

THE COUNTY CHRONICLE

COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5



2024 FALL/WINTER 2025

Message from Reeve



Hi Everyone, I trust harvest went well for those who farm. The County was named a Signatory in the Water Sharing Agreements MOU's, working close with Watersmart and the Irrigation districts. Along with timely precipitation, our conservation efforts have paid off. We will be going into winter with reservoirs in good shape, and looking forward to a healthy snow pack for spring. The County, including all Towns, Villages and Hamlets, ended up using

21% less water than 2023. So thanks to all who helped to conserve water. Council have had meetings with Heath Minister, Environment, Ag and Irrigation and Forestry, trying to keep our local issues front of mind. Our MLA Grant Hunter has been a big help taking issues forward and setting meetings. Overall it has been a great year, with lots of work getting done for you. I want to thank Shawn Hathaway, Larry Liebelt, Jamie Meeks and all their staff for the great work they do for us.

Randy Taylor, Reeve



County of Warner No. 5



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E-SERVICE REQUEST FORMS AND AGREEMENTS

IMPORTANT DEADLINES 2025

You can find e-service request forms and agreements related to services provided by the Public Works and Agricultural Service Board Departments under the County Website.

E-Service Request Forms Public Works

- Approach Request Form
- Encroachment on Municipal Right of Way
- Road Crossing
- Roadside Haying
- Snow Check in Fields (Windrowing Right to Enter Agreement)
- Snow Fence Request Form/ Agreement

Ag Service Board Request Forms

- No Till Drill E-Service Rental
- Tree Moving Service
- Tree Spraying Service

Yard Gravel & Dust Suppression Requests

Deadline for requesting Gravel & Dust Suppression is **May 15th**.

The request forms can be found under the resident's tab on the County Website in January 2025. The form is removed from the Website May 15th. Calls that are received after May 15th will be notified of this deadline and informed of when to expect the form back on the Website

www.warnercounty.ca

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD

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**Robert & Audrey Taylor
Ranches receives
2024 Environmental
Stewardship Award**

Calgary, AB – Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is pleased to announce Taylor Ranches, owned and operated by Robert and Audrey Taylor and their family, as recipients of the 2024 Environmental Stewardship Award.

Robert and Audrey Taylor, along with two of their children – Courtney and Clayton – live and work along the Milk River Ridge, southwest of Warner, Alberta. Taylors’ two other children, Kyza, and Katrina, work off the ranch.

www.albertabeef.org • www.abpdaily.com



**Local Farm Family receives Award at 2024
Calgary Stampede - Congratulations to
Kim and Rochelle Owen Farm Family
They are the recipients of this year’s
2024 Farm Family Award**

The Calgary Stampede and BMO Bank of Montreal hosted the Farm Family Awards Ceremony during this year’s 2024 Stampede to deliver awards to the deserving Southern Albertan Recipients. The award recognizes 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.”

<https://ag.calgarystampede.com/events/bmo-farm-family-awards>

**Proud supporter of our
Agriculture Industry**



Here to Serve You!

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- Service Canada
- Immigration
- Veterans Affairs
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Phoenix Pay
- Old Age Services
- Canada Pension Plan

🍁 Certificates for Milestone Celebrations

GLEN MOTZ MP

Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner

403-528-4698

GLEN.MOTZ@PARL.GC.CA

/GlenMotz



County of Warner Public Works Fall 2024/Winter 2025

Public Works would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the ratepayers of the County of Warner for your continued support and cooperation during this past construction season. Our Public Works team has been hard at work throughout the spring and summer, maintaining roads and gravel pits. These essential projects ensure that our roadways remain in great condition, allowing producers and visitors to travel smoothly and safely.

As winter approaches, we kindly ask for your patience and caution during snow removal and plowing operations. The County covers a vast area with an extensive road network, and it takes time to clear all roads effectively and fairly.

Your ongoing support and patience are crucial in helping us keep our roads safe and accessible for everyone. Thank you for working with us to maintain safety throughout the year and for being our partners in safety!

When winter hits, in Alberta nearly 700 snowplows and other snow removal equipment, such as graders, work to keep Alberta's highways clear and open to traffic. Snow plow operators are committed to maintaining safe winter driving conditions, but drivers have a role to play too.



SURVIVING THE WINTER AS A PROVINCE: The Highway Doesn't Clear Itself

It's -40°C, and you're driving 100 km/h on the highway. It is a clear day, yet you see a flurry forming in the distance.

Through the snow, there are flashing amber and blue lights, and then a snowplow comes into view. What now?

Snowplow operators often work in times of poor visibility. If you are following too close, you could be driving blind and passing them is often extremely dangerous.

Drivers must not pass a snowplow when:

- the view along the side of the snowplow is obstructed



- passing would impede the operation of the snowplow
- the act of passing cannot be done safely

Snowplow operators clear roads whenever there are 3 or more cm

of snow, or when highways become icy. Sanders make the roads safer, and less slippery, to travel. They also inspect roads and file road reports to 511 Alberta so Albertans can plan their travel.

If you encounter a working snowplow or sander truck on the road, give them space until they can pull

over for you to safely pass. Patience is key. Operators will let you pass every 5 to 8 kilometers, or when it is safe to do so.

Between October 2023 and April 2024, there were 35 collisions involving snowplows contracted by the Alberta government.

Until September 1, 2023, only tow truck drivers and first responders were protected under the Traffic Safety Act. Now all roadside workers stopped on the side of the road, with their flashing lights activated, are covered by these protections. These protections also include new rules for safely passing snowplows.





WHAT'S NEW IN AG?

Alberta Crop Report 2024

Alberta Crop Report 2024

The Alberta Crop Report provides timely provincial and regional summaries of crop production in Alberta during the crop season.

The 2024 Crop Reporting Program is delivered through the partnership of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFS), and the Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen since 1940.

To read the full crop report scan this QR code



Follow @AlbertaAgriculture

310-FARM

(Previously known as Ag-Info Centre)

Sustainable CAP Overview Business risk management programs will continue to help producers manage significant risks that threaten the viability of their farm and are beyond their capacity to manage.

<https://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap>

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) Supports producers to conserve and enhance the environmental resiliency of their agricultural landscapes.

<https://www.alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program>

310-FARM resource agents are available to assist you with your inquiries or refer you to the appropriate department or industry resource.

Toll free: 310-FARM (3276) (in Alberta)



<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.

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR)

On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

RDAR update for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) which is now in its third year. The program, which supports producers with the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to enhance soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve farm resilience. In Warner County, 11 applications have been received across three BMP areas.

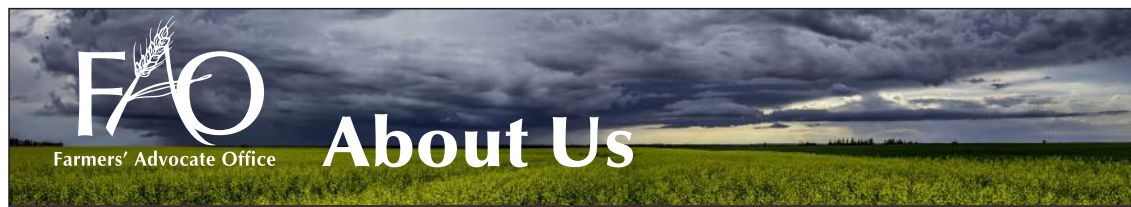
RDAR on the Road (ROTR) events showcasing RDAR programs, foster discussions on soil health and sustainable agricultural.

Events will be held in Rycroft (November 7th), Lacombe (November 18th), and Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede (November 21st).

Janada Hawthorne

RDAR Communications Lead

Phone 780-903-2734 • Cell 780-695-4208



FAO
Farmers' Advocate Office

About Us

Advocacy

The FAO assists by bridging the gap between rural Albertans and the provincial government, bringing the concerns of farmers and ranchers to decision-makers and advocating for legislative and policy change on behalf of rural communities and groups.

Rural concerns and dispute resolution

The FAO assists landowners on a broad range of issues that sometimes require in-depth intervention through meetings, site visits, facilitation, or mediation. Farmers and ranchers experiencing conflicts may contact the FAO for objective and unbiased ideas for resolving disputes.

AFSC reviews and legislated appeals

Upon request, the FAO can coordinate appeals under the Crop Insurance program and reviews of AgriStability decisions administered by Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). The FAO also coordinates appeals for various pieces of agriculture related legislation.

Farm and ranch insurance

The FAO coordinates appointed panels to handle farm safety insurance appeals under Part 0.1 of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA)*.

Nuisance complaints

Under Part 1 of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*, an appointed Panel, coordinated by the FAO, can review complaints related to odour, dust, noise, or smoke arising from an agricultural operation.

Water Well Restoration or Replacement Program (WWRRP)

If you suspect damage to your water well because of energy activities and settlement negotiations with the company have been unsuccessful, you can apply to the FAO for reimbursement of the costs of restoring or replacing the water source. Applicants must first obtain an investigation report from the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER).

Energy, utilities and surface rights

The FAO is a resource for farmers and ranchers affected by energy and utility developments. The FAO empowers Alberta landowners with knowledge by providing information and advice on legislation and policy, and landowner rights and responsibilities. When disputes arise between landowners and industry, the FAO can assist with mediation and dispute resolution services.

Farm Implement and Dealership Act

The *Farm Implement and Dealership Act* helps protect the investment farmers make in their machinery. FAO staff, the Farm Implement Inspector, and the Farm Implement Board work to settle warranty complaints and address situations involving breach of lease/sale agreements or machinery performance issues. The FAO also licenses Alberta's farm implement dealers and distributors.



Farmers' Advocate Office
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6

Farmers' Advocate Office



RDAR ON THE ROAD

NOVEMBER 21, 2024 | MEDICINE HAT, AB

Join the conversation about agriculture in southern Alberta and:

- Learn about RDAR's funding opportunities
- Contribute to the discussion about the region's needs and concerns
- Learn from your peers about how they're applying practices on their farms

Come share your challenges & insights on soil health >

Lunch provided





The Egg Farmers of Alberta will be hosting an Emergency Preparedness Session for all registered egg producers at the Agriculture Service Board building October 29, 2024. Please contact the Egg Board office to register. Egg Farmers of Alberta represents the province's more than 165 registered egg farmers, who are dedicated to providing Albertans with a stable supply of fresh, high quality, nutritious, locally produced eggs.

Brandy Addai
Emergency Preparedness & Response
Coordinator
 403-250-1197 x 128
Emergency Line: 368-996-3447
www.eggs.ab.ca
 #101, 90 Freepoint Blvd NE, Calgary, AB T3J 5J9



TAXES ARE DUE

The County of Warner would like to remind everyone that property taxes are due November 30, 2024 in order to avoid penalties.

Acceptable payment methods include online banking through ATB, BMO, CIBC, Credit Union, Scotia Bank, and TD. Debit and cash are accepted during office hours at the Administration Office, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Credit card payment can be 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. If the cheques are mailed the envelope should be postmarked by Canada Post no later than November 30, 2024 (a postage imprint is not an acceptable proof for date of mailing). There is a night deposit located just right of the main entrance doors to drop off cheques after-hours.

A 6% penalty fee is added on December 1 to any outstanding balances. An additional 8% penalty is added on January 1 to any outstanding balances.

We look forward to your yearly visit and if you have any questions, please contact the office at 403-642-3635.

Community Benefit Fund

Stirling Wind Project and the County of Warner are pleased to inform you about the Community Benefit Fund. This fund will allocate a maximum of \$9,783.00 annually to community projects, events, or other one-time capital improvements that will benefit residents of the County of Warner.

Funding will be allocated through an open application process. Eligible organizations or parties include registered charitable organizations, registered or incorporated not-for-profit organizations, schools, and other individuals or groups as deemed appropriate.

To learn more about the Community Benefit Fund, please visit the County website at: warnercounty.ca/p/community-benefit-fund to read the Guidelines and to find the application form.

Application deadline: March 1



**Stirling
Wind Project**

Coming Soon: Fire Bylaw Update Burning Barrels Prohibited in Hamlets

Council will be banning Acceptable Incinerators (Burning Barrels) in the Hamlet of Wrentham and the Hamlet of New Dayton. This means you will no longer be allowed to use a Burning Barrel to burn any waste in the hamlets.

This will be enforced starting January 1, 2025. Breaking this rule is an offence and the person lighting a fire in an incinerator or burning barrel in a hamlet can receive a fine of **\$500** and be responsible for the costs of fire services.

You can still light a fire in an Acceptable Fire Pit, Acceptable Fireplace or a Portable Appliance for the purpose of **recreation or cooking**.

If you have any questions, please call the County Administration Office at 403-642-3635.



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. (trial basis for 2024)

Types of waste accepted:

- Domestic garbage (not including toxic or hazardous waste)
- White goods (household appliances)
- Burnable materials
- Metal
- Tires
- Electronics
- Paint
- Oil



Masinasin

NW 27-2-13 W4

24-hour access

Types of waste accepted:

- Domestic garbage (not including toxic or hazardous waste, or yard waste such as grass clippings and fallen branches)

Wrentham

NW 23-6-17 W4

Friday 11:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

Types of waste accepted:

- Domestic garbage (not including toxic or hazardous waste)
- Burnable materials





Check Your Grain Bins!

Monitor grain bins closely during the first six weeks after harvest and then continue to periodically check them regularly until delivery as disease and arthropod pests can quickly multiply in favourable conditions which create storage issues resulting in quality degradation.

This is especially important for higher risk grain bins such as those with insufficient aeration, higher temperatures, high moisture, high dockage or green crops.

To check the status of the stored crops in bins:

1. Cycle: The preferred method is to remove about a third of the crop and shift this into another storage. This process interrupts the moisture cycle and limits further heating or spoilage that may have begun in the central core of the bin. While unloading the crop, feel and smell the product as it comes out of the bin to inspect for spoilage. This is a good option if your bin lacks temperature sensors, and allows the measurement of internal bin temperatures. Grain will typically warm at increased rates close to the walls and top of the bin.

2. Bin monitoring cables: Provides a means to quickly assess the internal temperatures of bins (and possibly moistures) at nodes throughout the bin. One cable has a range of 20-24 feet, bins with an internal diameter greater than 24 feet will need at least three cables to adequately monitor grain temperature.

3. Probes: Probing through door or roof accesses may be a means to assess localized hot spots near the port, but it cannot reflect the internal conditions. Always be aware of safety concerns while monitoring these accesses, wear personal protective devices such as a harness and inform others if you will be climbing the bins or entering them.



FARMER PESTICIDE CERTIFICATE COURSE



UPCOMING DATES:

December 12, 2024

January 16, 2025

February 6, 2025

LOCATION & TIME:

COUNTY OF WARNER AG SERVICE BOARD

MEETING ROOM

8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

The Cost is \$65 - this covers the course materials and lunch.

The Farmer Pesticide Certification course is a tool intended to help farmers to reduce risks associated with pesticide use and is mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require a certificate. Pesticides play a vital role in modern farming in Alberta. Used properly, they are an effective method of protecting crops and livestock. However, if used incorrectly, these chemicals have the potential to cause serious harm to people and the environment. It is therefore essential that farmers use pesticides in the most professional manner, to ensure that unintended adverse effects are kept to a minimum.

Who Needs to be Certified?

- Any farmer that wishes to apply restricted chemicals to their grain or land. i.e. Weevil-Cide
- Any farmer who has a certificate that was issued prior to 2019 wishes to continue using restricted chemicals needs to retake the course.

Why do I need to re-take the course?

Under new priorities and legislation, the Farmer Pesticide Course is no longer under the direction of Lakeland or Olds Colleges. A new course has been designed that expires 5 years after the date the certificate is issued. There is not a condensed re-certification course, only the original core course that needs to be re-taken every 5 years.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR BINS REGULARLY TO PREVENT INSECT INFESTATION. FUMIGATION IS A LAST RESORT; HOWEVER, THE FARMER PESTICIDE COURSE GIVES YOU THE CERTIFICATE TO APPLY FUMIGANTS.

If you have any questions about the new Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course, please contact the County of Warner Ag Service Board at 403-642-2255.

Pre-registration is required for this course; please call the Ag Service Board.



Little Fish, Big Stewardship

Jill Makins, BIT
Riparian Stewardship Coordinator
 Milk River Watershed Council Canada
 Box 313, 240 Main St. Milk River, AB T0K1M0
 403-647-4310
 jill@mrwcc.ca
 mrwcc.ca



The Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC) is working with the Riparian Management Society also known as Cows and Fish and local landowners on the Little Fish, Big Stewardship project.

Funding is being provided in part by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) through the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR). This project aims to improve riparian and in-stream habitat for at-risk fish species in the Milk River watershed. This will be accomplished by supporting local landowners in implementing Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). These include:

- Livestock watering systems (portable and permanent)
- Portable electric fencing and permanent riparian fencing
- Riparian grazing management plans
- Riparian restoration, such as willow planting
- Erosion control methods

Riparian areas are the green zones adjacent to water. They are important for water quality, water temperature, water storage, wildlife, and fish habitat. They also provide forage, shelter, and water for livestock. BMP's help manage grazing pressure in these areas. The project offers cost sharing to make landowner's ideas for beneficial changes to the riparian area a reality.

The two at-risk fish species in the Milk River that we are focusing on are the Western Silvery Minnow and the Rocky Mountain Sculpin. We have set-up temperature data loggers at seven sites in the Milk River to monitor river temperature. This data will help us to understand habitat suitability for different fish species, as each species has their own range of temperatures that they can live and thrive in.

We are excited to be working with landowners on this project. Contact us, to have your part in creating a legacy of habitat conservation for species at risk!

Marnel Müller
Riparian Specialist
 Cows and Fish (Riparian Management Society)
 2nd floor, Avial Building, 530 8th Street S
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cowsandfish.org



THE GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

Milk River Ridge Reservoir

September 19, 2024

The grade 7 classes of Stirling and Raymond joined the County of Warner to help cleanup the shoreline of Ridge Reservoir. The morning consisted of 150 students, along with teachers and other volunteers to pickup bags of litter along the east shores of the reservoir.



The day also included an educational tour around the West Ridge Reservoir Nutrient Settlement Pond with Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) staff. This wetland enhancement project was undertaken with financial support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Cleanup is an initiative of the Vancouver Aquarium as part of International Coastal Cleanup, a global program managed by the Ocean Conservancy. Items collected will be sorted, tallied, and submitted as part of their on-going data collection.

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup is now recognized as one of the largest direct action conservation programs in Canada. The Vancouver Aquarium and WWF-Canada are committed to growing the program to achieve our mission: to inspire Canadians to keep all shorelines free of litter.

Last year, volunteers coordinated **1,950 cleanup sites** and collected **10,891 bags** of litter on **3,035 km** of Canadian shoreline.

Phase II: Nutrient Settlement Pond

Phase II of the Nutrient Settlement Pond was completed in the Spring of 2024

This project was brought together by the efforts of EcoAction Community Funding Program, County of Warner, Raymond Ag Society and Alberta Conservation Association.



Construction of Phase II with additions of floating islands, and planting of sandbar willow cuttings by the Raymond High School were completed as enhancements to this series of nutrient settlement ponds. The ponds were designed for the removal of excess nutrients with the goal to further improve the overall water quality and ecosystem health of the Reservoir. Part of the second phase also included placement of approximately 40 nesting boxes around the reservoir.



Nesting Boxes



Floating Islands



Raymond High School Tree Planting Day



Willow cuttings



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
 Ce projet a été réalisé avec le soutien financier de :

Programmes de financement pour l'environnement



Environmental Funding Programs

FaRM Program Links Farms and Tries Ideas

The following is an excerpt. For the full article, to learn about different projects, or to get involved in 2025, please contact Ashley@farmingsmarter.com.

By Ashley Wagenaar, Farming Smarter Conservation Agronomist

Ten farms dove into on-farm research to answer a specific question related to farm practices with the support of professional researchers at Farming Smarter.

A major challenge in the adoption of new practices is to figure out what works on a farm's operation. To address this, Farming Smarter launched a new program this year under the national Farm Resilience Mentorship Program.

Our program focuses on building the relationships with farms interested in learning, accessing resources, sharing, and building project ideas for good on-farm research and adoption.

The projects included planting different barley populations as a nurse crop to protect emerging canola, intercropping wheat and peas to attempt to boost silage protein content, evaluating potatoes direct planted into fall rye, under-seeding annual rye to a barley and pea hay crop for organic matter buildup and soil cover, testing nitrogen inhibitor products in wheat strip trials, and



Ashley Wagenaar examines an early season dig of potatoes direct planted into fall rye at Grassy Lake Potatoes farm. Credit: Farming Smarter.

evaluating fall cover crop options with various cereal species and planting dates.

Each project was tailored to specific topic a farm wanted to understand to improve the resilience of their cropping system. Find more information on these 10 projects at FarmingSmarter.com this fall once harvest wraps up.

BEET THE COMPETITION!



FARMING SMARTER
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

Feb 12 & 13 | 2025

Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



TESTING WATER QUALITY

is important for many agricultural uses

In rural Canada, most people rely on private water supplies such as wells, dugouts and ponds. Monitoring your water quality by having it tested regularly is an important part of maintaining a safe and reliable source.

Testing the water allows a knowledgeable approach to address the specific problems of a water supply. This helps ensure that the water source is being properly protected from potential contamination, and that an appropriate treatment system is selected and is operating properly.

It is important to test the suitability of your water quality for its intended purpose, whether it is livestock watering, irrigation, spraying, or drinking water. This will assist you in making informed decisions about your water and how you use it. The Rural Water Quality Information Tool (RWQIT) is an on-line tool which assesses the quality and suitability of raw water sources for privately owned and operated water supplies. The purpose of this section of RWQIT is to provide water quality testing information that will assist rural residents using a private water supply. It provides information on the importance of water quality monitoring and how you can get it tested.

WHY TEST MY WATER?

Regular testing is necessary to determine specific water quality problems.

- To help ensure you are using water suitable for your intended agricultural use.
- To help ensure that your drinking water is safe.
- To help determine the effectiveness of your water treatment system.

The quality of a water source may change over time, sometimes suddenly. Many changes can go unnoticed as the water may look, smell and taste the same as it always did.

Monitoring your water quality is necessary to ensure your treatment system is working effectively, providing the best quality water for your intended use.

ARE THERE PROBLEMS WITH MY WATER QUALITY?

The water you are using may or may not have problems with it. Many people are aware of some of their water quality problems. For example, some people may be plagued with high concentrations of iron, which causes aesthetically displeasing colouring and staining.

Unfortunately, not all water quality problems can be easily detected without proper testing. The water may look good but may actually be unsuitable for the specific application you are using it for.

Proper sampling, testing and interpretation of the results are required to determine the suitability of your water supply and identify any problems it may have.

GETTING MY WATER TESTED

Before you can get a laboratory to test your water you need to be able to tell them what tests you want done. Many laboratories are able to help assist you in selecting appropriate tests depending on your situation.

Information regarding agricultural water quality is available from both federal and provincial departments of agriculture. If you are unsure about the tests re-

quired or need additional advice you may contact the department of agriculture, your provincial water/environmental agency, or your local health department for further assistance depending on the type of information you require. Some provincial agencies have water quality programs in which you can get your water analyzed at a reduced cost. They may also be able to advise you about accredited laboratories which test water. Most telephone books which you can view at your local library list "Laboratories, Analytical" in the yellow pages.

Whichever laboratory you choose to test your water, ask them about their accreditation, quality control program, and how much it will cost to perform the analysis. They will send you the necessary sample bottles and instructions. Read the instructions carefully and follow them exactly. Some tests require that the samples are shipped cool and normally arrive at the lab within 24 hours of the sample collection. The test for coliform bacteria is one example that must meet this shipping protocol.

TESTS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

Water quality is important for many agricultural uses such as livestock watering, irrigation, and spraying. Reference materials, including manuals and booklets, along with federal/provincial water quality guidelines can provide information on the type of water quality required for specific agricultural uses.

Water quality guidelines provide a list of important water quality parameters with their associated tolerance levels for specific uses.

Many of the commercial laboratories offer test packages that are tailored to a particular agricultural application such as irrigation or livestock suitability. These types of packages can be convenient in ordering tests suitable for your particular water uses.

ADVANCED IRRIGATION SUITABILITY

Advanced irrigation suitability packages include additional water quality and soil tests required for specific on-site conditions. For instance information regarding the soil texture and chemistry, crop type, and method of irrigation (i.e. drip irrigation vs. sprinkler) all can impact the suitability of a given water source.

LIVESTOCK

Although a basic livestock suitability package provides the primary water quality parameters of importance, a customized advanced suitability package can be required depending on the livestock type or specific on-site considerations.

The interaction between the quality of both the feed and water should be considered in maximizing livestock productivity and health.

ADVANCED LIVESTOCK SUITABILITY

Although many of the same water quality parameters are used to assess the suitability of a given water supply for various types of livestock specific on-site considerations are often required. Examples of this are information regarding the type and breed of livestock, age, local environmental site conditions and quality of the feed that need to be considered to assess the suitability of livestock water.

The intake of nutrients and minerals from both the water and feed source



require evaluation to ensure livestock are receiving appropriate levels of these parameters.

Much livestock watering literature can be found through the federal and provincial departments of agriculture as well as many industry and producer associations and organizations.

Please contact a livestock specialist or water specialist for specific information regarding advanced livestock suitability of a given water source.

SPRAY WATER

Basic Spray Water Suitability. The water quality of spray mix water can significantly reduce the performance of some types of herbicides. Spray water quality information can be found through the federal and provincial departments of agriculture as well as many industry and producer associations and organizations. Chemical companies can often provide information and advice regarding the mix water as well.

IS MY WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

If you do not monitor your water quality by having it tested at an accredited laboratory, you cannot tell whether your drinking water is safe or not.

Harmful bacteria, parasites, and viruses are invisible to the naked eye, so water that looks and tastes good may not necessarily be safe to drink. These microbes can exist in both ground and surface water supplies, and can cause immediate health effects if not properly treated for.

People often think that if they have not been sick for a while that there are no concerns with their water quality. Certain chemical contaminants that are sometimes found in a water source can cause long term health problems that may take years to develop. This stresses the importance of having an effective treatment system in place to ensure that your water is being treated to a satisfactory level.

TESTS FOR DRINKING WATER

There are many useful tests available to help determine the health, safety and performance of your water supply depending upon its type and location. Your local health department can assist you in selecting tests important for assessing your drinking water.

A number of commercial laboratories carry different water quality packages that include a variety of tests to assess water potability.

For more detailed information on agricultural water, visit

<https://www.alberta.ca/agricultural-water.aspx>

If you would like more information about testing your water, or if you need assistance please contact the Ag Service Board at 403-642-2255.

Report rabies exposure or disease

Exposure: if you suspect a pet or other domestic animal has been exposed to rabies or has had potential contact with a bat or other wildlife, including skunks and raccoons:

Disease: if you suspect your animal has rabies:

1. Isolate it so that it cannot come into contact with people or other animals

2. Contact your veterinarian

You can also contact the Alberta Rabies Program at:
Phone: **1-844-427-6847**

Contact County of Warner Agricultural Service Board @
403-642-2255 for Rabies concerns in our County or visit
<https://www.alberta.ca/rabies-in-animals>

REGISTER NOW for the Alberta Invasive Species new Rat on Rats! Virtual Forum on November 5th, 2024 at 11AM!

The Alberta Invasive Species Council will be hosting a virtual forum for the new Rat on Rats campaign in Alberta on November 5th, 2024 at 11AM! We will talk with experts in the field about the history of the Alberta Rat Control Program, how we stay rat-free in the province, lessons learned from infestations and other areas, and how we move forward. Speakers confirmed for the forum are:

- Karen Wickerson, Rat and Pest Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
- Lisa Sulz, Agricultural Supervisor, Cypress County
- Ted Stenson, Writer and Filmmaker
- Chuck Barger, Georgia resident dealing with rats

Register for FREE here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wajp3laSS7KNA1PhxoF1bA



Rat Control in Alberta

Alberta is proudly “rat-free”

This means we have zero tolerance for rats. There are no permanent populations of rats, and we do not allow them to establish themselves. Sometimes a few “hitchhike” into the province and we deal with them quickly.

Why is it important for Alberta to stay rat-free?

Rats are invasive pests that pose a risk to human health, property and the economy. They can:

- Consume and contaminate crops and food
- Spread dangerous diseases to people and other animals
- Damage buildings and electrical wires

How do we stay rat-free?

We stay vigilant. Many groups work together to ensure we retain our status, including Alberta’s rat control staff, pest control officers, farmers, landowners and municipalities.

What do I do if I see a rat in Alberta?

If you see a rat, report it!

If possible, safely take a picture of the rat, note the location, and email the information to: rats@gov.ab.ca or call 310-FARM (3276).

The two types of rats we are concerned about in Alberta are the Norway and Roof rats (pictured above).

Note any droppings, burrows or other possible signs.

It is illegal to own pet rats in Alberta.

How can we prevent rat infestations?

If travelling out of province, always watch for signs of rats upon your return. Rats can hitch rides in cars, trucks and holiday trailers into Alberta. They are often hungry and dehydrated when they arrive and will seek out food and water. They often start to nest under the hood of a vehicle.

Remove garbage, clutter or possible sources of food and be aware of any potential shelters.

Rat infestation signs:

- Burrows: cylindrical entrances about five to eight centimeters (two-to-three inches), clean of debris and soil.
- Trails: well-beaten paths to food or water sources about five centimeters (two inches wide).
- Droppings: about the size of an olive pit (1.25-1.5 cm) with blunt ends and shiny black in colour.
- Chew marks: larger scrapes than mice, and found on wood, paper or partially eaten food.



Norway rat (top)
Roof rat (bottom)



Mouse feces (left)
Rat feces (right)

<https://www.alberta.ca/albertas-rat-control-program>
©2024 Government of Alberta | September 10, 2024 | Agriculture and Irrigation

Alberta

Classification: Public

Canada Thistle

Cirsium arvense (aka Creeping thistle)

Last Updated April 2023

Provincial Designation:
Noxious



Photo credits: Nicole Kimmel, Government of Alberta

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.

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 colour of the flowers may vary from plant to plant, being purple, pink or white.

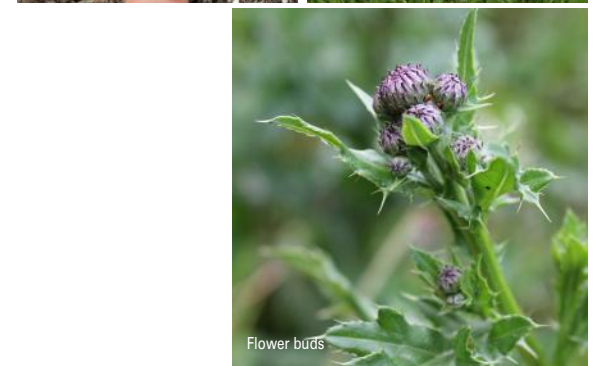
Seed: Seeds are borne in an achene 2 to 4 mm long which is tufted to aid in wind dispersal. Most seeds germinate within a year, but buried seed can stay dormant for up to 20 years.

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: 2,4-D, Aminopyralid, Chlorsulfuron, Clopyralid, Dicamba, Glyphosate Hexazinone, Metsulfuron-methyl, MCPA and Picloram are some of the herbicides registered for use on Canada thistle. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Always read and follow label directions. 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.



Flower buds

BIG NEWS: The Farm Safety Centre is evolving into Heartland Training & Support Hub!

We're expanding our mission to include more than farm safety, offering additional services to meet the evolving needs of farmers and rural communities.

Rest assured, our commitment to farm safety and existing programs remains as strong as ever. Join us on this journey of growth and broader support.

Go to the new site now! <https://www.heartlandsupport.ca/>



Toolbox Talk



Talk Led By: _____ Date: _____
 Site/Location: _____ Time: _____
 Weather Report/Conditions: _____
 High: _____ °C Wind Speed: _____ km/hr
 Low: _____ °C Wind Gusts: _____ km/hr

The Importance of Load Securement

Improper load securement can be deadly, regardless of whether something happens on your own property or on a public road. The hazards can include the load leaking, shifting, or even falling off.

When hazards present themselves during transport, the stability and handling of the vehicle hauling the load may be affected.

In addition, there is often confusion surrounding the Alberta Traffic Safety Act, load securement, and how it applies to farmers. It may be helpful to contact your local county office for help to better understand how the Alberta Traffic Safety Act is applied to farms. Your municipal or county office may be able to offer guidance on the subject or put you in contact with a Community Peace Officer who enforces the Traffic Safety Act.

Some helpful tips for load securement include:

- Using the right type and amount of securement equipment
- Only using tiedowns that are marked with the Working Load Limit
- Pre-inspecting tie downs for damage or defects and removing any faulty straps
- When hauling a load, performing periodic inspections while in transit to adjust the cargo or load securement devices as necessary



If any of the information here raises questions for you or others on your farm, it is recommended that you talk to your employer and/or take a load securement training course from a reputable trainer in your area.

WHAT COULD GO WRONG WHILE HAULING OR SECURING LOADS?

Ask yourself these questions and identify ways to prevent it from happening:

- Could a load shift/roll/spill/fall off?
- Could someone decide not to use load securement equipment or use load securement equipment improperly?
- Could someone decide not to use blocking/bracing/chocks to prevent movement of the load?
- Could someone use weak or inappropriate anchor points, underrated load securement equipment, the wrong type of load securement devices, or damaged straps/load securement devices?
- Is it possible for someone to secure a load without the proper training?
- Could straps become cut or worn while rubbing against sharp edges during transport?

DID YOU KNOW? | ONLINE CRIME REPORTING (OCR)

Online Crime Reporting provides an alternative way for New Brunswickers in an RCMP area of jurisdiction to report certain non-emergency crimes without calling the police or visiting a detachment.

Online crime reporting is not intended to replace other forms of reporting crime. Always call 911 in an emergency. The RCMP non-emergency line is 1-888-506-RCMP.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The easy-to-use website guides you through a series of questions to provide the police with information about your incident.

At the end, you will receive an email confirmation with an incident number and a report, which can be used for insurance purposes.

Completing the report takes about 15 minutes.

All reports submitted via OCR are reviewed by the RCMP and entered into the RCMP's record management system.

A police officer will contact you if more information is required.

WHY SHOULD I USE OCR?

- It's available 24/7.
- There's no need to visit or call a detachment.
- It provides a report that can be used for insurance purposes.
- It contributes important information to assess crime trends.

DO NOT USE OCR IF:

- The stolen property includes firearms, credit cards, or personal identification (e.g., driver's licence or passport).
- The value of stolen or damaged property exceeds \$5,000.
- There are witnesses or video evidence of the crime.
- Incidents that do not meet the criteria for OCR are directed to the RCMP's non-emergency line 1-888-506-RCMP.
- Call police or 911 immediately if the incident is still in progress, or if it is an emergency.

FILING A FALSE POLICE REPORT IS A CRIME

VISIT RCMP-GRC.GC.CA/NB and click on Online Crime Reporting.

WHAT CAN I REPORT USING OCR?

- Animal Call
- Damage/Mischief Under \$5000 to Property
- Damage/Mischief Under \$5000 to Vehicle
- Driving Complaint
- Found Property
- Hate Motivated Incident
- Hate Motivated Incident - Online
- Hit and Run to Property
- Hit and Run to Unoccupied Vehicle
- Hit and Run to Unoccupied Vehicle or Property
- Lost Licence Plates or Decals
- Lost Property
- Stolen Licence Plates or Decals
- Theft of Bicycle Under \$5000
- Theft Under \$5000
- Theft Under \$5000 from Vehicle

MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUUM MODEL

HEALTHY	REACTING	INJURED	ILL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal mood fluctuations • Calm and takes things in stride • Good sense of humour • Performing well • In control mentally • Normal sleep patterns • Few sleep difficulties • Physically well • Good energy level • Physically and socially active • No or limited alcohol use / gambling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritable / impatient • Sadness/overwhelmed • Displaced sarcasm • Procrastination • Forgetfulness • Trouble sleeping • Intrusive thoughts • Nightmares • Muscle tension / headaches • Low energy • Decreased activity / socializing • Regular but controlled alcohol use / gambling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anger • Anxiety • Pervasively sad / hopeless • Negative attitude • Poor performance / workaholic • Poor concentration / decisions • Restless, disturbed sleep • Recurrent images / nightmares • Increased aches and pains • Increased fatigue • Avoidance • Withdrawal • Increased alcohol use / gambling is hard to control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angry outbursts / aggression • Excessive anxiety / panic attacks • Depressed / suicidal thoughts • Over insubordination • Can't perform duties, control behaviour or concentrate • Can't fall asleep or stay asleep • Sleeping too much or too little • Physical illnesses • Constant fatigue • Not going out or answering phone • Alcohol or gambling addiction • Other addictions

Source: Canadian Armed Forces

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 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



Return empty ag jugs to retail Call for hours of operation

All municipal ag jug depots to close by December 31, 2024



Cleanfarms 2024 Unwanted Pesticides & Old Livestock/Equine Medications Collection

Southern Alberta – October 21st to 25th

Farmers! Got unwanted pesticides or livestock/equine medications?

Safely dispose of unwanted or obsolete agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications – no charge! Take them to the following locations on the dates noted between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

BARNWELL Tuesday, Oct. 22 Independent Crop Inputs Inc. N.W. of 27-9-17 West of Hwy. 4, 94035 Range Rd. 17-3, TOK O80	CARSELAND Monday, Oct. 21 Cargill 263026 Township Rd. 221, Corner Hwy. 24 & Agrium Rd., TOJ OMO	FORT MACLEOD Wednesday, Oct. 23 Nutrien Ag Solutions 250 Boyle Ave., TOL O20	LETHBRIDGE COUNTY Tuesday, Oct. 22 Parrish & Heimbecker Wilson Siding 75006 Hwy. 845, TIK 8G9	THREE HILLS Tuesday, Oct. 22 Richardson Pioneer 503 - 3rd St. S.W., TOM 2A0
BARNONS Thursday, Oct. 24 South Country Co-op Ltd. 123014 Range Rd. 234, TOL O60	DRUMHELLER Monday, Oct. 21 Kneehill Soil Services Ltd. 700 South Railway Ave. W., TOJ OY0	HANNA Wednesday, Oct. 23 Hanna UFA Farm & Ranch Supply Store 601 1st Ave. W., TOJ 1P0	LOMOND Monday, Oct. 21 South Country Co-op Ltd. 115 Railway Ave., TOL 1G0	VETERAN Friday, Oct. 25 Richardson Pioneer 400 Waterloo St., TOC 250
BENALTO Friday, Oct. 25 AgroPlus Inc. 38531 Range Rd. 2-4, TOM OHO	DUNMORE Thursday, Oct. 24 AgroPlus Inc. 2269 - 2nd Ave., #22, TIB OK3	HIGH RIVER Friday, Oct. 25 Nutrien Ag Solutions 498012 - 122 St. E., TIV 1M3	OLDS Wednesday, Oct. 23 Olds UFA Farm & Ranch Supply Store 4334-46th Ave., T4H 1A2	WARNER Monday, Oct. 21 Nutrien Ag Solutions Junction Hwy. 4 & Hwy. 36, 1/2 mile N. on the Access Rd., TOK 2L0
BROOKS Friday, Oct. 25 South Country Co-op Ltd. 7th St. and Industrial Rd., TIR 1B9	FOREMOST Wednesday, Oct. 23 AgroPlus Inc. 199 1st Ave. W., TOK OX0	HUSSAR Tuesday, Oct. 22 Richardson Pioneer 151 Railway Ave., TOJ 1S0	OYEN Thursday, Oct. 24 Richardson Pioneer 1 mile East on Hwy. 41, TOJ 2J0	Partner



* Next Cleanfarms collection in these areas in 2027.
* For collection dates elsewhere, go to: cleanfarms.ca/materials/unwanted-pesticides-animal-meds/

Cleanfarms.ca
info@cleanfarms.ca @cleanfarms



Grain Bags and Twine Prepare it Properly



Yes!

Machine Rolled & Secured with Twine



Clean & Bagged Twine

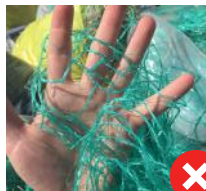


No Thanks!

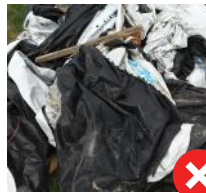
Hand-Rolled Bags



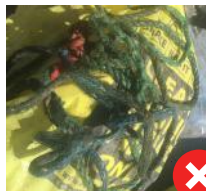
Net Wrap



Loose Drop-Offs



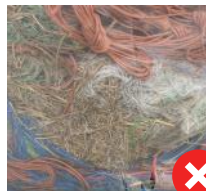
Nylon Rope/Sisal Twine



Silage Tarps or Other



Hay or Other Material



PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO SCHEDULE A DROP OFF COLLECTING GRAIN BAGS & TWINE

Alberta The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

ATTENTION

Pesticide Container Sites are Officially Closed

DECEMBER 31, 2024

RETURN ALL EMPTY CHEMICAL CONTAINERS TO YOUR LOCAL RETAIL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://cleanfarms.ca>

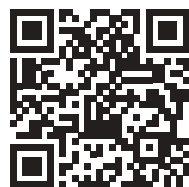
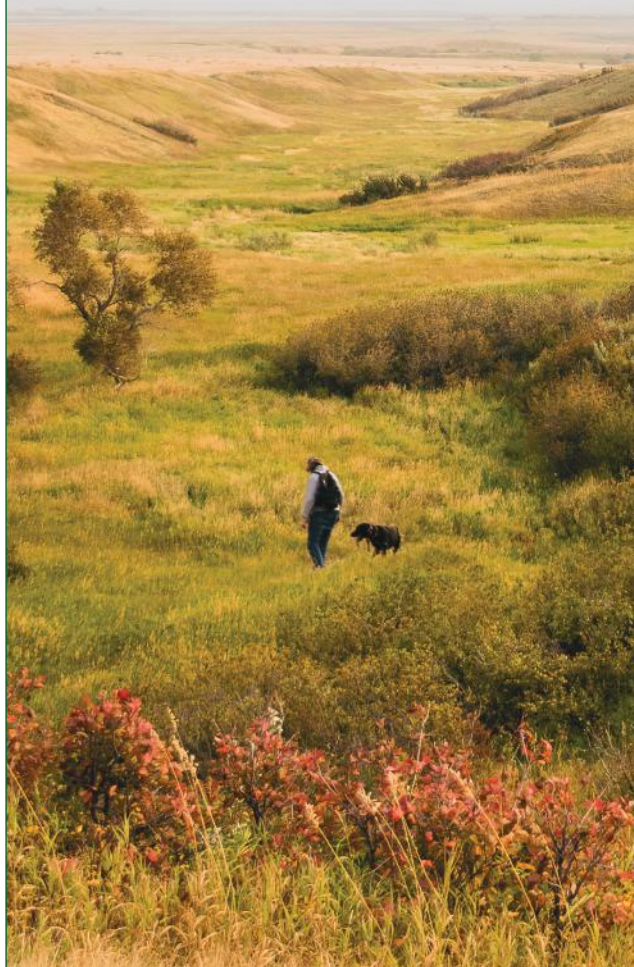




Alberta Conservation
Association

wildlife | fish | habitat

It's an Alberta thing.



Our Vision

An Alberta with an abundance and diversity of wildlife, fish and their habitats; where future generations continue to use, enjoy and value our rich outdoor heritage.

www.ab-conservation.com



ALBERTA LANDOWNER PROGRAMS

When landowners and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) work together, it's a win-win. There are several DUC landowner programs available that can become an integral part of your long-term land management plan that can help achieve your sustainability and conservation goals.

DUC Forage Program

DUC assists producers in reducing input costs associated with the conversion of cultivated lands into perennial forage. On eligible lands, DUC pays \$65 per acre, with an additional rebate of \$100 per 50lb bag on all seed purchases through Nutrien dealerships. Forage crops do more than offer sustainable haying and grazing options for livestock. They also provide critical vegetative cover that serves as nesting habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Wetland Restoration Lease Program

DUC provides financial compensation to landowners for the restoration of previously drained wetlands. Restored wetlands remain under the landowner's management through a ten-year lease agreement. These wetlands can be used for haying or grazing and are safeguarded against drainage or other alterations during the lease term. DUC's lease is based on fair market value and provides substantial compensation for landowners. Restored wetlands are not only crucial wildlife habitats but are proven to mitigate the impacts of droughts and floods during extreme weather events. They enhance water quality, recharge local aquifers and provide producers with a dependable source of forage and stock water.

Revolving Land Conservation Program (RLCP)

DUC acquires land parcels, restores their wetlands and grasslands, and resells them with a Conservation Easement (CE) on title. Proceeds from land sales are reinvested into DUC programs to support ongoing conservation efforts. The RLCP offers cost-effective opportunities for new and expanding cattle operations.

Winter Cereals

DUC partners with Alberta growers to increase their profitability and yield potential by offering incentives to grow fall rye, triticale or winter wheat. Eligible producers can access \$20/acre and agronomic support by participating in the Alberta Winter Cereals Incentive Program. **Eligibility is based on location and a cap of 250 acres per operation.**

Conservation Easement (CE) Program

DUC perpetually helps preserve the natural integrity and features of a property through this program, while ensuring landowners can continue to pursue their business on the land. CEs place restrictions on the type and extent of development that can occur, while landowners retain the management rights, including permitted activities such as haying and grazing. Eligible lands can qualify for financial compensation, which is based on fair market value.

Rangeland Improvement Program


DUC enrolls native or tame pasturelands associated with wetland habitat. The overall goal of the program is to ensure these habitats remain intact, while rewarding landowners for their stewardship of the land. DUC provides compensation for eligible lands, with no limitations on how the funds can be used. This ten-year term agreement will protect the land from habitat loss, with no management restrictions or caveats on the land title.

Marginal Areas Program (MAP)

DUC offers a financial solution to unproductive land in annual cropped fields through perennial forages. MAP can be an answer to salinity, hard to access parcels and other recurring hurdles. Program participants manage forage areas at their discretion, to suit their operational needs. Eligible cooperators can receive a cash incentive of \$150 per restored acre and the option to select pollinator friendly species from a pollinator power pack. **Eligibility is based on location and a cap of 40 acres per quarter section.**

1-866-479-3825

du_edmonton@ducks.ca

 Ducks Unlimited Canada-Alberta

Learn more at ag.ducks.ca





Buy local, burn local • Don't Move Firewood • Dutch elm disease

Elm firewood is one of the largest spreaders of elm bark beetles that can carry Dutch Elm Disease. Beetles can hitch a ride on infected elm firewood and be carried by unsuspecting campers and homeowners.

Elm pruning ban lifts October 1

In Alberta, pruning elms can only be carried out between October 1 and March 31. Preventative pruning is a systematic removal of dead, damaged, or diseased branches from healthy elm trees, which is essential to eliminate breeding material for the elm bark beetles.

Dutch elm disease (DED) is a costly, deadly disease that

affects all species of elm trees in Alberta. Alberta has the largest DED-free stand of American elm in the world

■ Know the signs of Dutch elm disease:

- Drooping and yellowing leaves in summer
- Branches with smaller leaves than the rest of the elm tree
- Branches with no leaves
- Brown wilted leaves that remain on the elm tree

Any questions about Dutch elm disease, please contact the Ag Service Board at 403-642-2255. STOPDEADB@agmail.com • STOPPED Hotline: 1-877-837-ELMS

FALL TREE WATERING - YARD WHISPERS - by Toso Bozic

As trees are preparing for winter, deep watering may help their well-being during the cold winter months as well as at beginning of next spring.

As many trees experience water deficiency during September and October. The main reason for watering in fall is that the water acts as an insulator to the soil and to the roots of trees. Having frozen water in the soil makes soils warmer than surrounding cold air. Roots without water around them will be more susceptible to cold dry air damage. Cold air in the soil will "draw" water from roots and create icicles in the live root cells which damage or kill fine roots causing stress to trees. Newly planted trees are more prone to winter kill injuries than mature trees. Be aware that during the winter months, the coniferous trees may lose water through their needles faster than their roots can absorb it which will turn needles into brown colour in spring. This process is called winter browning.

Water and Soil Testing for Sodium

Prior to any watering, you must be aware of sodium level in the water and soil. If you have a high sodium levels in the water, your trees could be killed. Any water and soil-testing laboratory can measure sodium levels in water and soil samples. Most labs will measure calcium, iron, magnesium, and many others as well as total dissolved solids (TDS) or electrical conductivity (EC)

1) The first step is measuring the salinity/



sodium levels in the soil. Soil salinity is measured as the electrical conductivity of extract (ECe) in deciSiemens per meter (dS/m). Most trees will grow in soils with an ECe of up to 4, but beyond that level, their growth is restricted. With a soil with an ECe between 8-16 dS/m, only saline tolerant species may grow, and their growth may be only satisfactory.

2) The second step is to measure the sodium level in the water. As you add water with high sodium levels, you will gradually increase the soil salinity. Most plants (flowers, vegetables, and crops) do not perform well when irrigated with more than 100 ppm of sodium in water.



According to Alberta Health Services, the chloride concentration for drinking water generally is less than 250 mg/L or 250 ppm.

Trees affected by salt will have a stunted appearance and reduced growth as well as many will succumb due to higher dose of salt in soil or on trees itself.

Timing

Weather in Alberta is unpredictable, but you must know your local weather conditions and act accordingly. For hardwood species, you must wait until the leaves fall off, prior to the first soil freezing event. For coniferous species, the timing is like hardwood species. Most trees will "shut down" in the early weeks

Picture 1. Epicormic shoots and top branches dead due to winter root damage on old and young elm trees

of October prior to soil freeze. Frozen soil acts as a barrier, and water will not seep to the root zones. Always water early in the day, so it is absorbed before the temperature drops at night.

Trees should be watered at the "canopy drip line" –an imaginary line extending from the outermost branch tips straight down to the ground. Most of the tree roots spread beyond the drip line and usually are equal to the height of the tree.

For every inch in the tree diameter at breast height, a tree requires about 10 gallons of water. Watering should be slow and deep (6-12 inches). There are several ways to water trees by using a deep-root fork or needle (up to 8 inches into the soil), a soaker hose, or sprinklers. Avoid spraying on the trunk, needles or foliage. Besides watering you may also add mulch to your trees before freezing it protects against winter freezing of roots.

For more information, and the full factsheet:
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



Pest Control

Richardson Ground Squirrel (Gophers)

The County of Warner Agriculture Service Board is urging all farmers and ranchers to consider early control of the gopher population. Products available for purchase include:

The rodenticide Rozol (anti-coagulant)

Ready-To-Use Premix in 20 lb pail
Ready – To – Use Premix in 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).



Other gopher control methods include:

- Shooting, using traps, cultivating burrows.
- Biological controls – nest boxes or owls and hawks.
- Leaving existing lone trees in place and protecting lone trees from damage by cattle.
- Cultural controls – crop rotation, use of buffer zones etc.

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



Maintain Body Condition Year-Round for Best Productivity

- Thin and weak
- Stress intolerant
- Poor calf performance due to decreased milk supply



Underconditioned

- Higher pregnancy rates
- Return to estrus after calving quicker
- Healthier and better performing calves
- Fewer calving problems, abortions and stillbirths



BCS 3.0 Ideal Condition

PROFIT
\$\$\$

- High body fat
- Mobility is impaired
- Increased risk of calving problems



Overconditioned



80 beef cows in the right condition (BCS 3) with their weaned calves selling at \$1.80/lb will have a profit that is \$16,750 higher than the same herd if underconditioned (BCS 2)

<http://www.bodyconditionscoring.com>

BEEFRESEARCH.CA

FORAGE SAMPLING BEST PRACTICES



Type of Forage	How should I sample?	How many samples?	How do I handle samples correctly?
Dry, baled forage			
Round bale	Core samples using a forage probe inserted from the curved side of the bale.	Cores from 20 bales (one per bale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine core samples in a clean plastic bag. Do not subsample. • Store in a cool location away from direct sunlight until shipping.*
Square bale	Core samples using a forage probe inserted at a 90-degree angle from the end of the bale.		
Silage			
Fresh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-grab samples directly from the wagon or truck as fresh chopped forage is unloaded. • Place sample in a clean pail with a lid and keep in a cool location. 	Two to three small hand-grab samples from each load	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid sampling silage that is mouldy or has been exposed to the air for too long. • After all samples are collected in a clean container, mix and take a composite subsample for analysis. • Remove air from plastic sample bags and store in a freezer until shipping.*
Tower silo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-grab samples of fresh silage after silo unloader has run for several minutes. • DO NOT sample from the two or three feet of spoiled silage at the top or bottom of the silo. • Take caution to avoid hazards; equipment should be turned off before grabbing a sample. 	Eight to ten hand-grab samples	
Bunker silo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-grab samples from fresh silage that has been scraped or shaved from the bunker face. • DO NOT take samples directly from the face as it presents a safety hazard. 		
Bagged silage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-grab samples from across the face following a W or M pattern. • Core samples along the sides of the bag. Tape holes in the plastic after sampling to reseal. 	Eight to ten hand-grab or core samples	
Other forage			
Swaths	Whole plants from 10-20 locations throughout the field, considering high spots, low spots, wet spots and fence lines.	Three to five whole plants from each sample location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chop forage into one-inch to two-inch pieces, mix and collect a composite subsample for analysis. • Store sealed plastic sample bags in a freezer until shipping.*
Standing forage	Clip forage at harvest or grazing height from 10-20 locations throughout the field. Consider high spots, low spots, wet spots and fence lines.	One square foot of forage from each sample location	

*Send samples to the lab as early as possible in the week to prevent samples from sitting in a warehouse too long. Beef Cattle Research Council, 2024



Protect your fence lines

- Please be aware of the regrowth of Kochia, Russian thistle, and other weeds in your chem fallow and stubble fields.
- Increased weed management is required in weedy chem fallow and stubble to control the influx of Kochia weeds.
- Please be courteous and considerate to your neighbours and your fence lines.
- If you feel you may have chemical-resistant Kochia weeds, contact your local chemical representative or crop advisor.
- If you have any questions regarding weed control, please feel free to contact the Ag Service Board at 403-642-2255.



Photograph credit: Alberta Invasive Species Council

Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)

- Absinth wormwood is a herbaceous perennial with a strong sage odor.
- The plant is about 3 feet tall at maturity, and can grow to over 5 feet tall. Absinth produces many seeds which are viable for ~4 years, and the weed can also spread by its rhizomatous root system.
- Plants begin to grow in late April and begin producing seeds in late July.
- Absinth will quickly colonize and establish in disturbed areas and can spread throughout pastures, fields, and grasslands.
- The best method to control absinth is through prevention through rangeland management for grazing pressure.
- Tillage can prevent the establishment of absinth in crop production areas. Mowing may prevent seed production if mowed several times throughout the growing season.
- Contact your local chemical representative for the best chemicals to control the infestation.



Help keep markets open for all

Keep it Clean provides timely updates on potential market risks and resources for on-farm practices to help ensure crops meet the standards of domestic and export customers.

What are market-ready crops?

Crops that meet the requirements of our domestic and export customers.

Why Keep it Clean?

Most of what we grow is exported, so the success of our industry depends on maintaining open access to key international markets.

Canada exports:



Over
90%
of canola



Over
80%
of wheat



Over
85%
of pulses

How can I Keep it Clean?

Your on-farm practices **make a difference**. Keep it Clean and avoid unacceptable residue levels in your grain. Only use appropriate crop protection products and make sure to always follow the label.

Follow the 5 Tips at [KeepItClean.ca](https://www.KeepItClean.ca) to reduce the risk of rejected shipments due to residues that exceed maximum residue limits (MRLs) and help maintain Canada's reputation as a quality supplier.

Our agricultural exports must meet the standards set by importing countries, including their tolerances for pesticide residues and traces of disease, which differ between markets. Importing countries are increasingly testing shipments using highly sensitive equipment to ensure they comply with set maximum residue limits (MRLs). New technology can detect levels close to one part per billion, and in some cases, parts per trillion.



Our part per billion = nine canola seeds in a super B truck

keep it
clean

Tips, tools and resources to keep your crops market ready.



Scan the QR code or visit [KeepItClean.ca/tools](https://www.KeepItClean.ca/tools) to learn more.

1 Use acceptable pesticides only

Only apply pesticides that are registered for use on your crop in Canada, won't create trade concerns, and are acceptable to both domestic and export customers.

Tools and Resources:

- Product Advisory: Outlines market risks from crop and product combinations
- Product advisory webinar

2 Always read and follow the label

Always follow the label for application rate, timing and pre-harvest interval (PHI). Applying pesticides incorrectly is illegal and may result in unacceptable residues in harvested grain.

Tools and Resources:

- Pre-harvest interval calculator
- Pre-harvest glyphosate staging guide
- Pre-harvest tips and tools webinar

3 Manage disease pressures

An integrated disease management plan is important to maintain the yield and quality of your crops. It also helps ensure Canada's canola, cereals and pulses meet the phytosanitary requirements of our export markets.

Tools and Resources:

- Blackleg management in canola
- Fusarium management in cereals

4 Store your crops properly

Proper storage helps maintain crop quality and keeps the bulk free of harmful contaminants that may create market risk.

Tools and Resources:

- Safe storage practices
- Tips on preventing Ochratoxin A in cereals

5 Deliver what you declare

The Declaration of Eligibility affidavit is a legal assertion that your crop is the variety and/or class that you have designated. The declaration also specifies that your crop was not treated with certain crop protection products to ensure it meets the requirements of our export markets.

Tools and Resources:

- Listing of de-registered canola varieties

Sign up for our newsletter at [KeepItClean.ca](https://www.KeepItClean.ca) to get timely updates and helpful resources sent straight to your inbox.

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Need Support? We are in your community!

PARENT/CAREGIVER SUPPORT Petra 403.795.3328	SENIOR SUPPORT Renee 587.370.8518
COUNSELLING SUPPORT Mike 587.370.3728	GENERAL INTEREST COURSES Stacey 403.756.3572
NEWCOMER SUPPORT Margarita 403.394.8983	With support from your municipalities, services are FREE OF CHARGE.
INDIGENOUS SUPPORT Jessica 403.915.7530	
YOUTH SUPPORT Kaitlynn 403.795.4627	

FCSS
Family & Community Support Services

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.FCSS.CA

We wish you a safe holiday season with your loved ones.

STARS

Wise Owl

Protect Yourself from Fraud and Scams

www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca
 PO Box 4520, Edmonton, AB T6E 4T7
aprcwa@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association (APRCWA)

MISSION STATEMENT
 Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association will strive to promote rural crime prevention through communication, programs and support.

VISION STATEMENT
 Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association will be leaders in crime prevention by building relationships through promotion, community involvement and identifying future needs with effective communication and promotion.

VALUE STATEMENT
 Accountability | Leadership | Collaboration
 Transparency | Provincial | Current | Focused

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Proudly Supported by:
 The RCMP | Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development | Alberta Cattle Commission | Alberta Justice | Alberta Environmental Protection | Farmer's Advocate

What to do if you are a victim

- Do NOT feel embarrassed.
- Call the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre to report 1-888-495-8501
- Call the local police to report
- Call your bank, notify your credit card company
- Change all your passwords and pin numbers
- Close compromised accounts
- Contact the two national credit bureaus and place a fraud alert
 - Equifax 1-800-465-7166
 - Trans Union 1-800-565-2280
- Register for the National Do Not Call List 1-866-580-3625.
- Share your experience with friends & family - you may prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

County of Warner

Adult Learning and Literacy

Warner Office: 403-421-0036 Taber Office: 403-223-1169 Email: warner@taberadultlearning.com

A Hub for Community Empowerment and Lifelong Learning

Adult Learning Warner is making waves in community development by offering a diverse array of programs that cater to various interests and needs. From exercise classes and culinary adventures to financial literacy courses and skill-building workshops, Adult Learning Warner is committed to enriching the lives of community members across different locations, including Warner, Coutts, Stirling, Milk River, Raymond and Wrentham.

Painting:
Time for Enrichment

Have you ever thought about doing something for yourself, something that you might have wanted to do for a long time? Wait no longer, that something is here! We are offering a painting class. With expert guidance and instruction, you will come home with a canvas that you have painted and a sense of feeling good about yourself and what you have accomplished.

Cost: \$45.00 **Instructor:** Sandra Kabatoff

WRENTHAM: Wrentham Library
Friday—November 22 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

COUTTS: Coutts Town Office
Monday—December 9 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Emergency First Aid Course

The Emergency First Aid Level A course is for individuals who require basic information on First Aid and CPR for their workplace, school, or personal interest. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate valid for 3 years.

Saturday, Dec 7, 2024, Milk River Town Office
Duration: This is a 1-day course. **Cost:** \$125.00
Prerequisites: None **Delivery Method:** In class

Course Content:

- Responding to an emergency
- Recognizing a mental health emergency
- CPR for adults and AED

Cultural Kitchen

Come and learn to cook different foods from different countries and cultures. We will be learning to cook food from:

- #1—Peru; Pollo a la Brasa (Peruvian Roast Chicken), Peruvian chopped salad.
- #2—Malaysia; Chicken Satay, and Peanut Puffs.
- #3—Tongan/Samoan; Keke Pua'a (steamed dumplings) and Otai (Tongan watermelon drink).
- #4—Vietnamese; Bun Thit Nuong Cha Gio (Vietnamese bowls), and Banh Bo (Steamed Sponge Cake).

This class is a hands-on class learning about different cultures and teaching the nutrition of foods of different cultures. We learn economical shopping including substituting exotic foods that can't be found here for foods that are available.

MILK RIVER
 Milk River Ag Kitchen
 Wednesday Oct 23—November 13 **Time:** 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
 Cost: \$80.00 for 4 classes or \$25.00 for individual classes

WARNER
 Warner Seniors Center
 Tuesdays November 5—November 26 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
 Cost: \$80.00 for 4 classes or \$25.00 for individual classes.

TUTORING FREE

One-on-one study help

Work one-on-one with a volunteer to improve your skills.

Learn more English, practice speaking in English, get better at reading and writing, prepare for a test, or improve your math skills.
 Tutors are available for daytime or evening.
 Lessons are in-person or online by Zoom. For Adults 18+

DIGITAL COACHING

Have you ever received a new phone or laptop and it's different than what you are used to?

Have you ever been overwhelmed by digital technologies?

Our knowledgeable and patient digital instructors can help. Just call for an appointment at your convenience
403-421-0036.

CONVERSATIONAL CAFE

Come join us in learning to speak English. We will be doing activities that will help you to develop your English-speaking skills. In this class, we will be doing activities that will surprise you and teach you all you want to learn.

Stirling: FCSS Building—Stirling
Instructor: Sherri Wendorf
 Tuesday, October 29, 2024—December 3, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. **Cost:** \$30.00