and unpredictable weather—are a part of daily life. Through hands-on instruction, interactive discussions, and engaging materials, **Safety Smarts helps kids recognize risks and make safe choices**. The program has been shown to **increase pro-safety attitudes, with 98% of teachers confirming its value for their students**.

A Strong Partnership

The County of Warner has been a long-standing supporter of the Safety Smarts program, recognizing the importance of equipping young residents with life-saving knowledge. The continued support from the County helps ensure that local students receive this free, in-class safety education year after year.

Get Involved!

We invite you to learn more about Safety Smarts and how it helps protect rural children by visiting our website: www.heartlandsupport.ca.

As a **non-profit organization**, we rely on community support to keep delivering this essential program at no cost to schools. If you would like to contribute, **donations can be made through our website** or by scanning the QR code below. All donors are provided with a charitable receipt.

Thank you to the County of Warner for your continued support in helping us keep rural children safe!

Scan me

Jordan Jensen | Executive Director
Heartland Training & Support Hub (Formerly: Farm Safety Centre)
Office: 403.752.4585 • Cell: 403.593.8960

Help keep Alberta Dutch Elm Disease free. Prevention starts at home.

The elm bark beetle, which transports the DED fungus, is attracted to fresh wounds on elm trees. The Alberta elm pruning ban prohibits pruning when the beetles are most active.

DON'T PRUNE ELM TREES FROM APRIL 1 TO SEPT 30

For proper pruning, hire a professional arborist.

- Do not store elm wood
- Prune between Oct 1 and Mar 31
- Dispose of all elm wood at a landfill, or bury or burn immediately
- Keep elm trees healthy by watering well

www.stopded.org
1-877-837-ELMS (3567)

STOPDED

Government of Alberta

Study Shows Farmers are Doing Their Part to Protect Wetlands

■ *Researchers say the findings will help policymakers craft sound regulations regarding the use of crop protection products.*

By Marc Zienkiewicz, Alberta Seed Guide

A major watershed study has wrapped up and shows Alberta farmers are good stewards of crop protection products and Alberta's watersheds are not in danger from the use of these important tools.

The Alberta Wetlands Stewardship and Water Monitoring Project embarked on a three-year mission that not only delved into the depths of private wetlands but also aimed to bridge the gap between real-world data and the regulatory landscape.

The project strategically focused on private wetlands, acknowledging that these smaller, less explored areas present a more accurate reflection of pesticide concentrations. It is spearheaded by Team Alberta Crop members, a working collaboration between five of Alberta's agriculture associations: Alberta Grains, Alberta Canola Producers, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers and the Potato Growers of Alberta.

The project also has the support of Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Bayer, Syngenta and BASF.

"We spent a lot of time examining the effectiveness of mitigating pesticide runoff into wetlands using vegetative filter strips, buffer zones, and best management practices. Additionally, understanding the pesticide use adjacent to these wetlands was crucial for a comprehensive analysis," says Nevin Rosaasen, sustainability and government relations lead for the Alberta Pulse Growers, who played a major role in the study.

A lot has gone into it: hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding has allowed researchers to screen 21 Alberta wetlands adjacent to agricultural land for 127 different pesticides. The data will be stored in an online portal which will be available for consideration in pesticide re-evaluations and inform risk assessments completed by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).

This study will provide useful information that the PMRA can consider in a national water monitoring framework that the PMRA is developing in collaboration with partners across the country.

Vegetative Filter Strips: A Critical Component

A major focus of the project was to evaluate the efficacy of vegetative filter strips in mitigating pesticide runoff.

"Pesticides can move through soils and be transported by overland flow, and we aimed to determine if these chemicals not only remain detectable but also persist at levels that pose a risk to aquatic life," Rosaasen says. This included assessing the impact on aquatic invertebrates, aquatic plants, and other sensitive receptors.

Over the course of three years, the project expanded its reach, examining wetlands in various eco-regions of Alberta. Researchers ventured from the southern part of Alberta to the Red Deer region and, in the final year, explored wetlands around Edmonton.

"This allowed us to study different vegetation types, ground covers, and the overall landscape, transforming each wetland into a unique case study."

Industry Collaboration and Data Utilization

Collaboration with major stakeholders, including Syngenta, Bayer, and BASF, played a crucial role.

"Their financial support and participation in designing the experiment helped us establish a strong methodology. Our data portal, which is available to registered users, promotes ongoing communication, and our findings are playing an active role in the upcoming reviews with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency."

The sampling and testing was conducted by a third-party contractor, whose staff were out on the ground after each rain event to collect water samples and run the samples through the lab, Rosaasen adds.

As the three-year funding cycle concludes and a report is expected to be issued soon, Rosaasen says the study serves as a good news story that can be used by policymakers to craft sensible policies to regulate the use of crop protection products.

"In all our sampling events across 21 wetlands, we have yet to detect any concentrations of concern to regulatory bodies. This speaks volumes about the stewardship practices of farmers and pesticide applicators, showcasing a commitment to responsible crop protection."

While the project may have reached its formal conclusion, Rosaasen emphasizes the ongoing need for education and extension efforts.

Reprinted with permission.
Link to seed.ab.ca

(Top) The Alberta Wetlands Stewardship and Water Monitoring Project embarked on a three-year mission that aimed to bridge the gap between real-world data and the regulatory landscape. (Middle) Nevin Rosaasen is sustainability and government relations lead for the Alberta Pulse Growers.

Tips for Being a Good Steward of Wetlands

As a farmer, you play a crucial role in maintaining the balance between agriculture and conservation. Here are some practical tips to ensure your land thrives while protecting valuable wetland ecosystems:

1. Follow Labels and Guidelines. Adhering to the labels on pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers is not just a regulatory requirement – it's key to reducing runoff into nearby wetlands. Make sure you're using the correct amount and applying it at the right time to minimize environmental impact.

2. Implement Best Management Practices. Consider sustainable farming methods, such as crop rotation, reduced tillage and controlled water use. These practices help protect soil health and reduce the risk of harmful pollutants reaching wetlands.

3. Use Vegetative Filter Strips. Plant vegetative filter strips around wetlands and along field edges. These strips act as natural barriers, filtering out sediments, nutrients, and chemicals before they can reach sensitive wetland areas, keeping water cleaner.

4. Stay Informed About Conservation Measures. Wetlands are home to diverse ecosystems and serve as natural flood control and water filtration systems. Understanding their importance helps you make informed decisions that benefit both your farm and the environment.

Message from Reeve continued from page 1

Here's a look at some of the key achievements and ongoing efforts from the past year:

Advocating for Water Resources in the Milk River System

One of our top priorities this year was addressing water issues in the Milk River system. In a productive meeting with the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, we discussed strategies for ensuring the sustainability of this vital water source. The Milk River is essential not only for agriculture but for the communities within its watershed, and we remain committed to safeguarding it through continued dialogue.

Collaborative Efforts on Water Sharing Agreements

Water is one of our most precious resources, and we recognize the importance of working together to ensure it is managed sustainably on a large scale. The County of Warner has been collaborating with irrigation districts, neighboring municipalities, and the provincial government to develop a comprehensive water-sharing agreement. This collaborative effort will help ensure that water resources are distributed equitably and used efficiently to benefit our agricultural community and the broader population throughout the county.

Addressing Cross-Border Issues with USA and Canada Representatives

The County of Warner has also been at the forefront of resolving border-related concerns affecting our region. We've held productive meetings with representatives from both the United States and Canada to address the challenges that have been recently raised. These discussions focused on ensuring that cross-border issues, especially those related to trade, transportation, and infrastructure, are addressed in a way that benefits both countries. Our goal is to keep communication open and strengthen the cooperative relationship between our communities.

Lobbying for Alberta's Wetland Policy Changes

In our ongoing efforts to protect local ecosystems, the County of Warner has been actively lobbying for changes to Alberta's Wetland Policy. We recognize the vital role wetlands play in preserving biodiversity and supporting agriculture, and we are working hard to ensure that the policies reflect the unique needs of our region. By advocating for fairer and more flexible regulations, we hope to strike a balance between environmental protection and the livelihoods of our local farmers and ranchers.

Securing Healthcare for Our Region

Healthcare access continues to be a top concern for many of our residents, and the County of Warner is working tirelessly to secure better healthcare solutions for our region. Over the past year, we've been engaged in discussions with health authorities and other municipalities to ensure that we have the necessary resources and services to meet the growing demands of our population. Our commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility remains unwavering, and we will continue to push for improvements in this area.

As we look ahead to the coming year, the County of Warner remains focused on our vision to promote and protect agricultural activities and the rural way of life. We will continue to engage with key stakeholders, push for necessary changes in policy, and collaborate with our neighbors to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We are committed to doing so while providing essential services such as road maintenance, noxious weed removal, protective services for fire and safety, supporting development applications, and other mandated services such as operating parks and agricultural education programs.

We thank you for your continued support and participation in the growth and development of our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out

Have a great spring and summer every one.

Randy Taylor, Reeve

STARS Very Important Patient Jorja Strauss with her parents Blaine and Dezeree.

"Accidents happen every day. No one means to do them purposely, but STARS is there to help you."

Jorja Strauss, STARS VERY IMPORTANT PATIENT

What was supposed to be a routine day on the farm quickly turned into a life-threatening situation for Jorja. While her family was building an addition to their work shed, a projectile nail hit her abdomen, causing serious internal injuries.

Living far from a major hospital, her family rushed her to the local emergency room, where staff realized Jorja needed urgent specialized care and called STARS. The air medical crew transported Jorja by helicopter to the nearest children's hospital, providing advanced critical care during the flight. She has since fully recovered.

STARS believes that where you live shouldn't determine whether or not you receive life-saving care.

STARS is a charitable organization that relies on both the support of government partners and allies like you to train, innovate, and be available for the next patient who needs help. Donating to STARS means our skilled crews are able to provide urgent critical care for you, your family, and the people in your community when the unimaginable happens.

Email info@stars.ca to learn more about how STARS is making a difference in your community.

STARS®

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County of Warner

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Reducing the Wildfire Risk around your Farm or Acreage

The time between when snow and wet ground leave and the coming of new grass and leaves is the high-risk period for spring wildfires.

FireSmart is a program that gives you information and recommendations on how to reduce the risk of a wildfire doing damage to your home or other buildings. The FireSmart program is supported by many community Fire Departments as an education and prevention tool for fire prevention/damage reduction.

For example, the Vulcan County Protective Services department has summarized some key aspects of wildfire risk reduction into the following checklist.

To minimize the risk to your home and property, follow these best practices:

- Keep your lawn mowed as short as possible for at least 5ft (1.5m) from your home and around all outbuildings.
- Reduce the amount of brush and trees close to your home, choose wildfire-resistant plants whenever possible, and space them out.
- Clear all combustible material, including wood piles, away from your home. Keep these materials no closer than 30ft (10m) from your home and outbuildings.
- Clear and maintain your eavestrough and roof. Remove debris like dry leaves and twigs to prevent sparks from catching.
- Trim the low branches of trees to a height of 6ft (2m) from the ground to help reduce the risk of your trees igniting.
- Apply the same standards of maintenance to all outbuildings on your property as you do your home.
- Plan and practice your home escape plan and include a plan for wildfire evacuations.

For more information on FireSmart and how it can help protect your home and property, please go to https://firesmartalberta.ca/

The Alberta Agriculture Service Boards has a guide posted on their news page which provides information on how to set up a safe zone for livestock should you need to evacuate due to a wildfire. The guide can be found at this link: shelter-in-place-tool-for-the-upcoming-fire-season/

Emergency Preparedness

The County of Warner is a member of the County of Warner Regional Emergency Partnership (CoWREP), which is a partnership including the County, Village of Coutts, Town of Milk River, Village of Warner, and Village of Stirling. CoWREP was formed to enable cohesive and coordinated emergency response throughout the County, while sharing resources and supporting all partner communities in the event of a disaster.

Disasters can happen with little or no warning. Emergency responders will work hard to assist you and provide relief, but please consider what items you would need to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours. Gathering supplies, building an emergency kit, and preparing an emergency plan can help keep you safe and comfortable during an emergency or disaster.

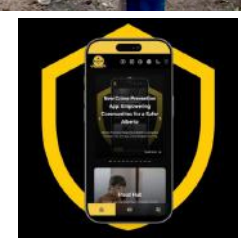
To learn more about emergency preparedness resources, please visit the County website at: warnercounty.ca/p/emergency-management-and-preparedness.

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association Promotion News

The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association (APRCWA) believes that crime prevention starts with informed communities. By providing easy access to expert knowledge and resources, we aim to equip rural Albertans with the insights they need to safeguard their properties, families, and neighbourhoods. We can all contribute to crime prevention and ensure our communities are safe.

Reporting suspicious activity has a significant and positive impact on our communities. Encouraging awareness and reporting unusual behaviour allows us to build a safer environment. As individuals you know who and what belongs on your roads and in your community, by being aware and reporting suspicious activity you in essence become the "The Eyes and Ears of the RCMP". By Reporting Suspicious activity, we accomplish a couple of things, first it helps RCMP identify problem areas and thus where to send resources and extra patrols. When Criminals know that community members are observant and proactive in reporting suspicious behaviour, they are less likely to commit a crime.

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association



wants to help reduce crime in rural areas and to create a more thorough understanding and awareness of the law and best safety practices.

Join your local Crime watch organization, sign up for our News Letters , Download our APP and learn new ways to protect yourself and your property.

We are better prepared to prevent crime with resources and knowledge when we collaborate. In conjunction with the RCMP and our other crime prevention partners, we can support Rural Crime Watch groups and help you with your crime prevention efforts.

Supporting community-based Rural Crime Watch Organizations through crime prevention, education, communication programs, and support.

WWW.RURALCRIMEWATCH.AB.CA