

THE COUNTY CHRONICLE

COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5



SPRING/SUMMER 2023



Council holding the line on mill rate

Hello Everyone. Just a quick note from Council. The budget has been finalized and I am pleased to say, the mill rate will remain close to the same this year. We will no doubt be paying a little more in taxes, the way land and housing are trending, and assessments have increased. With the cost of everything climbing, it has been a challenge for Shawn and his team to work within the budget, and again, have done an amazing job this past year.



Randy Taylor, Reeve

behalf. We will remain focused, advocating for the County of Warner, and rural Alberta.

One more huge thank you to our Doctor Recruitment and Retention committee, our rep being Councillor David Cody. After many frustrating meetings with AHS, Doctor prospects and many other organizations, we were able to finally get two doctors and a Nurse practitioner coming to the Milk River Clinic/Hospital.

We have a very passionate Council, all committed to the County operating efficiently, without cutting services we offer. Again, thanks to our Administrator Shawn

Hathaway and all the staff, for the great work they do for the County of Warner.

From all of Council, we wish you all the best and have a great year.

Randy Taylor, Reeve

County of Warner No. 5



Contact Information:

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

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what's in this issue

Preparing Trees and Shrubs For WinterPAGE 2

Stored Grain Pests - Preventing and Detecting InfestationsPAGE 5

Farmer Pesticide Certificate CoursePAGE 6

Securing a Home for Bats in the Milk River Watershed: Summer Project UpdatesPAGE 7

On Farm Climate Action FundPAGE 8

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup!.....PAGE 9

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) - Key FactsPAGE 10

Farm Technology Program (FTP) Program Funding ListPAGE 11

Agronomy update: Controlling Glyphosate-Resistant Kochia in Chemical FallowPAGE 14

On-Farm Innovation and Adaptation EssentialPAGE 15

Alberta Environmental Farm PlanPAGE 16



Planning and Development

Development Permits

Development permits are available through the County Administration office. The fee for the permit will depend on the type of permit being applied for. Fees range from \$50 - \$100 for basic permits that include permitted use and a minimum fee of \$200 for discretionary permits. Adjacent landowners must be notified for any discretionary use permit. Non-residential farm buildings (barns, etc.) are exempt, but must meet the required setbacks from road allowances. Below is some commonly asked questions regarding development. If there are any other questions please feel free to contact our development officer Tyler Nelson at 403-642-3635.

Permitted Use Permit

A permitted use permit can generally be issued the day it is applied for if all setbacks and other requirements are met. Please call the County Administration Office and speak to the development officer for information on permitted uses in the area you are applying for. To expedite the approval process, completely fill out the application form and include a detailed site plan showing all setbacks from road allowances and other buildings and waterways. Homes must include a detailed plan showing square footage or square meters of buildings or additions.

Discretionary Use Permit

Adjacent landowners must be notified when a discretionary use permit is requested. The County is required to allow seven days for mailing of the notice and fourteen days for the opportunity to reply. If no objections are received, a permit is issued, however, adjacent landowners must once again be notified that the permit has been issued and there is one more opportunity to object. The seven days for mailing and fourteen days to reply is once again in effect. Therefore, an absolute minimum of six weeks is required, but could take longer. If objections to discretionary permits are received, a hearing is scheduled which adds several more weeks before a decision is made to issue the permit or not. When discretionary permits are required, it is advisable to apply for them as soon as possible in order to avoid delays in the desired start date for construction.

Road Setbacks

Buildings and other developments/improvements such as dugouts, must be at least 120 feet from the property line of the nearest county road, unless the road is a primary or secondary highway. If the road is a primary or secondary highway, the setbacks are established by Alberta Transportation. New shelterbelts must be set back 25 feet from any property line and must be set back at intersections, so sight lines are not obstructed. The above setbacks are also required for undeveloped road allowances. Stockpiles are defined as the temporary storage of materials on or off a hard surface. Materials stored include soil, manure, forage crop, or machinery. The setbacks shown in the above paragraph must be met. A full Copy of the Land Use By-Law and Development application forms are available on our website.

Subdivisions

All County of Warner subdivision applications are handled through the Oldman River Regional Services Commission located at 3105 - 16 Avenue North in Lethbridge. Steve Harty is the County planner, and he can be reached at 403-329-1344 or 1-877-329-1387. More information about subdivision is available on the Oldman River Regional Services Commission website www.orrsc.com.

Fire Permits

A fire permit is required before lighting any open fire in the County of Warner. This does not include screened burning barrels or fire pits at recreational areas. **Please obtain a fire permit by calling your local fire department's fire chief.** Their contact information is available on our website. Failure to get a permit could lead to fines and the landowner responsible for payment of fire services responding to the fire. During fire bans no burning at all is allowed, fire bans are posted on our website as well as on albertafirebans.ca.

Taxes

The County of Warner will be sending out the property tax bills by July 1, 2023 taxes must be paid by **November 30, 2023** 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 thru Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Border Community Wellness Foundation



SPRING UPDATE

MISSION:

TO ENGAGE PEOPLE IN TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THEIR MANY ASPECTS OF WELLNESS: PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL

TO INSPIRE PHILANTHROPY TOWARD ACHIEVING THE PROMOTION OF SAID WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES OF COUTTS, MILK RIVER, WARNER, AND THE COUNTY OF WARNER

March 22 was the date of our AGM and last regular meeting, and we were so pleased with the many, many people who chose to attend and learn what the organization has been working on over the past year, as well as our plans for the upcoming year. We have new members on our Directors List, and welcomed some newcomers from the community as well! Thanks all for your attendance and interest in this worthy organization.

We would also like to send out a HUGE thank you to the Milk River Kinsmen Club for allowing us to participate in the Corvette ticket sales which help us to fund projects in and around our communities. The Kinsmen are crucial to the existence of many of our small organizations and you have all likely benefited in some way from this generosity.

Our next meeting will be held at the Milk River Town Hall, council chambers, on Wednesday, May 31st @ 2pm. Our meetings are open to the public and we are always looking for ideas from our communities for ways that BCWF can make a positive impact on wellness for us all!

If you have questions, please call Robbie Wills at 403-344-4312 Thank you!



Workshops in March and April

We hosted a lot of workshops in March and April. A Soil Health Workshop was held on March 8. This was a very informative event.

Toso Bozic and Lindsey Bell did a great job instructing our Shelterbelt Workshop on March 16. We co-hosted an online Water Well Workshop with the Milk River Watershed

Council Canada on March 30. We also held an Environmental Farm Plan Workshop on April 12.

The workshops had good attendance; we could have accommodated more participants at all the events but all in all the workshops were well received.

PRESENTATIONS *at the County*

Jack Payne gave two presentations one of them was on Soil Salinity Management - This presentation covered the hydrology and soil factors which lead to the formation of saline seeps as well as strategies that can be used to mitigate saline soils. The session also reviewed the various classes of saline seeps found in Alberta.

Jack's second presentation discussed soil degradation causes and remedies. This presentation discussed the shift in soil pH which is occurring in southern Alberta.

It will look at the factors which influence the formation of acidic soils, and how acidic soils can influence crop growth and nutrient availability.

How many producers understand a soils analysis? Trevor Wallace with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation helped producers understand their soils analysis by interpreting what the analysis is saying and he offered information on nutrient top up ideas.

Dwayne Rogness discussed the County of Warner Phosphorus Filter Project that is set up to remediate agricultural runoff from confined cattle feeding operation.

Kevin Seward from NRCB discussed Winter Seasonal

Feeding and Bedding Sites strategies to help cattle producers.

Ross McKenzie gave a great presentation on How to Improve Nitrogen Use Efficiency. He discussed all aspects of nitrogen fertilizer management. Ross reviewed the various potential N losses from soil and fertilizer applications including processes that affect volatilization, leaching and denitrification. Then he discussed the various 4R best N fertilizer management practices for the Warner region.

Jenny Seward talked about long term fertility planning for the land we farm. She talked about some of the "miracle" products out there since CFIA quit monitoring fertilizer products in 2013 and explained what is working out on the land?

Elise Walker shared her extensive salinity background to highlight what she is doing on their farming operation. She gave a trials and errors of forage establishment from their business and farm perspective.

Rob Dunn gave a brief presentation on how to get the RDAR funding that is available now.

New ag program designed to spur growth

In Alberta, the partnership represents \$508 million in funding over five years that will provide grants to programs that support the needs of Alberta's agriculture and agri-food sector.

Alberta's programs will aim to create new jobs and spur growth in the agriculture sector by supporting value-added processing competitiveness, attracting new investment and expanding irrigation capacity that will boost crop production.

The programs will also continue protecting plant and animal health and animal welfare, managing risks to Alberta's natural resources and investing in producer-led agriculture research.

Producers also have access to an enhanced suite of business risk management programs to help them manage significant risks that threaten the viability of their farms and are beyond their capacity to manage.

In total, the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

Compared with the CAP partnership, which has expired, there is a \$500-million increase in cost-shared funding. Half of this additional funding will help develop and implement the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program, which will support carbon sequestration, and protect grasslands and wetlands on agricultural lands.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership came into effect April 1 and replaces the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).

We have added a table to inform producers about the programs available. There are 7 programs supporting a large list of beneficial management practices. If you use this website URL it will take you to the programs to show you what is available. <https://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap-programs.aspx>

Program	Eligible applicants			Accepting applications
	Producer, Farmer or Rancher	Value-added Processor	Industry, Organization or Group	
Efficient Grain Handling	yes			April 3, 2023
Emerging Opportunities		yes	yes	April 3, 2023
Farm Technology	yes			April 3, 2023
On-Farm Value-Added	yes			April 3, 2023
Resilient Agricultural Landscapes	yes		yes	April 3, 2023
Value-Added		yes		April 3, 2023
Water	yes			April 3, 2023

The Resiliency and Public Trust Program (coming soon)

This program will be an enhanced, more robust and responsive public trust program for the agriculture industry. Beginning this Fall, applications will be encouraged for projects that focus on assurance, food sustainability, risk management, youth ag education, mental health or industry governance.

Please call the Warner ASB if you would like more information.





abinvasives.ca
info@abinvasives.ca

Last Updated January 2014



Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)

Provincial Designation: Noxious

Overview:

Leafy spurge is a long-lived perennial that was introduced as either an ornamental or crop seed contaminant in the early 1800's. It reproduces primarily by re-sprouting from its extensive, persistent, creeping root system, but also by seed. Leafy spurge roots can extend 4.5 m laterally and about 9 m deep. Leafy spurge forms dense stands over time and a large plant can produce up to 130,000 seeds.

All parts of the plant contain a milky-coloured latex that can poison livestock and cause skin irritation on humans. Cypress spurge is very similar in appearance, but leafy spurge is taller, has longer leaves, and less branching in the upper part of the plant.

Habitat:

Native to much of Europe and Asia, it is adapted to a wide variety of site conditions. It grows on a range of soil types and tolerates very dry to very wet climates, but does require some warmth for good growth. Seasonal flooding of riparian infestations can distribute seed long distances.



Identification:

Stems: Stems are arranged in clumps, smooth and hairless, grow up to 1 m tall and contain a milky latex.

Leaves: Leaves are numerous and attached directly to the stem, arranged alternately or sometimes spirally. The leaves are up to 7 cm long, narrow, waxy, have smooth edges and are bluish-green in color, turning yellowish or reddish-orange in late summer.

Flowers: Flowers are small, yellowish-green, lack both petals and sepals, and are supported by 2 green, heart-shaped, leaf-like bracts, arranged in numerous small clusters.

Seed: Seeds are about 2mm, smooth, oblong, light gray to dark brown in color and grow in pods on top of the bracts. When mature the dried seed pods explode, distributing seed as far as 5 m from the parent plant.

Prevention:

Producers should exercise caution when using hay from road ditches and when purchasing hay from known infested areas.

Use weed seed free hay, isolate animals for a week that were in an infested area so that all the seeds can go through the animals body, wash the under carriage of vehicles in a commercial area making sure all seedlings; stems; flowers; etc. are washed down the drain, and don't get soil or gravel from an area infested with leafy spurge.

Control:

Leafy spurge is extremely resilient and a combination of control methods will be necessary to achieve significant control.

Grazing: Sheep and goats will readily graze leafy spurge and are not affected by the toxic juices in the stems. The subsequent re-sprouting will weaken the plants by diminishing root reserves. However there is the risk of seed being carried by the animals to un-infested locations.



USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Cultivation: There are two types of cultivation for leafy spurge; intensive throughout the growing season, and fall-only cultivation. Intensive cultivation programs should begin two to four weeks after leafy spurge emerges in the spring. Till at least four inches deep every three weeks until the soil freezes for one or two years. Fall only cultivation should be done when the re-growth of leafy spurge is three to six inches tall, and should be repeated for three years.

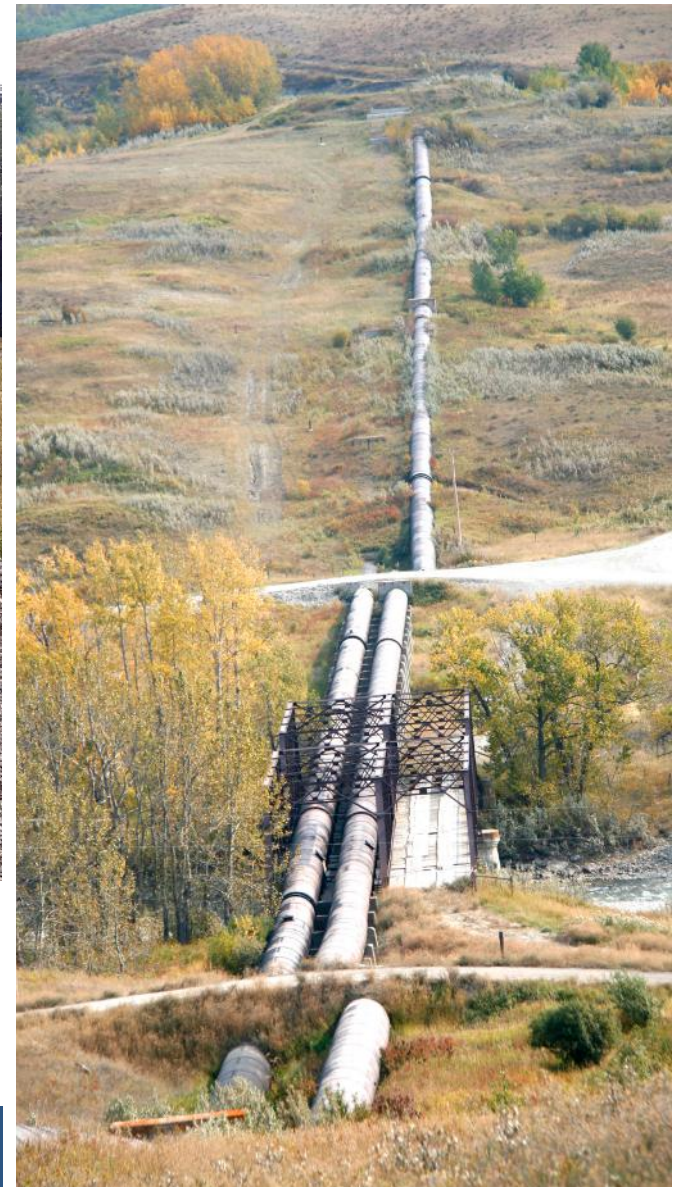
Mechanical: Hand-pulling and mowing is in-effective other than on small, young infestations. Wear gloves and wash after handling leafy spurge to avoid skin rashes.

Chemical:¹ A few herbicides have successfully reduced the density of infestations, but timing is critical. A combination of chemical control and seeding/fertilizing to encourage competition from desirable vegetation is the best approach. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

Biological: Five flea-beetles and 2 moths have been imported for biocontrol of leafy spurge. Flea-beetle larvae are root-feeders and adults consume shoot and leaf tips.



abinvasives.ca
info@abinvasives.ca



What's happening with Milk River flows and the St Mary Diversion?

Milk River Watershed Council Canada - May 3rd 2023

The Cold spring and heavy low elevation snow in the headwaters and St Mary Diversion near Babb MT had delayed the diversion start up to the North Fork Montana. USBR crews spent nearly 2 weeks digging out miles of canal system for the anticipated season startup. From April 5th to April 11th the USBR was able to trickle approximately 50cfs into the system, but a turnout gate was damaged by ice above drop structure 5 requiring dewatering and repair. Repairs are now complete.

It was reported at an International Joint Commission meeting (April 19th 2023) that startup will likely not take place on the diversion again for a couple of weeks. There are several factors that play into the scheduling including water demand, storage capacity in Montana, infrastructure condition, and flows.

At the same time, there has been significant flooding



occurring along the Milk River in the Hi-line of Montana due to basin runoff. Frozen soil conditions and fast rising temperatures have not helped with upland soil moisture conditions and low areas including most of the irrigation acres have been underwater. Forecasters expect the Glasgow MT area above the confluence with the Missouri River to continue with saturated soils for the next couple weeks, delaying planting and likely damaging some forages. This will delay or decrease early season irrigation demand for Montana significantly.

Also of note, Fresno Reservoir is now at full supply level near Havre MT from the Milk River basin melt water. This likely means that demand for water will continue to be lower or delayed into the early summer.

USBR staff say that operations are not likely to create a deficit for repayment to Canadian Milk River Water users before the May 15th letter of intent date. This

means that water users will be reliant on natural flows only to continue late summer irrigation. There is not likely to be any repayment water from Montana available for Canadian Milk River Irrigators this season.

This will likely mark the 5th year since 2015 that Alberta Milk River irrigators faced early season shut-downs and water security challenges. Now more than ever, its important for action to be taken to address both administrative and structural challenges with the aging infrastructure and outdated water management of the St Mary and Milk River. In the light of changing environmental conditions and timing of available water we need to ensure community concerns are addressed with the IJC St Mary Milk River Study and practical solutions that take into consideration social, economic, and environmental needs of the watershed.

To stay up to date with the current water situation or to learn more about the projects and opportunities to be involved with the Milk River Watershed Council Canada, sign up as a member at www.mrwcc.ca or follow us on our Social Media Channels on Facebook or Twitter.

2023 EVENT SCHEDULE

Save the Date!

JUNE 15 ▶ Field School

JULY 13 ▶ Plot Hop

AUGUST 19 ▶ Open Farm Day

**FARMING
SMARTER**

farmingsmarter.com





SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH RANGE DAYS

The Southern Alberta Youth Range Days are an interactive 2 and a 1/2 day event to engage youth on topics such as rangelands, watersheds, wildlife, and natural resource management!

This year's camp will be held at Del Bonita AB located in the heart of Canadian cattle country in Cardston County. Special in-field activities and presentations will have the youths participating in activities involving riparian health, range land management education, water sports, wildlife, plant ID, and camping and outdoor fun!

SAVE THE DATE: July 18-20, 2023

We invite youth of all backgrounds and ages to join us on this exciting trip to learn more about the important watershed we call home.

Space is limited: please register by June 20th, 2023.

Cost: \$80 per person. Ages: 13-18, families welcome!

To register, or for more information, please contact the MRWCC office or email youthrangedays@gmail.com



Southern Alberta Youth Range Days



SOUTHERN ALBERTA GRAZING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

IN THE BEAUTIFUL SETTING
OF LONGVIEW, ALBERTA



SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US
JULY 26-27,
2023



**KEEP MOOOO-KING
FOR WHEN
REGISTRATION OPENS**

Julie Landry-DeBoer 403-382-8568 julie.landry-deboer@ab-conservation.com

<https://www.facebook.com/GrazingSchools4Women>

Facebook@Grazing schools for women



cleanfarms
cleanfarms.ca | 403-942-6012

Grain Bags and Twine Prepare it Properly



✓ Yes!

Machine Rolled &
Secured with Twine



Clean & Bagged Twine

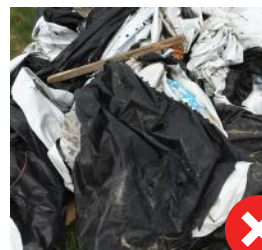


✗ No Thanks!

Hand-Rolled Bags



Loose Drop-Offs



Silage Tarps or Other



Net Wrap



Nylon Rope/Sisal Twine



Hay or Other Material





Preventing DUTCH ELM DISEASE

To prevent the spread of Dutch Elm Disease (DED), the province-wide pruning ban for all species of elm trees will be in effect from April 1 through to September 30, 2023. Residents are reminded to complete their elm tree upkeep by March 31 as pruning elm trees during the summer could provide entry sites for Elm Bark Beetles (EBB). EBB are a carrier of the DED fungus, and can possibly infect a healthy tree that's been cut.

Preventative pruning of dead, damaged or diseased elm trees or their limbs should be removed and properly

disposed of prior to April 1. For more information on the proper disposal of elms in Lethbridge, please visit the Yard Waste Recycling page on the city's website.

Residents are also reminded to watch for symptoms of Dutch Elm Disease on trees in their neighbourhoods. From mid-June through July the leaves on infected trees will wilt, curl up and turn brown. Leaves on trees infected late in the season will turn yellow and drop prematurely.

**Report
elm trees
displaying these
symptoms to the
Provincial Hotline:
1-877-837-ELMS
(3567).**




cleanfarms

**Effective January 1, 2025
This Pesticide & Fertilizer
Container Depot is
CLOSED**



**Please do not
leave here**

**Effective January 1, 2025, please return
your empty, triple-rinsed and bagged
jugs to your local ag dealer.**

**Please call ahead to confirm materials
collected at your local site.**



**SCAN TO LOCATE
A CLEANFARMS
CONTAINER
COLLECTION SITE**

**Bag seed treatment containers
separately, with caps on.
Rinse when possible.**

**Contact Cleanfarms for more info:
1-877-622-4460 or cleanfarms.ca**



BURNOUT

From sun up to sun down, a farmer's life is busy doing this and that and going here and there. Unlike someone with a 9 to 5 job, a farmer can't easily hang their hat at the end of the day because farming is a lifestyle, and your family might also be your employees. Sometimes, we get too busy and forget to take a step back and rest. That's when burnout can occur. Burnout happens when we feel physically exhausted and over-extended, really cynical and pessimistic, and we're not doing a good job keeping up with the constant demands.

WHAT IS BURNOUT?

Burnout is a form of exhaustion caused by constantly feeling swamped. Excessive emotional, physical and mental stress can make us feel overwhelmed, emotionally drained and unable to keep up with life's demands.

Burnout is more than just stress; it results from too much stress. People with burnout are more susceptible to the cold and flu, and not addressing it can set you on a path that leads to a breakdown.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR

Burnout isn't something that suddenly happens. It grows slowly over time from the stressors and demands of work, making the symptoms more difficult to notice. Many burnout symptoms can feel like symptoms of stress, but there are three ways to differentiate them:

- Feeling physically tired and emotionally drained
- Becoming pessimistic and cynical about work and cold toward others
- Feeling unable to do the job and starting to doubt the worth of what they do

CAUSES OF BURNOUT

Burnout isn't just a result of working long hours or juggling too much, although those do play a role. Burnout often happens when a person isn't in control of certain aspects of their job or how the work is carried out. Some of the more common causes of burnout include:

- Managing heavy workloads
- Feeling like you're being mistreated at work
- Having to follow new rules and regulations

- Dealing with unexpected equipment failures
- Facing immense deadline pressures

WHAT CAN YOU DO

Burnout isn't a medical condition that can be diagnosed, it's important that you understand what burnout is and how it can creep up on you -- especially during those busy times of the year like harvest. Here are a few things you can do:

- Reach out to others instead of withdrawing. We must have a robust social network to call on people to talk to when we are going through difficult times at work. Those 'water cooler moments' at work are more important than you think.
- Find something in your work that you find interesting and helps you renew your sense of purpose and value.
- Finish something that you've been meaning to get to -- nothing too big, just a task that lets you check off something from today's to-do list and gives you a sense of accomplishment.
- Watch that you don't increase your alcohol or coffee intake, as these can affect your mood if consumed excessively and make you feel more sluggish.