

# THE COUNTY CHRONICLE

COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5



FALL 2012

## COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD  
202 County Road, Box 90  
Warner, AB T0K 2L0

Phone: (403) 642-2255 • Fax: (403) 642-2256  
Toll Free Call: 1-866-642-2221

Jamie Meeks, *Agriculture Fieldman*  
Cathy Preston, *Assistant Fieldman*  
Kerry Hyatt, *Municipal Conservation Technician*  
Website: [www.countyofwarner5.ab.ca](http://www.countyofwarner5.ab.ca)

### COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5 ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

300 County Road, Box 90,  
Warner, AB, T0K 2L0  
Phone: (403) 642-3635  
Fax: (403) 642-3631

New Toll Free Number: 1-888-642-2241

SHAWN HATHAWAY, *Administrator*  
TYLER NELSON, *GPS/GIS Coordinator*  
MORGAN STRATE, *Property Assessor*  
RANDY SHAW, *Accountant*  
SCOTT SIMPSON, *Community Peace Officer*  
LARRY LIEBELT, *Public Works Superintendent*

### PUBLIC WORKS CONTACTS:

Phone: (403) 642-3833  
Fax: (403) 642-3832  
New Toll Free Number: 1-888-642-3831

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

WARREN CUNNINGHAM, *Division 1*  
[div1\\_mr@countyofwarner5.ab.ca](mailto:div1_mr@countyofwarner5.ab.ca)  
ROSS FORD, *Division 2*  
[div2\\_co@countyofwarner5.ab.ca](mailto:div2_co@countyofwarner5.ab.ca)  
PHIL JENSEN, *Division 3*  
[div3\\_ra@countyofwarner5.ab.ca](mailto:div3_ra@countyofwarner5.ab.ca)  
RANDY TAYLOR, *Division 4*  
[div4\\_nd@countyofwarner5.ab.ca](mailto:div4_nd@countyofwarner5.ab.ca)  
BOB JONES, *Division 5*  
[div5\\_wa@countyofwarner5.ab.ca](mailto:div5_wa@countyofwarner5.ab.ca)  
GEOFFREY KROKOSH, *Division 7*  
[div7\\_wr@countyofwarner5.ab.ca](mailto:div7_wr@countyofwarner5.ab.ca)

# AUTUMN *in the* COUNTY



*Thank  
You*

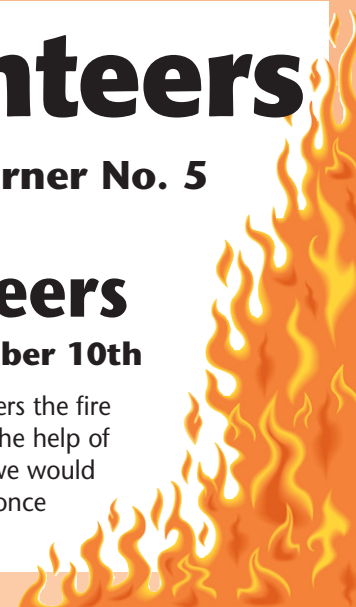
*to all the* **Volunteers**

**The Council of the County of Warner No. 5  
would like to**

## Thank All of The Volunteers

**who came out to assist with the Wildfires on September 10th**

With the help of many businesses, farmers, colonies and our Volunteer Firefighters the fire was eventually extinguished before it reached the Town of Milk River. Without the help of all of these volunteers the situation could have been much worse. Once again we would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work and dedication, showing us all once again why The County of Warner is a wonderful place to call home.





## Ways to Prevent the Spread of Wildfire



Once again this fall we have been reminded about how devastating wildfire can be to our communities. While there is no way to totally eliminate the risk there are things that that farm and acreage owners can do to help control the risk of wildfire in our County. Two of the most important things you can do are:

### 1. MOW THE GRASS

It might sound simple, but if you have the time to do one thing to safeguard your home or property from wildfire then mow the grass!

Short grass helps slow down fast-moving grass fires. By keeping the grass short around your house, outbuildings and gas tanks, you will help protect against the spread of wildfire. You can even use livestock to graze around outbuildings to keep the grass trimmed.

### 2. PUT A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN EVERY VEHICLE

You might not be able to put out a wildfire with a fire extinguisher, but you could prevent one from starting. A fire extinguisher will help extinguish fires started from hot bearings and other equipment fires that could ignite entire fields.

*Finally one of the most important things you can do to make sure that you're not the cause of a wildfire is to make sure that your burn barrels and fire pits are safe.*

1. Always cover your burn barrel with a metal screen. This contains any stray sparks and burning debris that could fly out of the barrel and start a wildfire. Mesh screen with 6 mm or 1/4 inch holes is recommended. You should also make sure your burn barrel has holes drilled in it to ensure proper ventilation and burning.
2. Clear away any debris or grass for at least 3 metres or 10 feet around your burn barrel or fire pit location. Scrape down to mineral soil. You can also surround your barrel or pit with small stones, gravel or sand to contain embers and hot ash.
3. Choose a site that is at least 30 metres or 100 feet away from any structures or standing trees. The ideal location will be close to a water supply.

### OTHER BURN BARREL AND FIRE PIT TIPS:

- Get a permit.
- Never burn in windy conditions.
- Avoid burning in the heat of the day.
- Light burn barrels in the evening.
- Have water and tools on hand to help put out your fire.
- Never leave your fire pit or burn barrel unattended while it is still burning.



## RETURN YOUR UNWANTED OR OBSOLETE PESTICIDES

Farmers: safely dispose of your unwanted agricultural pesticides between **Oct. 29 and Nov. 2** at one of the following locations on the date indicated. Products will only be accepted at specified locations on the dates indicated.

<b>MONDAY, OCT. 29</b>		
Brooks	Viterra	403-362-2072
Lethbridge	Cargill	403-328-1515
<b>TUESDAY, OCT. 30</b>		
Dunmore	Richardson Pioneer	403-527-6600
High River	Crop Production Services	403-652-3500
Hussar	Richardson Pioneer	403-787-3931
Oyen	Richardson Pioneer	403-664-2620
Stirling	Richardson Pioneer	403-756-3452
<b>WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31</b>		
Bow Island	Viterra	403-545-6808
Carseland	Crop Production Services	403-936-8711
Claresholm	Crop Production	403-625-3329
Hanna	Fox Lake Agro	403-854-2820
Magrath	Richardson Pioneer	403-758-3162
<b>THURSDAY, NOV. 1</b>		
Balzac	Viterra	403-226-2400
Delia	Viterra	403-364-3735
Fort MacLeod	Viterra	403-553-3373
Milk River	Crop Production Services	403-647-2938
Taber	Crop Production Services	403-223-2807
<b>FRIDAY, NOV. 2</b>		
Didsbury	Crop Production Services	403-335-3055
Foremost	Crop Production Services	403-867-3776
Nobleford	Richardson Pioneer	403-824-3841
Pincher Creek	Pincher Creek Co-op – Farm & Home	403-627-3606
Red Deer	Viterra	403-346-2931

\* Collections will run on the date indicated from 9 am to 4 pm



For more information call 877-622-4460 or visit: [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca)



## PUBLIC WORKS FALL 2012

### ■ DUST CONTROL

Request forms can be found on the County of Warner No. 5 website or can be picked up at the Public Works Shop – they can be faxed, emailed or delivered in person to Public Works. Deadline for requesting dust control will be May 15, 2013.

Hold Harmless Agreements are also available on the website at the Administration Office or the Public Works Shop. These agreements must be signed before any County Equipment can perform work on private property such as hauling gravel, snowplowing lanes, weed spraying, tree spraying, tree moving, etc, etc.

### ■ GRAVEL

Individual landowners are allowed to purchase a maximum of forty (40) yards of gravel per year. This gravel can either be spread on a lane or roadway, or placed in a pile at a location agreed to by the land owner and gravel foreman or his designate.

Request forms can be found on the County of Warner No. 5 website or can be picked up at the Public Works Shop – they can be faxed, emailed or delivered in person to Public Works. The delivery of gravel will be done when we are at the closest pit.

Deadline for requesting yard gravel will be May 15, 2013.

### ■ PUBLIC GRAVEL LOADING

The county council has made a decision not to offer this service any longer to allow for better scheduling, and time management as well as to limit activity in our pits for safety reasons. This service will be replaced by a request for gravel and the county hauling to your yard

### ■ MASINASIN TRANSFER STATION

Reminder that the Masinasin dumpster is for house hold waste only not renovation material.

Renovation materials can be hauled out to the Milk River Transfer station Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

### ■ BRIDGE MARKERS

The county has been noticing a lot of bridge markers have been getting knocked over with equipment. When this happens the sign and post usually need to be replaced which in turn costs the county an unnecessary expense.

So to try and come up with a solution to this reoccurring problem we have been installing brackets in which the sign can be easily removed and replaced.

### ■ ROAD SLOPES

When doing road inspections the crews have been noticing that a number of the road slopes are been farmed closer and closer every year.

This promotes the road slopes to be cut away, culverts to be tore out and eventually affects the road base.

With keeping safety and the integrity of our road structures in mind please stay a safe distance away.

#### PUBLIC WORKS CONTACTS:

Phone: (403) 642-3833 ■ Fax: (403) 642-3832 ■ New Toll Free Number: 1-888-642-3831

## EQUIPMENT For Sale

### Vehicle and Equipment Tenders

#### ■ 1990 GMC Sierra

1/2 Ton 4x4 Truck

Vin: 1GTGK24K9LE550787

#### ■ 2005 Bombardier ATV

Traxter 4x4

Vin: 2BVAKSA165V000101

Sealed Bids sheets can be picked up and dropped off at the Ag Shop and will be accepted until 12 noon on Friday November 30, 2012 Any or the highest bid will not necessarily be accepted.

To view items please stop in at the Ag Service Board Shop between 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Monday-Friday

If you have any questions we would be happy to answer them for you when you stop in or phone the Ag Shop at 403-642-2255

## Knowledge Nuggets

### on PASTURE MANAGEMENT

from [Foragebeef.ca](http://Foragebeef.ca)

- Bale grazing is the practice of allowing livestock to graze bales extensively on pastures and hayfields, rather than feeding intensively in confinement. Bales can be grazed where they are ejected from the baler or they can be moved to feeding fields. This eliminates the need to stack and move the bales again in the winter.
- Bale grazing reduces yardage costs especially when bales are grazed in the hayfield where they were made. Costs increase the further the bales are transported to the feeding area and the number of times they are handled. Do a cost analysis for your operation when considering this feeding practice.
- Manure and left over feed is distributed directly on the pasture or hayfield eliminating both the costs of manure hauling.



## COUNTY OF WARNER FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES

### COMPUTER

#### Google Savvy

**Description:** Learn 20 tips and tricks for working with Google, Google maps, video, better searching the net, G-Mail and reading blogs. This is a hands-on class. Bring your own laptop.

**Date:** Thursday, November 8

**Time:** 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

**Location:** Warner Memorial Library

**Fee:** \$40

#### Microsoft Word 2010

**Description:** See the new user interface look and feel; application menu, quick toolbar, tabs, ribbons, chunks, super tool tips. New file formats, PDF documents, workflow foundation and workspace sharing will be discussed. This is a hands-on class.

**Date:** Thursdays, November 15 to November 22

**Time:** 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

**Location:** Warner School

**Fee:** \$70

**Register by:** November 8

#### Create Your Own Blog Website

**Description:** It seems like blogs are everywhere these days. A blog (short for weblog) is a personal online journal that is frequently updated and

intended for general public consumption. You can post anything from a travel journal with photos to political or philosophical musings, commentary on Internet and other social issues, and links to other sites the author favours. This class will guide you through the steps to set up your personal blog. This is a hands-on class. Bring your own laptop.

**Date:** Thursday, November 29

**Time:** 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

**Location:** Warner Memorial Library

**Fee:** \$40

### SAFETY

#### Emergency First Aid

**Description:** In this one-day course, students will learn to recognize and provide interventions for life-threatening emergencies until medical aid arrives. Topics include- CPR and choking for adults, shock and unconsciousness, severe bleeding, head & spinal injuries, major medical conditions, and AED training and certification. Bring a bag lunch.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 6

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Location:** Warner Fire Hall

**Early Fee:** \$95

**Register by:** October 23

**Late Fee:** \$110

#### Standard First Aid

**Description:** This two-day course covers all the skills in Emergency First Aid plus first aid for other injuries and illnesses including head and spinal injuries, fractures of the upper and lower limbs. This course includes Level C CPR training and certification (Adult, Child, Infant and 2-rescuer resuscitation) and AED training and certification. Bring a bag lunch.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 6; Thursday, November 8

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Location:** Warner Fire Hall

**Early Fee:** \$135

**Register by:** October 23

**Late Fee:** \$150

#### Emergency Preparation for a Disaster

**Description:** Would you be ready if there was an emergency? In today's world, we are all exposed to a wide variety of hazards, both natural and man-made such as fire, storms, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, power outages, and economic crises. Imagine that a disaster occurred and you did not have water, food, electricity or fuel. One should be prepared as much as possible for emergencies. The goal of the classes is to demonstrate how you can take

### REGISTER

*in advance with:*

**Carolyn, Bobbi, or Lynette, Further Ed Office, 403-642-3635 or 403-642-2134 (evenings).**

**Send cheque to office, Box 278, Warner, AB T0K 2L0.**

three concrete steps to be more prepared for emergencies that might strike in Southern Alberta – Make a Plan; Get a Kit Together; Be Informed.

The first class will center on preparing for and understanding when you might need to leave (evacuate) your home. It will cover such topics as how to be ready to leave on a moment's notice and what to take. The second class will examine preparing your home and your lifestyle for coping with emergencies. Topics will include - heating and lighting basics, food storage, cooking alternatives and many others.

**Date:** Wednesdays, November 14 – November 21

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Location:** Warner School

**Fee:** \$15

**YOUR LIBRARY**

The southern Alberta library experience. **Make it Yours.**

It's your connection to movies, books, music, ebooks, events and more. Find your perfect mix.

[www.chinookarch.ca](http://www.chinookarch.ca)



## *Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC)* **ABANDONED WATER WELL Decommissioning Project**

In the late 1950's and early 60's, landowners in both the County of Warner and Forty Mile began to notice significant drops in water depth within the Milk River Watershed. Many artesian flowing wells that serviced farms for decades started to stop flowing. At the time, the Alberta Research Council commissioned a study to identify wells in the Milk River Aquifer and quantify the drop in water levels. At the time, they found 409 wells of which 192 were flowing; and from 1937 through 1959 water levels in the aquifer had dropped over 30m. More recently, a study conducted in 1998 found that many of the same wells in the period from 1960 through 1990 dropped an additional 30 to 50 feet.

In response, the Counties of Forty Mile and Warner partnered with Agriculture Canada (PFRA) and Alberta Environment to fund a program over 5 years to identify abandoned wells within the aquifer that could be contributing to loss of water in the aquifer or potentially sinks for contaminants to enter the aquifer and reduced or degrade water quality.

Over the time of the project, in excess of 1000 wells were identified in the area, and only 218 wells were flowing, much lower percentage than was recorded in the area in the 1960's.

Many people ask: why is it important to seal unused wells?

The older the well, the less likely that a suitable seal on the outside of the casing and the higher the potential for a corroded well casing. What you may not see below ground is that there could be mixing of groundwater from an upper zone into a lower zone. This is particularly important if there's another well nearby being used. The well is a direct conduit (pipeline) to the aquifer below. Even if there is no visible water flowing at the surface, there is a strong possibility of leakage of water from the Milk River Aquifer into shallow gravels, wasting of potentially large amounts of water. In areas

where the water levels have dropped, many wells can be impacted with runoff from field or livestock operations, where seepage in or around casings or well pits can move unimpeded through the aquifer potentially causing health concerns from dangerous ecoli or degraded water quality.

In total, 101 wells were decommissioned over the 5 years of the project out of approximately 442 in active wells within the area. Many landowners have continued to express an interest in continuing the decommissioning project, and the Milk River Watershed Council has been working to build a better understanding of groundwater within our watershed and in working with the Canadian Geological Survey (Environment Canada) as well as the United States Geological Survey to better understand the aquifer dynamics within our watershed.

In order to fund additional decommissioning which on average cost 3000 to 5000 to complete; the MRWCC participated in the 2011/12 cycle of the Shell FuellingChange Program, a program which provides funding in support of environmental projects across Canada. The MRWCC submitted a proposal for a project titled: "Plug it to Protect and Conserve the Milk River Aquifer" aimed at securing funding to help landowners who are interested in decommissioning their abandoned wells within the Milk River Watershed. This application was for \$50,000. Unfortunately we were unable to secure enough online votes to win the \$50,000. However, as one of the top 40 participants, the MRWCC received a grant of \$10,000 from Shell Canada for participating in the program.

The MRWCC will use the \$10,000 to conduct a project to decommission 2 abandoned wells. One flowing cased well and one hand dug well. The wells will be chosen from wells that were identified by landowners in the 2011 Milk River Transboundary Aquifer Project surveys. This

workshop will be conducted to promote awareness on the importance of proper decommissioning of abandoned wells and an informative fact sheet will be made available regarding techniques and procedures for landowners within our watershed.

The Milk River Watershed Council is currently looking to confirm sites for the demonstration workshop. If you have a well that you will be willing to use as a demonstration site please call 403-647-3808.



**The MRWCC wishes to thank everyone who supported this project by voting online and Shell FuellingChange for the grant.**



FUSARIUM HEAD BLIGHT

Fusarium and Why Should You Be Concerned?

Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) is a cereal disease found most commonly in wheat and barley. It affects the developing kernels of wheat and barley. The same fungus also cause oink ear rot in corn. It is associated with higher than normal rainfall in late June and July as wheat and barley are most susceptible to disease during flowering and heading respectively.

FHB produces mycotoxins that are toxic to all animals in varying degrees. FHB also reduces the milling quality of wheat and the malting quality of barley. In Manitoba where the disease seems most prevalent, it is currently costing farmers 100 million dollars a year in lost production and lost markets.

FHB can be introduced to your farm in two ways: through infected seed, or by infected plant material such as straw. Once it enters your farm it will become a permanent resident as crop rotation, seed treatment,

irrigation management, application of fungicides and marketing of your crop will be tools that can only be used to manage, not eliminate this disease. The best management decision you can make is to take every precaution that FHB will not be introduced to your farm. Testing all seed for Fusarium Head Blight before it enters your farm is the single most important precaution you can take.



Fusarium Facts

- 1.The Canadian Grain Commission is reporting that incidence of Fusarium Damaged Kernels has increased significantly from previous years.
2.Fusarium graminearum the causal agent of Fusarium Head Blight is present as low levels, in significant number of fields within Southern Alberta.

Durum wheat is the most susceptible of cereal grains, followed by CPS, HRS, barley, and oats as least susceptible.

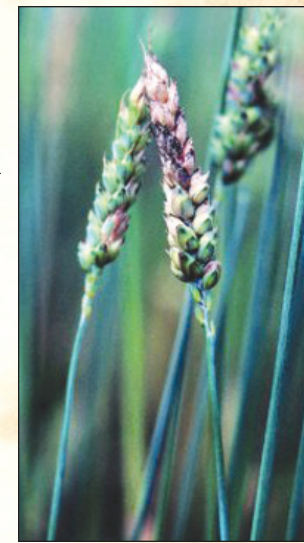
Economic Drawbacks of Fusarium Contamination

For the Individual Farmer: There are direct yield and grade losses for the grain producer. For livestock producers, DON is the most significant ramification of FHB. DON is short for deoxynivalenol and is just one of many mycotoxins that can be found in grain. It can also be referred to as Vomitoxin because at very high intake levels it can cause the animal to vomit. DON is a relatively mild toxin that occurs in infested grain kernels and to a lesser extent in the stalks and chaff. DON is generally not an issue with ruminants or poultry but with swine it is a different story. In swine it is readily absorbed and increases the production of tryptophan and serotonin leading to hormonal change that acts like an anorexia disorder in the mind of the animals and becomes less significant as



the animal matures.

For the Grain Industry: Lost market opportunities for grain companies are a result of mycotoxin contamination. Mycotoxins make the grain unsuitable for human food and animal feed. Miller, maltsters, or brewers cannot use contaminated grain because of altered baking quality or increased toxin after the malting process causing gushing in beer. High levels of DON and FDK (Fusarium Damaged Kernels) are not welcome in the ethanol industry either. However it is not completely prohibitive to the process and has a lot to do with marketing the distillers grains as a by-product rather than the actual production of ethanol. DON is not destroyed by the process and is thus concentrated in the distillers grains.



In Southern Alberta we have a great marketing advantage for our wheats due to minimal FHB contamination. Losing that advantage would be a loss for both the individual farmer and for the grain industry as a whole. It is vital that everyone makes every effort to prevent of FHB outbreak in Alberta from occurring.

BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1.Crop Rotation

- Continuous Durum rotations must be avoided, as the Canadian Grain Commission is reporting a significant number of Fusarium Damaged Kernels in Durum samples from this area.
• Consider back to back broadleaf crops. A stacked rotation isn't commonly recommended, but it can be successful as long as disease risk and soil conservation issues are taken into consideration and taken care of. The traditional advice has been follow a broadleaf crop with a cereal to prevent the build-up of disease like Scelerotina but it takes a two year break to have an impact on a lot of diseases. It's a matter of balancing risks, and Fusarium is one disease we really do need to control.
• A break of at least one year-preferably two years - is advised between cereal, grass and corn production.

2.Choose cereals that are less susceptible to FHB

- Among wheat types, durum and soft wheat as the most susceptible to Fusarium, CPS types are slightly better than hard red spring. Winter wheats are the

least susceptible because they tend to escape infection because they are earlier than spring types. However this really much of a resistance ranking as the spread is from very poor to poor resistance. Although hard red spring or winter wheats are the slightly better choices, barely for silage may be your best option-it's off before the disease damages the grain. In the long run, genetic resistance will be the best way to deal with Fusarium, but it's still far off.

- Stagger planting of cereal crops within the recommended sowing window or select varieties differing in days to maturity to minimize risk of entire crop flowering during a period when weather is favourable for FHB infection.

3.Test seed for Fusarium graminearum before planting

- Take every precaution to not introduce this disease to your farm. If you are purchasing seed, ask to see the seed testing certificate, ensuring that it contains tests for FHB, and be sure to keep a sample of the seed. Using your own seed from previous years should be tested as well. See below for a list of labs that test for Fusarium.

4.Use a seed treatment registered against Fusarium

- Use Raxil, Charter or Dividened, on all your seed, and make sure every kernel is coated. Seed treat-

ment protects the seedling from soil borne and some seed-borne Fusarium, as well as other detrimental disease. However seed treatment will not protect against Fusarium Head Blight since it is caused by fungus that attacks during plant development.

5.Control timing of irrigation

- A plants highest susceptibility to FHB is during flowering when the seed is exposed to receive pollen. Moist conditions during flowering give the fungus spores a huge advantage over the crop. The spores are very light and can float up to the top of the crop on the lightest of air currents and with very little moisture; they can establish themselves in the heads. There's no way to protect the seed during flowering. Fungicides are only marginally effective. Keeping the inoculum in the field as low as possible and maintaining a dry crop canopy during flowering are the best control methods.
• Fewer, heavier applications of water could be the best way to provide the moisture the crop needs at this time. Aim to fill the soil profile during the flag leaf phase, as the heads emerge, stop watering for about 10 days, till flowering is over. This is a high moisture demand time, but not watering can really cut the Fusarium risk. Since wheat roots grow up to 4 feet it can get moisture from deep in the profile.

6.Monitor the Crop

- Check headed crops for signs of disease such as

whiteheads. The most likely places to find damaged heads are moist areas-near the center of the pivot or low spots. If any FHB is found in the crop, there's probably 1 or 2 percent infection. A variety of stresses in additions to FHB can cause whiteheads. Therefore, look below the head for the source of damage first. Root damage, due to insects or diseases like root rots, can cause premature ripening. Fusarium may affect just a few kernels on a head or the whole head. Sometimes a pinkish tinge can be seed on the glumes (chaff).

7.Adjust your combine

- Ensure your combine's straw and chaff spreader are working as designed. Effective chopping will help encourage decomposition of infected residue.
• Combine louver and air velocities can be adjusted to reduce the number of Fusarium damaged kernels in the harvested grain. The goal is to blow lightweight, diseased kernels over the back of the combine without blowing too many good kernels.

8.Reduce inoculum levels

- Turn under crop residue. However excessive tillage or burning of residues are NOT necessary.
• Control barnyard grass and quack grass, which are also hosts.
• Do not seed into corn stubble.
• Do not seed spring and winter wheat near fields infected by Fusarium fungi.

SEED TESTING is Your Best Defense against Fusarium Head Blight



When sending in a seed sample for testing, make sure the sample is representative, taken from all areas of a grain bin or all truck loads taken off a field. The sample size should be 1 kg or 2.2 lbs.

BioVision

7225B Roper Road
Edmonton, AB T6B 3J4
Toll Free: 1-800-952-5407
Fax: (780) 437-6875

- Screen- indicates presence of Fusarium graminearum : \$40 + GST
• ID- indicates % of Fusarium graminearum in sample : \$80 + GST

Down to Earth Labs

3510-6th Ave N.
Lethbridge, AB
Phone 403-328-1133
Actual Fusarium testing done off site at one of the above labs.

- Screen - Indicates presence of Fusarium graminearum : \$40 + GST

20/20 Seed Labs Inc.

3618 - 6th Avenue North
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5C4
Toll Free: 1-877-420-2099
Ext. 181
Fax Toll Free: 1-888-900-1810

- Screen- indicates presence of Fusarium graminearum: \$53 + GST
• ID- indicates % of Fusarium graminearum: \$42 + GST

Parkland Laboratories

5410 Gaetz Avenue
Saputo Cheese Building
Red Deer, AB T4N 4B7
Office Line: (403) 342.0404
After Hours: (403) 309.6010
Facsimile : (403) 358.3836
E-mail:

- walter@parklandlabs.com
• Germination + presence of Fusarium graminearum in grain: \$55 + GST
• Presence of Fusarium graminearum in grain: \$40 + GST
• Presence of Fusarium graminearum in straw: \$60 + GST

Precision Seed Testing

Box 210
Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0
Phone 780-354-2259
Fax 780-354-8955

- Screen - indicates presence of Fusarium graminearum : \$37 + GST





## SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

### *Application for trees*

**T**he Prairie Shelterbelt Centre in Indian Head, Saskatchewan is encouraging everyone that is looking to plant trees from the AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Program in 2013 should order your trees as soon as possible to ensure you receive the trees you requested.

“Shelterbelts have many, many benefits including reducing wind, which prevents soil erosion and reduces moisture evaporation, providing wildlife habitat and thus increasing biodiversity, improving crop yields, reducing livestock stress and improving animal health and feed efficiency, as well as beautifying farmyards and reducing heating and cooling costs for farm buildings.”

This will be the last year for free trees out of the AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Program. So be sure to get your application in as soon as

possible. Remember there is a deliver charge for the trees when you pick them up in May at the Ag Service Board Shop.

Information about the Prairie Shelterbelt Program:

If you have ordered trees in the past you should get an application in the mail, but if you don't you can access the Prairie Shelterbelt Program website online at [www.agr.ca/pfra/shelterbelt.htm](http://www.agr.ca/pfra/shelterbelt.htm) or contact the Shelterbelt Centre toll free at 1-866-766-2284.

An application form for shelterbelt trees can be obtained from the website or picked up at the ASB Shop.

*For more information please contact the County of Warner ASB office at 642-2255.*

## TAXES ARE DUE

**THE COUNTY OF WARNER WOULD LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE NOVEMBER 30, 2012 IN ORDER TO AVOID PENALTIES.**

The County office is located at 300 County Road in the Village of Warner. IT is important to note that the office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

**THE OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON NOVEMBER 30, 2012**, so ensure you leave yourself adequate time if planning on paying in person.

*Cheques can be made payable to the County of Warner No. 5. If the cheques are mailed the envelope should be clearly postmarked by Canada Post no later than November 30, 2012. (A postage imprint is not an acceptable proof for date of mailing)*

There is a NIGHT DEPOSIT located just right of the County main entrance doors.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR YEARLY VISIT AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT (403) 642-3635 OR 1-888-642-2241.**





## GROWING FORWARD

Think locally. Grow globally.

September, 2012

## PROGRAMS STILL AVAILABLE

There are multiple Growing Forward programs still available.

- Water Management Program – See 2 NEW eligibility additions
- Business Opportunity Grant
- Energy Efficiency Construction Program
- Energy Efficiency Retrofits Program
- Food Safety – OFFS (Delivery Agent)
- Leadership Development Grant – Program Update
- Livestock Welfare (Processor)
- Livestock Welfare (Non-Profit Organization)
- Traceability - RFID Technology Assistance
- Traceability Pilot Project
- Traceability Training Program

### CURRENT INFORMATION

If you have questions about a particular program's availability, please check our website [www.GrowingForward.Alberta.ca](http://www.GrowingForward.Alberta.ca). Each program in the Growing Forward suite is managed independently. While tremendous uptake of one program may mean funding is no longer available, there may be other programs of interest in which you could participate. Our website is the best source of current information!

### WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

#### REMINDER

As of April 1, 2012, two items have been added to the list of eligible projects for the current year ending March 15, 2013.

- Tie-ins to Multi-User Water Supply Pipelines are eligible at 50% of the eligible costs to a maximum of \$5000.
- Applicants may receive one third of the eligible costs incurred for additional Standard Incentive Projects constructed during 2012-13, up to a maximum of \$5,000.

Both items must be identified in a Long Term Water Management Plan (LTWMP) completed by the producer and approved by an ARD Water Specialist **PRIOR** to undertaking this activity in order for the expenses to be eligible under the Growing Forward Water Management Program. You must contact your ARD Water Specialist directly or through 310-FARM (3276) if you need to amend a completed LTWMP or need technical assistance in improving your water security.

Please review the Factsheet and Terms and Conditions on the [Growing Forward website](#) for more complete information.

### NEW GROWING FORWARD FRAMEWORK

At a meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments in Whitehorse on September 14, 2012, Ministers reached agreement in principle on the new high level Growing Forward policy framework. The new Growing Forward framework is a suite of policies and programs to help the agri-food and agri-products sector prosper across Canada, by supporting innovation, market competitiveness, adaptability and industry capacity. Read Minister Olson's Statement [here](#).

### FOOD SAFETY – OFFS (PRODUCER)

Between April 1, 2009 and today, did you receive a letter informing you that your work plan was approved?

Answer: **YES**

Then please submit your Grant Application form and receipts for reimbursement as soon as possible. If you have misplaced the form, please contact Pramod Kumar at 780-638-3690.

Funding is limited and Grant Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

Answer: **NO**

Then your application has been placed on a waiting list should further funding become available. The Food Safety – On Farm Food Safety Program is designed to enhance food safety by assisting producers' adoption of commodity specific national on-farm food safety programs that have been successfully reviewed under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) led recognition program.

## REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR BINS for insect infestation.

Just a reminder the Ag. Service Board does offer a bin fumigating service the cost is \$30 per hour plus \$25 service charge plus total cost of chemical. If you need your bins fumigated please call 403-642-2255.

## Age Verification in Alberta



# Age-Verification Incentive Program

For each beef calf you age-verify, earn an immediate point-of-sale discount of up to \$3 per CCIA-approved RFID tag towards your next year's tag purchases. The number of tags eligible is based on the number of calves born each year since January 1, 2009, that have, or will be, age-verified by 10 months of age.

For more information and a list of participating tag dealers, and to learn more about Traceability in Alberta, call toll-free **310-FARM** (3276) or visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability)

### Age-Verification Incentive Program

To receive a discount on RFID tags at a participating tag dealer, have this information with you:

- 1 CCIA Account #
- 2 The number of calves born each year since January 1, 2009, that have, or will be, age-verified by 10 months of age.
- 3 The number of tags previously received through a point-of-sale discount or mail-in reimbursement.







# 2012 Conference & Trade Show

## December 4th & 5th, 2012

MEDICINE HAT EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE  
2055 21 Ave. SE Medicine Hat, Alberta

### FARMING SMARTER

Growing new ideas.



An informative 2 day event dedicated to growing agriculture through leadership, innovation and collaboration

**Guest Speakers & Presenters Include:**  
**Keynote/Banquet Speaker: Vik Maraj**  
**Keynote Speaker: Perry Miller**  
**Keynote Speaker: Mike Jubinville**

*Plus numerous other special guests and presenters!*

For further information visit: [www.farmingsmarter.com](http://www.farmingsmarter.com)

## 2012 CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW / AGENDA December 4th & 5th, 2012 - Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH			WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH		
	Time	Presenter(s)		Time	Presenter(s)
REGISTRATION/TRADESHOW/BREAKFAST	7:30 - 8:30	-	REGISTRATION/TRADESHOW/BREAKFAST	7:30 - 8:30	-
Opening remarks	8:30 - 8:35	Kent Sande, Chairman Farming Smarter Board	Opening remarks	8:25 - 8:30	Craig Walsh, Vice-chair Farming Smarter Board
Greetings	8:35 - 8:45	Drew Barnes, MLA	Alberta Wheat Commission	8:30 - 9:00	Rick Istead
Alberta Canola Producers Commission Regional Meeting	8:45 - 9:30	Rick Taillieu, ACPC	Profitable winter wheat production	9:00 - 9:30	Dr. Brian Beres, AAFC
Battling Blackleg	9:30 - 10:00	Dr. Ralph Lange, Alberta Innovates	Dealing with variability: Is greenseeker technology the answer?	9:30 - 10:00	Dr. Guy Lafond, AAFC IH
COFFEE BREAK/TRADESHOW	10:00 - 10:30	-	COFFEE BREAK/TRADESHOW	10:00 - 10:30	-
Glyphosate resistant kochia: not your grandfather's tumbleweed	10:30 - 11:15	Dr. Bob Blackshaw, AAFC	Farming Smarter Update: Night Spraying, Inter-row seeding, Winter pulses	10:30 - 11:30	Ken Coles, Farming Smarter Manager
Grain Market Agenda 2013...A new Era	11:15 - 12:00	Mike Jubinville, ProFarmer Canada	Indian Head Agriculture Research Foundation	11:30 - 12:00	Chris Holzapfel, IHARF
LUNCH/TRADESHOW	12:00 - 1:00	-	LUNCH/TRADESHOW	12:00 - 1:00	-
4-H Future Leaders	1:00 - 1:15	4-H Speech Contest Winners	4-H Future Leaders	1:00 - 1:15	4-H Speech Contest Winners
Preparing for opportunity	1:15 - 1:45	Dennis Dey, CanEd International	FarmOn Foundation is bringin' farming back!	1:15 - 1:45	Yvone Fizer & Jennifer Jenkins, Farm On
What's in the ground? A soil mapping tool	1:45 - 2:15	Mike Catalano, Geonics	Industrial oilseed: Brassica Carinata	1:45 - 2:15	Daryl Males &/or Patrick-Agrisoma
COFFEE BREAK/TRADESHOW	2:15 - 2:45	-	Federal investments in research	2:15 - 2:45	Dr. Jeff Stewart, Science Director, AAFC
Spraying Do's and Don'ts	2:45 - 3:15	Dr. Tom Wolf, AAFC	Producer investments in research	2:45 - 3:15	Dr. Richard Gray, University of Saskatchewan
The New Normal on the Canadian Plains	3:15 - 3:45	Dave Sauchyn, PARC	Closing remarks	3:15 - 3:30	Wrap up
Energizing your crop rotation	3:45 - 4:30	Dr. Perry Miller, Montana State University			
ReWriting the Future: When a better yesterday no longer cuts it	5:30 - 9:00	Vik Maraj			
4-H Auctions & Social		Orville Yanke presentation			



## INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

# Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

## Provincial Designation: Noxious

### Overview:

A colony-forming, aggressive perennial, that spreads primarily by its creeping root system. Despite its name, the plant was introduced from Europe, and is the only thistle, native or introduced, with separate male & female plants. Also called "Creeping Thistle," the roots spread both horizontally (up to 4.5 metres) and vertically (up to 6 metres) underground. It has been estimated that individual plants live about 2 years, but are continually replaced by new shoots from adventitious buds on its extensive root system. This can result in infestations composed entirely of genetically identical plants of one sex.

Dense riparian infestations can impact wildlife by reducing food, and access & nesting cover for waterfowl.

### Habitat:

Canada thistle thrives in a wide range of soil types but is not tolerant of waterlogged soil or complete shade. It does best in disturbed areas and overgrazed pasture/range. The extensive root system allows the plant to survive periods of drought and access water & nutrient reserves far below the roots of native plants.

Young rosette



### Identification:

**Stems:** Stems are grooved, upright, hollow and woody, branching near the top, and grow .5 m to 1.5 m tall.

**Leaves:** Leaves are lance-shaped, dark green, shiny on the surface and occur alternately, slightly clasping the stem. Lower leaves are largest and decrease in size upward along the stems. Leaf edges can vary from smooth with no spines to irregularly lobed with sharp spines.

**Flowers:** Flowers form at the ends of stems in clusters of one to several. The flower head is urn-shaped and the bracts are spineless. The color of the flowers may vary from plant to plant, being purple, pink or white.

**Seed:** Seeds are borne in an achene 2 to 4 mm long which is tufted to aid in wind dispersal. Most seeds germinate within a year, but buried seed can stay dormant for up to 20 years.

### Prevention:

The best preventive measure in non-cropland is to maintain healthy plant cover and to reseed disturbed areas with a desirable species as soon as possible. Canada thistle seedlings are very shade intolerant and will not establish under low light conditions. Avoid overgrazing to prevent thistle establishment in pastures/rangeland.

### Control:

Most of the biomass of Canada thistle plants is below ground; therefore killing the roots is the only effective control method. An integrated management plan that uses a variety control options is the only real chance of reducing infestations.

**Grazing:** Sheep and goats will readily graze thistle, but not so much in the spiny stage. Occasionally livestock will randomly graze thistle, even when other forage is available, however



Seedling



Flowers

removal of the stems by grazing only stimulates re-sprouting by the plant.

Invasive plants

*should never be considered as forage.*

**Cultivation:** Cultivation only produces small root pieces that rapidly develop into new plants, and does not reach the deeper roots.

**Mechanical:** Repeated mowing through the growing season gradually depletes the food energy stored in the root system. Repeated hand pulling in loose soils can also effectively stress the root system. To succeed, several years of effort must be committed.

**Chemical:** A variety of herbicides are available for controlling Canada thistle, with residual herbicides having the most effect. However, early-season herbicide applications generally have the same effect as mowing, by killing the shoots and stimulating re-sprouting. A combination of spring-summer mowing, followed by herbicide application in the fall is extremely effective. By fall the plant is preparing for dormancy by moving food reserves from the shoots down into the roots for the next growing season. Herbicide application at this time maximizes chemical translocation into the root system and results in a better kill. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

**Biological:** Several weevils and one fly have been imported to target Canada and other thistle species, but a few are no longer recommended due to impacts on native thistle species.

1 Always follow the product labels. The use of pesticides in any manner not published on the label or registered under the Minor Use of Pesticides regulation constitutes an offence under both the Federal Pest Control Products Act and Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.





## DO I NEED TO WATER MY TREES *in Winter*

*The simple answer is yes, but let's understand why it is very important to water your trees in the winter.*

**E**vergreen trees remain somewhat active in the winter and especially when we have warm temperatures in 4.5 C or above. Deciduous trees, even though they lose their leaves, have active root growth in fall and winter until soil temperatures get too cold. This root activity requires water. Fall is usually dryer than spring and root growth is very active in the fall and early winter, so watering during this period is very important. Sprinkler systems are being turned off as this time. Root grows and water uptake is also very active in early spring and this can be a problem after a dry winter.

Water in the soil, acts as a heat sink that regulates and soil temperature. It keeps the soil from overheating in the summer and from getting too cold in winter. It softens and lubricates the soil in and fall and spring when roots are putting on the most growth. When it is cold enough, the water in the upper soil later freezes; this insulates with the lower layers of soil from any extreme air temperature fluctuations we might get. Also, when the soil freezes the water expands moving and loosening the soil so when it melts the soil is less compacted.



**Enter the contest only winter wheat growers can win.**

Register your farm's winter wheat crop and be entered to win one of three Meridian 4,100 bu hopper-mounted galvanized grain bins.\* By taking part in this contest, you have access to expert agronomic support to help maximize your odds of successful winter wheat crops.

The contest starts this fall and runs until spring 2013. Throughout that time, you will share with us the management decisions you're making to ensure you grow a successful winter wheat crop. These are things like the number of acres you seed and your in-crop treatment schedule.

**Register today by calling 1-866-761-5270 or for more information visit [GrowWinterWheat.ca](http://GrowWinterWheat.ca)**



**Winter Cereals**

*Sustainability in Action*

\*Visit [GrowWinterWheat.ca](http://GrowWinterWheat.ca) for full contest details.

## CARING FOR OUR WATERSHED PROJECT

*The Milk River Watershed Council Canada is pleased to announce the*  
**2013 AGRUM'S CARING FOR OUR WATERSHEDS (CFW)**  
**an environmental program for Grades 7-12 students**

CFW asks students to submit an essay proposal that answers the question, "What can you do to improve your watershed?" Either individually or as a team they must research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and come up with a realistic solution. Students can win cash rewards for themselves and their school. Agrium also has funding available to help implement ideas.

**To register or for more information please contact 403 647-3808 or visit the Caring For Our Watershed web at [www.CaringForOurWatersheds.Com](http://www.CaringForOurWatersheds.Com)**