The County Chronicle
County of Warner No. 5

FALL 2020

The Growing Season in Review

The 2020 growing season was a unique year for the County of Warner, increased precipitation in the spring delayed seeding activities, and created issues for field access. However, the increased moisture benefitted the subsoil and topsoil moisture content which translated into better conditions for crop growth. The moisture also resulted in increased crop disease and fungi growth, many producers applied preventative fungicides and inspected crops frequently. Overall, crops in the County were very good, favourable conditions resulted in increased yields and quality. Dryland crops produced yields nearly as good as irrigated cropland and tame and native pastures have had significant regrowth that will serve ranchers well as the season draws to a close.

Looking ahead to winter

As crops are harvested and stored please remember to check your grain storage periodically, insect infestations, heating and spoilage can occur rapidly. If you are interested in participating in the farmer pesticide courses please contact the Agricultural Service Board. For the ranchers, the fall brings cattle round-up for the cow-calf operations and the fall run. Feed availability appears to be abundant within the county. However, conditions may change in the event of a severe winter, please have additional feed reserves organized.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

County of Warner No. 5

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Administration Office
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Website: www.warnercounty.ca

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County of Warner No. 5
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Message from the Reeve

2020 has been quite an interesting year. The Covid-19 virus has posed some operational challenges but through technology, Council has been able to continue to meet with other levels of government and continue to advocate for rural Alberta. The County was able to have operations continue during the entire duration of the shutdown. In the summer, we put a notice out that the Province was going to be changing the assessment model for oil and gas and that would have a huge impact on our tax base. Thanks to the response from citizens and meetings with the Minister of Municipal Affairs the Province is now re-evaluating the assessment model change. Council worked hard on the 2020 budget and cut 10% of our operating budget which is about one million dollars. Unfortunately, our school requisition increased, and the Province started charging rural municipalities for policing. This combined with a reduction in some of our grants led to an increase of overall taxation of 2.6%.

The Council continues to work hard to be able to continue to provide the service that we have in the past. While at the same time trying to maintain taxes at a reasonable level.

I personally would like to thank Council and Staff for all they have done over the last year, navigating through unprecedented times to deliver quality service and advocating for the ratepayers of The County of Warner.

Randy Taylor, Reeve

Administration update

TAXES ARE DUE

The County of Warner Tax Due Date is November 30, 2020, to avoid all penalties.

We are located at 300 County Road, (P.O. Box 90 - WARNER, AB T0K 2L0).

Office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fridays 8:30a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Make cheques payable to THE COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5.

If cheques are mailed, the envelope shall be clearly postmarked by Canada Post no later than November 30th, 2020. (A postage meter imprint is not an acceptable proof of date of mailing)

If you have any questions, please contact our office at:

(403) 642-3635 or 1-888-642-2241.

A 6% penalty is added on December 1 to any outstanding balances.

An additional 8% penalty is added on January 1 to any outstanding balances.

Please make arrangements to have your payment reach the County office by November 30.

Public works

Public Works would like to thank everyone for watching out for our crewswhile we were repairing culverts, replacing signs, patching, re-gravelling roads, upgrading roads for snow storage and drainage.

Gravel request forms and Dust suppression forms can be found on the County of Warner website. All requests must be in by May 15th of the current year. These forms are now fillable and once submitted will go directly to the road maintenance foreman for scheduling.

Traffic Counting

Public Works has a traffic counter to assess traffic volumes on roads to determine the need for future upgrading. The counter will be set up for a week at a time and records the size of the vehicle, speed, and traffic counts. The counter will be mounted to a signpost or other poles that are close to the road.

With winter coming, the public works department would like to remind ratepayers of the following: Council has amended policy 320.35 by deleting private laneway snow plowing. This change allows our operators to spend the necessary time plowing and sanding. If your laneway needs clearing, there are local contractors in all areas of the county that will be happy to assist you.

Transportation of agricultural equipment

Ridge Regional Public Safety Services (RRPSS) would like to remind all motorists that combine season is underway and to watch for slow moving combines and agricultural equipment on all county roads and highways.

We would also like to remind all combine operators on sharing the roadway safely and not allowing their headers to be blocking traffic from safely passing around or by combines when they operate on county roads and highways.

Farm Equipment & Highways

Alberta Transportation establishes maximum vehicle weight and dimension limits to preserve highway infrastructure and to ensure the safety of the travelling public. This includes legal limits for any registered vehicle for travel on any public road, as well as the provision for movement of oversize loads under permit.

Over-dimensional farm equipment on a highway requires a permit. As per Section 4 #4(m)(iii) of the *Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation*:

Maximum dimensions:

4(m) operate farm equipment on a highway when

(i) the farm equipment, including any load, exceeds 2.6 metres in width,

(ii) the height of the highest point of the farm equipment, including any load, is greater than 5 metres from the surface of the highway, or

(iii) the overall length of the farm equipment, including any load, exceeds 30.5 metres;

Under the current legislation, the maximum length of farm equipment or combination of farm equipment is set at 30.5 metres or 100 feet.

Under Section 7 #6:

Width exceptions for farm equipment

6. The provisions of section 4 with respect to the width of a commercial vehicle do not apply to

(a) a rubber tired farm tractor equipped with a dozer blade, if conspicuously displayed on each side of the widest part of the farm tractor, or displayed at the extremities of the blade, there are,

(i) when the farm tractor is used during daytime, warning flags, and

(ii) when the farm tractor is used during night time, (A) warning lights, or (B) warning flags made of fluorescent material that are adequately illuminated by the farm tractor's working lights;

(b) farm equipment loaded on a trailer

(i) during daytime, if warning flags are displayed at the widest part of the vehicle or load, or

(ii) during night time, if warning lights are displayed at the widest part of the vehicle or load;

(b.1) a trailer or its load, if

(i) the trailer and its load are less than 3.8 metres in width,

(ii) the trailer and its load are being towed by a farm tractor, and

(iii) the trailer is being used to move materials incidental to farm operations from one farm or field to another farm or field or from one portion of the farm or field to another portion of the farm or field; (c) any other farm equipment (i) during daytime, or (ii) during night time, if warning lights are displayed at the widest part of the vehicle or load.

(c) any other farm equipment (i) during daytime, or (ii) during night time, if warning lights are displayed at the widest part of the vehicle or load

Any assistance or questions for Ridge Regional Public Safety Services can be directed to (587) 813-0791 or email at cpo@rrpssc.ca, Attention: Sgt. R. Bond

The rural connection

Ag Service Board Crop and Pest Surveys

The Ag Service board conducts an annual crop condition and a pest monitoring program to observe the presence of disease, pests, and other agricultural disturbances, these include:

- Alberta Crop Reporting
- Wheat –fusarium head blight
- Canola –clubroot, blackleg, schlreotina
- Peas –root rot, mycosphaerella, ascochyta, white mould and bacterial blight
- Corn-fusarium
- Grasshoppers –population count
- Invasive mussels within reservoirs
- Prohibited noxious weeds
- Elmbarkbeetle –dutchelm disease
- Bertha armyworm
- Diamondback moth
- Rabies
- Drought monitoring and forecasting

Renewing an Environmental Farm Plan

If your Alberta Environmental Farm Plan is more than ten years old, you will need to update it for your farm to be eligible for some funding programs. Renewing your plan gives you better access to markets and funding. Completing your plan through the Online platform connects you to trained technicians across Alberta. If you have not previously completed an Environmental Farm Plan, please contact Brad Calder for more information and assistance.

BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION
Alberta EFP
ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

Spotted Knapweed (Centaurea maculosa) – Prohibited Noxious

Primarily a biennial plant -Primarily a biennial plant – producing a rosette the first year and a flowering bolt the second – but can also be a short-lived perennial, blooming for a few years before dying. Spotted knapweed can self-pollinate and is also cross-pollinated by insects. A prolific seed producer – individual plants can produce over 140,000 per year – control is extremely difficult on established infestations.

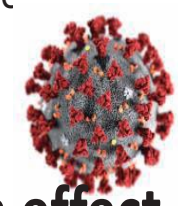
Knapweeds have become well known because of their almost wholesale degradation of large tracts of rangeland in the northwestern US and parts of southern BC. Knapweed contaminated hay or plant skeletons caught in vehicle undercarriages often contribute to spread. Spotted knapweed roots exude a chemical that inhibits the root growth of other plants.

Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense) –Noxious

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.

The Farmer Pesticide Course will be offered this winter, please contact the Ag Service Board at 1-403-642-2255 for more information. The courses are scheduled for the following dates:

- December 10
- January 14, 21
- February 11



COVID-19 Precautions will be in effect

ALBERTA invasive species COUNCIL

https://abinvasives.ca

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 within 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.

Grain bags are a suitable option for short-term storage of crops but there is a risk due to inadequate airflow, they are also susceptible to rapid warming in the event of warmer temperatures or chinooks. The crops should be transferred to a more permanent storage option prior to the spring thaw.

To check the status of stored cops in bags:

1. Inspect them frequently for damage.
2. Feel the outside for warmer temperature, probe if possible.
3. Repair any holes as spoilage will typically begin near openings.

Agriculture news

Visit the following resources for more agriculture news and to connect with other producers.

- Alberta Farmer Express: https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/
- The Western Producer: https://www.producer.com/
- Agri-News: https://www.alberta.ca/agri-news.aspx
- Farm News Now: https://farmnewsnow.com/

Mental Health Supports

2020 is a challenging year for people due to COVID-19 and the economic stressors of recession. Please contact the following resources for support:

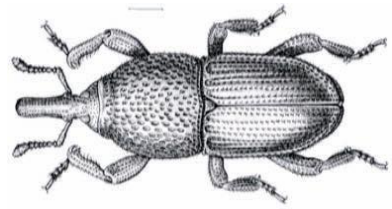
- Alberta Addiction and Mental Health Help Line: 1-877-303-2642 or 811.
- Canadian Mental Health Association: 1-833-456-4566 toll free
- The Do More Agriculture Foundation: Not-for-profit organization focusing on mental health in agriculture. https://www.domore.ag/
- The Support Network: 24 hour distress line: 1-800-232-7288, 1-780-482-4357.

If you are in need of support please don't wait, contact these numbers today to get help.

Farming the Web is now online. The service is a new agriculture marketplace which is a place to sell anything related to farming and ranching. Farming the Web is similar to the former "Ropin the Web" service. Please visit the site at: https://farmingtheweb.ca/

Grain storage pests

Investigating grain bins for evidence of insect pests is important throughout the winter months as an infestation can rapidly develop.
One of the best ways to prevent insect infestations is to monitor bin-stored grain every two weeks to detect early signs of deterioration or infestation. Several devices can be used to sample grain and check for insects.



Trapping insects
Trapping to determine the presence of insect pests in stored grains is a simple and cost-effective way to monitor for infestations and identify insect pests so that you can make decisions about insect control. An open trap, closed trap and pheromone baited probe pit-fall traps can be used to monitor for the infestation.

- Push probe pit-fall traps in the grain at the top of the pile, near the centre. When the grain becomes cooler than ambient conditions, insects tend to migrate to this area of the bulk Insert them so that the upper portion of the trap is no more than a few centimeters below the surface. Attach brightly colored twine or rope to the trap so that it can be readily retrieved.
- Remove the trap every 10 to 14 days to inspect it for insects. Continue doing this until the grain temperature is below 18°C. After this, monthly monitoring is sufficient. If insects are discovered, use treatments such as aeration; moving and turning the grain; or fumigation or contact insecticide application.

Use the following number of traps for different bin sizes:
- 1 to 2 traps for bins that hold less than 25 tonnes (900 bushels)
- 2 to 3 traps for bins that hold 25 to 50 tonnes (900 to 1800 bushels)
- 3 to 5 traps for bins that hold more than 50 tonnes (1800 bushels). Place the first trap in the centre and insert the remaining traps in a radius approximately one metre from the centre.

Rusty Grain Beetle
(Photo: Canadian Grain Commission)

Pit-fall traps
(Photo: Canadian Grain Commission)

Probe sampling and sieves
Probe devices can be used for monitoring when it is not possible to install a trap. A torpedo-type probe is used to sample grain at various depths. To sample grain,
- Insert the probe so that the upper portion is 10 to 15 centimeters below the surface.
- Probe the grain at the same location and depth until approximately 500 grams are obtained.
- Multiple samples should be taken if possible.

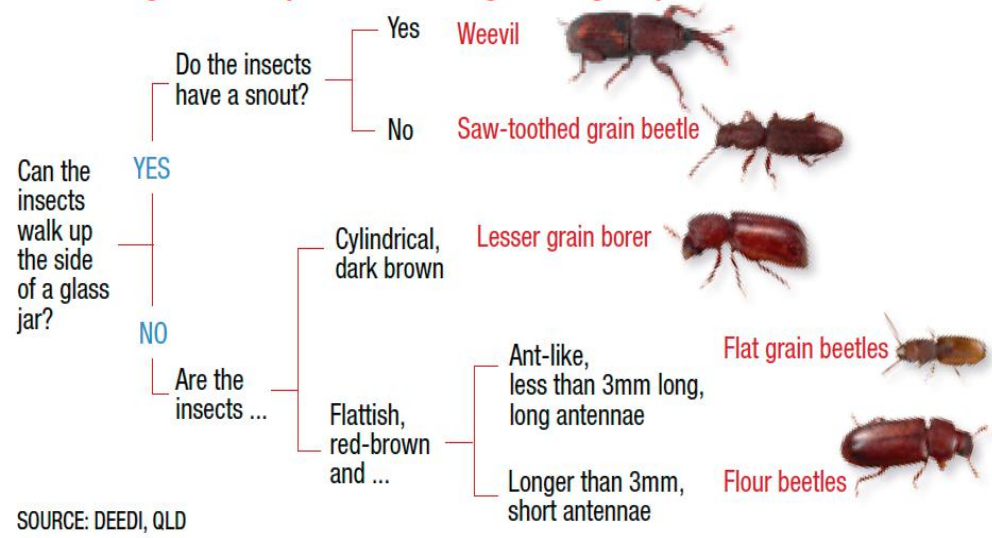
Treatment and control

Phostoxin, Gastoxin, or Weevilcide are options to treat for infestations of insects within your grain bins. The application of these chemical control options are complex and you must have completed the required training course further you must ensure that you have appropriately identified the pest.

The purchase, storage, and application of these chemicals requires through documentation and record-keeping.
The application further requires specialized safety personal protective equipment to prevent exposure to the applicator.
Products containing phosphine are highly toxic and rules have been recently updated to limit risk to the applicator and public.
Phostoxin is used extensively to control grain beetles in stored grain, both on-farm and at the grain elevator. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) regulates the use of these products and conducts periodic inspections.
To purchase these products you are required to have a valid Farmer Pesticide Certificate with the proper endorsement.

IDENTIFICATION OF COMMON PESTS OF STORED GRAIN

The following flow chart provides a useful guide for grain pest identification.



SOURCE: DEEDI, QLD

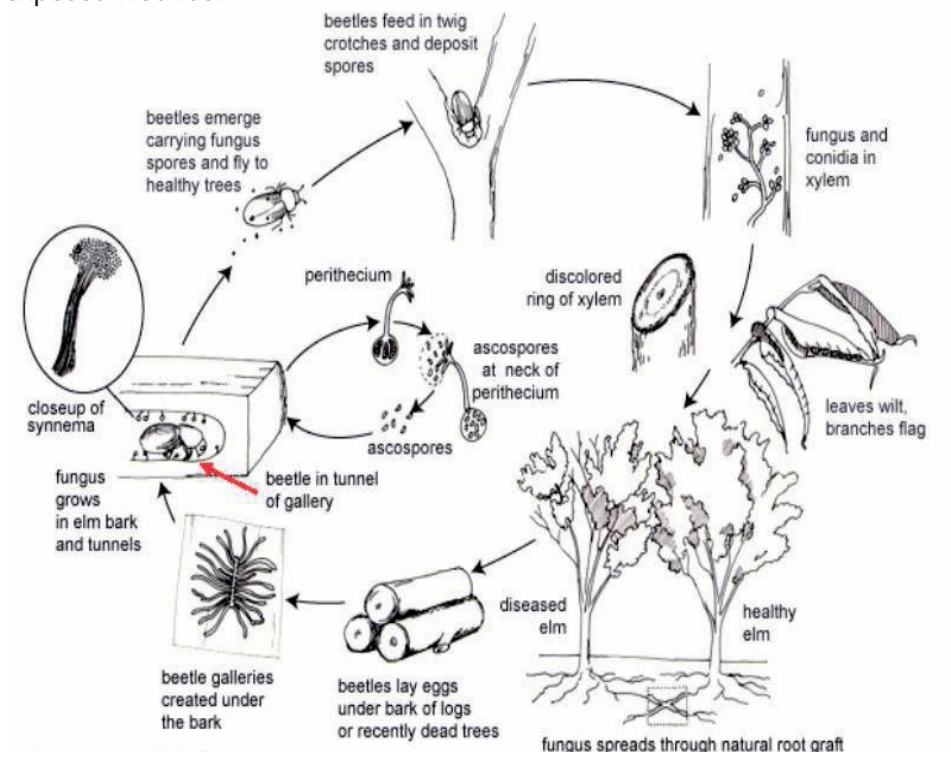
Farm Pesticide training is available throughout the winter months, contact the Ag-Service Board for more details 1-403-642-2255.

Dutch elm disease in Alberta

In July, the City of Lethbridge confirmed that Dutch Elm Disease was reported within elm trees in the city, these trees have since been destroyed. Please inspect the elm trees on your property for the following symptoms: **Wilting leaves, brown discoloured curled leaves, holes and burrows within the bark, and peeling bark.**

Dutch elm disease is a vascular wilt disease that is caused by a fungus that is transmitted by the Elm Bark Beetle (Hyturgopinus rufipes). The beetles fly from infected trees to unaffected trees and burrow through the bark into the underlying wood to reproduce and lay eggs within the underlying wood, as they move from infected trees they transport fungal spores which cause the disease.

The earliest external symptoms of infection are yellow and wilting of leaves on individual branches. The leaves curl and become brown as the disease spreads throughout the crown. Highly susceptible trees often die within the year, however, others may be able to survive for several years resulting in further disease transmission to nearby hosts. The disease is also evident in the outer layer of wood as the bark is removed, the outer layer of wood is discoloured brown as the fungi infect the vascular xylem tissue. The fungi *Ophiostoma ulmi* and *O. novo-ulmi* produces fungal growths that release spores that are spread by the Elm Bark Beetle. These fungi can further be spread through the movement of firewood or plant debris between locations. Native elm bark beetle populations can be reduced by removing and destroying infected trees, dead and dying elms. Healthy trees should not be pruned from April 1 and August 31st, as beetles are attracted to the exposed wounds.



Life cycle of Dutch Elm Disease

(Drawing by Vickie Brewster)

Native elm bark beetle adult and juvenile

(Photos- JR Baker and SB Bambara, Government of Canada)

Native elm bark beetle infestation burrows and egg galleries

(Photos- Steven Katovich, Government of Canada)

Elm tree infected with dutch elm disease

(Photos- Province of Manitoba, Province of Ontario)

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 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.

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

For more information, and the full factsheet:

Toso Bozic P.Ag
ISA Certified Arborist
CERT ID: PR 5356A
Phone (780) 712-3699
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www.yardwhispers.ca or www.attsgroup.ca

YARD WHISPERS
TREES ARE OUR PASSION

Milk River Ridge Reservoir Water Quality

Many of the reservoirs in Southern Alberta are eutrophic systems, these are rich in dissolved nutrients that stimulate the growth of aquatic plant life. The decomposition of this plant life results in the depletion of dissolved oxygen. Some of the reservoirs, can at warmer times of the year experience blooms of blue-green algae also known as cyanobacteria. The Milk River Ridge Reservoir is not an exception, and a bloom was observed in late August.

Blue-green algae - cyanobacteria is a naturally occurring bacterium that is found within many water bodies in Alberta, during periods of increased temperatures large populations can develop which releases a toxin (cyanotoxin) that can result in death by respiratory system failure. While this bloom dissipated days later, It is important that if you notice blooms of this bacteria within water bodies, and water sources such as springs and watering troughs that you prevent animals and livestock from entering or consuming the water and clean out the water source.

This situation is but one that reinforces the importance of water quality on the reservoir, the County of Warner has conducted extensive work to monitor and improve the water quality of this reservoir and downstream conditions through the Milk River Ridge Water Quality Stewardship Initiative (MRRRWQSI) program. The Water Quality Stewardship Initiative involves the periodic sampling of surface runoff from tributaries of the Milk River Ridge Reservoir and the collection of surface water dip samples from the reservoir. This program evolved from preliminary investigations completed prior to 2007. In 2014, the MRRRWQSI was introduced to facilitate the continual monitoring of water conditions within the reservoir and to support conservation rehabilitation projects on nearby lands. From 2014 to 2020, the County of Warner has conducted extensive work to complete monitoring and conservation projects such as the construction of the wetland and settling ponds, revegetation and shrub planting to support habitat creation, and fencing projects to restrict access to riparian areas to cattle.

The County of Warner has released annual reports which are available upon request, and recently Zaitlin Geoconsulting Ltd. has released a report detailing the water quality conditions of Milk River Ridge Reservoir from 2003-2019.This work is the product of productive partnerships with the Government of Alberta, Alberta Environment and Parks, the Alberta Conservation Association, and numerous volunteers from the county.

Cyanobacteria / Blue green algae bloom in Milk River Ridge Reservoir in August.

Blue-green algae can pose a risk to any livestock consuming that water, always inspect your water source for the blue-green bloom. Spotting this bloom in advance could save you time, money, and your cattle from lethal poisoning.

Cyanobacteria – Photo: Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

Phosphorus filter project

Agricultural runoff can contribute to algae blooms in lakes, reservoirs, and dugouts which affects water quality and increases water treatment costs. To improve water quality the County of Warner Agriculture Service Board has partnered with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and the East Raymond Colony to conduct a research project to install and evaluate a multi-stage phosphorus and biological filter to remediate agricultural runoff from a confined cattle feeding operation.

The phosphorus filter is comprised of a wooden channel that diverts runoff downslope into three excavations. The first excavation is filled with three different sizes of gravel which will filter out the coarse organics and manure, from this filter the water flows into a biofilter which is a lined excavation filled with flax straw. The flax straw provides a carbon source and home to bacteria which consume nitrogen, This bacteria will decrease the nitrogen concentration in the runoff. As this filter fills with water it will flow into a third excavation that is filled with metal slag, the metal slag is about 50% calcium oxide, 40% iron oxide, and 10% silicon oxide with trace amounts of magnesium, manganese, and sulphur. The metal slag will bind with phosphorus and decrease the phosphorus concentration in the runoff.

The goal of this project is to reduce the nutrient contributions to surface water in order to improve water quality. Improving water quality within Warner County can decrease costs in water treatment, and improve water availability to livestock, agricultural projects and our communities. The lessons learned in this project can be applied to other agricultural businesses, communities, and recreational facilities such as golf courses.

The project is funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and is part of a larger research initiative within central and southern Alberta toward improving water quality.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP
Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

Wooden channel

Gravel filter

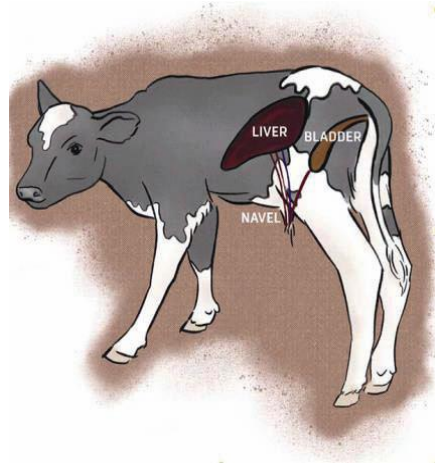
Phosphorus filter

The Cattle Corner

Calf navel infections (Omphalitis / Omphaloplebitis)
A navel cord is a direct connection to a calf's bloodstream. Proper management of the navel right after birth can ensure a calf gets off to an infection-free start and doesn't experience navel sickness

The umbilical cord is made up of blood vessels that, after calving, remain like hollow tubes where bacteria can enter the calf, and get into the bloodstream. Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria can circulate throughout the calf's body, causing diseases like septicemia (blood infection), meningitis (brain infection) and arthritis ("joint ill", swollen joints).
Navel problems include wet navels, navel infections, and/or umbilical hernias. Navels that don't dry up are often infected. Infection enlarges the navel cord and impedes the closure of the opening into the calf's abdomen. If the opening is big enough, the calf's intestine can herniate (protrude through the opening). This is called an umbilical hernia. Herniation may damage the bowel that can result in substantial infection causing death.
Backwards and caesarian births have a greater incidence of infection as the umbilicus is severed closer to the calf's abdomen. Navel infection can often become a chronic debilitating problem if preventative steps are not followed, and infection is not quickly addressed
Original Article can be found at https://calfcare.ca/management/first-24-hours/navel-care/preventing-navel-infections-in-newborn-calves/

Lameness from joint infection and polyarthritis, muscle wasting of the shoulder. (National Animal Disease Information Service).



Internal organ proximity to the navel (Progressive Dairy).

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program:
In Alberta, AFSC administers the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP), which is funded completely by the federal and provincial governments. The program provides coverage for producers who suffer crop loss or degradation due to wildlife.
To benefit from this program, a producer does not have to have an annual crop insurance policy with AFSC, but it is important to know that not all crops are eligible under this program.
Here are some basic guidelines for the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program:

The program compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible annual unharvested crops, wildlife excreta contaminated crops, and silage in pits and tubes.
To receive compensation, at least 10 percent of loss per crop due to wildlife damage needs to be assessed.
While producers pay no premium to be eligible for indemnity, a non-refundable $25 appraisal fee per inspection is required for each section of land (or portion thereof) on which the damage has occurred, and a minimum of $100 loss of crop should be assessed for payment eligibility.
All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Annual Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs, are eligible for compensation. Swath grazing, bale grazing and corn grazing are eligible for compensation only up to October 31.
Crops under the following circumstances are not eligible:

- Crops in granaries, bins, stacks or bales left in the field (Exceptions,include silage in pits and tubes - these are eligible)
- Crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for production
- Crops seeded too late in the season to produce a normal yield
- Volunteer crops
- Crops left exposed to wildlife damage due to management practices Damaged areas of the crop must not be harvested until an AFSC On Farm Inspector is able to assess the loss. Assessments are not made from representative strips or swaths.

Producers must contact AFSC prior to harvest, so AFSC can arrange to have an inspector perform an on-farm inspection. Weekend inspection service is not available, if you are planning to harvest over a weekend.
For more information please contact the local AFSC branch office, or contact 1.877.899.2372 or info@afsc.ca
For more information: https://afsc.ca/

Unique Financial Services
AFSC
INSURANCE ▪ LENDING ▪ INCOME STABILIZATION

Our communities

Border Community Wellness Foundation Update – Fall 2020

It has been a year of few meetings for many organizations, but the BCWF was able to fit one in on Sept. 14th, 2020. Our group is happy to share that purchases have been made to make the family room at the Milk River Health Care Center more comfortable for those in need. There is now a sofa bed with new bedding, two very comfortable recliners, and a wall unit for storage.

As there have been limited opportunities to hold fundraising events for local organizations, we are thrilled to be taking part in Corvette ticket sales near Christmas time. As our foundation serves all community members in the County of Warner, and the villages of Coutts, Milk River, and Warner, we would be happy to hear from any volunteers who may be able to help us out with these ticket sales for the Kinsmen Corvette.

We thank the Kinsmen group for the wonderful support that they give to numerous organizations in our area. It is so appreciated. Also, there is a need to help transport patients home from the hospital/ER and if you can possibly spare a seat in your vehicle to help people get home, it would be a wonderful way to volunteer in your community.

If you are able to help in this regard, or to sell a few tickets for the Corvette around Christmas time, please contact Emma Hulit @ 403-344-2222, or Robbie Wills @ 403-344-4312. Have a wonderful fall everyone!

Did you know?

The Government of Canada has recently introduced a COVID-19 financial support program for farmers and food processors.

The program will subsidize farms' purchase of personal protective equipment and sanitary stations and it will help to cover extra costs in cases of any COVID-19 outbreaks.

For more information please visit https://www.agr.gc.ca/

Or call the Ag Service Board office: 403-642-2255.

The Ag-Info Centre is here to help!

We are the first point of contact for Agriculture & Forestry's programs and resources and know where to refer producers for information outside of the Department. Questions about the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Premises ID, Farmers' Advocate Office and more? Get in touch with the Ag-Info Centre at **310-FARM** or email us at aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca

Agri-News is Agriculture & Forestry's e-newsletter that has been publishing weekly for more than 40 years. It provides the latest information on the diverse facts of agriculture in the province and recent announcements from the Ministry and key programs and resources. Find Agri-News online: https://www.alberta.ca/agri-news.aspx. Receive Agri-News in your inbox every Monday by filling out the subscription form or by contacting the Agri-News editor at agrinews@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

CHIEF MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

CONTACT: 403-653-3366

CMRSWA - CONTROLS ALL WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

Masinasin:
24 hr. access - Household waste only

Milk River/Coutts:
Tuesday, Friday, Saturday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

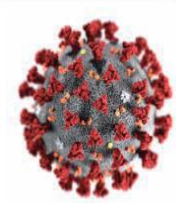
New Dayton:
Saturdays - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Raymond:
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Stirling:
April 1st - Oct. 30: Tues.
Thurs. 4 - 8 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Nov. 1 - March 31:
Tues. 4 - 8 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Warner:
Thursday and Saturday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

County of Warner Maps – wall maps are available for purchase at the County office at a cost of $20, booklet —$20.



Masks are still available at the County Administration Office. Feel free to stop by the office and pick some up, only available while quantities last.

Milk River Watershed Council Canada Milk River Update -

There have been several challenges this year for everyone; with the St Mary Diversion Drop 5 failure on May 17th, we have been entirely reliant on natural flow through the 2020 season on the Milk River. Projections for irrigated crop production losses were in the 2.5 to 3 million dollar range during May but timely rains had helped producers limit loss in production.

On Behalf of the MRWCC, I would like to thank all irrigators for your assistance in providing water use information and making weekly usage projections to provide near real-time and accurate information to the provincial regulator and International Joint Commission. I would also like to thank conservation -minded producers who had voluntarily implemented best management practices to adjust the timing and application of water prior to the July 24th cut-off. By August 1st flows had dropped to zero at the eastern crossing of the Milk River and fluctuated at or near zero at the Town of Milk River for most of the month of September.

Groundwater/spring upswelling has maintained some localized flows in different reaches of the river. Repairs began almost immediately to the failed Drop 5 and near failed Drop 2 along the St Mary Diversion.

Weather delays did slow progress on Drop 5 but crews made up additional time with the help of both MP Glen Motz and Associate Minister MLA Grant Hunter, permission was granted to source aggregate materials from Del Bonita/Whiskey Gap and concrete from Cardston using the Emigration Gap irregular crossing which saves significant budget for the US and travel time from over 20 miles of dirt trail to less than 2 miles. We are pleased to report work is now complete on the repairs and some stored water will be moved through the diversion to provide much needed municipal reserve to Montana Highline communities going into the winter. Flows are weather dependent, but we will likely see near bank full conditions though the end of October.

The MRWCC continues to coordinate monitoring along the Milk River. Time-lapse cameras are strategically placed from the North Fork Milk River through to the Milk River Natural Area and Pinhorn Grazing Reserve. Fisheries Assessments have been conducted. Water Quality monitoring is ongoing including enhanced monitoring of dissolved oxygen, water temperatures, bacteria, algae.

Community observations have been critically important. We have been documenting fish stranding, and changes along the river. Watch for opportunities this winter to learn more about natural flow observations and environmental challenges at www.mrwcc.ca or our social media pages.

Tim Romanow – Executive Director,
Milk River Watershed Council Canada

Ag Service Board Services

Grain Bag & Twine RECYCLING PROGRAM

- Grain bags which must be empty, clean, tightly rolled, and tied. Twine, which must be clean, loosely placed in Cleanfarms recycling bags (Available from the County of Warner Ag Service Board) or bulk tote bags.
- Producers may qualify for rollers or compactors: https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/Programs

If you have questions about the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Programs or would like assistance with your application please contact Brad Calder at the Ag Service Board at 403-642-2255.

If you would like to participate in the Grain Bag and Twine Collection Program, please contact the Ag Service Board to schedule a delivery time.

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

Prepare your pest control products for spring:

- 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate
- Rodenticide Rozol (20lb pail, 50 lb bag).
- Aluminum phosphide

Contact the Ag Service Board for more information

Availability of Strychnine for control of ground squirrels

The following deadlines are in effect:

- MANUFACTURERS CAN SELL TO THE COUNTY UNTIL MARCH 4TH, 2021.
- THE COUNTY CAN SELL THE PRODUCT UNTIL MARCH 4TH, 2022.
- PRODUCERS HAVE UNTIL MARCH 4TH, 2023 TO USE ALL REMAINING PRODUCT.

Emerging agricultural research

Beat Costs And Boost Yields With Bale Grazing

Many Canadian producers have taken steps to extend their grazing period and provide forage for cattle outside of confinement and away from corrals. Well planned extensive wintering systems have obvious benefits for reducing on-farm labour and yardage costs, but extended grazing also has environmental advantages for nutrient management and potential forage yield improvements.

Different methods of extended winter grazing may include annual forages for swath grazing, corn grazing, and grazing crop residue or cereals. Perennial forages can also be stockpiled for later grazing.
Bale grazing is another method of extensive wintering that is proving popular with farmers. Cattle graze bales on pastures and hay fields, typically through controlled access by electric fence. Bales can be purchased or grown on-farm and placed strategically in cells or "bale pods." In some cases, cattle feed on bales directly where they are dropped from the baler but in most situations, bales are placed on pre-selected sites that need additional fertility or are located adjacent to stock water or natural or man-made shelter.

Producers typically set bales on their round sides, 35 to 40 feet apart, and remove twine or netwrap prior to allowing cattle access to the area. Some farmers try to source bales that are wrapped in sisal twine, which breaks down over time making follow-up twine management easy.

When producers place bales, they are importing nutrients onto a site not just from the forage itself but also from the urine and manure of grazing cattle. This reduces manure handling and hauling costs and also allows farmers to target areas in need of soil improvements. Any residual forage left ungrazed after cattle have moved to the next area isn't a waste, but rather a source of nutrients for subsequent forage crops, litter to help increase water holding capacity and water infiltration of the soil, and a forage species seedbank.

The number of days producers choose to allow their cattle access to a pod of bales will depend on how many bales are placed, quality of the feed, body condition score of the cattle, weather, and the farmer's personal goals and management style. Some producers will move cattle every two to five days, while other producers will allow cattle access for 20 or 30 days of feed at a time, or even longer.

The fertility and forage yield benefits from bale grazing are apparent for several years after bale grazing occurs on a site. Photo courtesy of Deanne Chuiko.

Bale grazing was used on this site to help reduce brush encroachment. Bales were grazed in winter, then site was grazed the following growing season during a planned rotation. Photo courtesy of Deanne Chuiko.

It's important to feed test and weigh bales placed in grazing areas to ensure cattle have a relatively level plane of nutrition and avoid a "rumen roller coaster" caused by too much or too little feed. Producers may use hay, greenfeed, or even straw with supplementation, however feed testing is the key to ensuring a balanced ration is achieved and potential toxicity issues are avoided.

Bale grazing can improve perennial pastures and even be used to reduce brush encroachment; however, it is not suited for all sites. Avoid placing bales on environmentally sensitive sites such as wetlands or creeks. Do not bale graze on native rangeland to prevent introduction of invasive or weedy species that can upset the balance of natural biodiversity or reduce the overall ecological integrity of a site.
Monitor snow conditions closely. Snow should not be used as the sole water source for lactating cows, freshly weaned calves, or cattle with a body condition score of 2.5 or lower. A dwindling snow pack can cause animals' stock water demands to spike, even when other water is available. Excess snow can cause cattle to expend extra energy to access feed, something that should be avoided for cattle groups that require higher levels of management such as calves, young cows, or thin cattle.

It's always important to have a back-up plan with any extensive wintering system and bale grazing is no different. A prolonged harsh winter can increase the need for additional shelter and better-quality forage or supplementation for animals in any condition. Producers must manage and closely monitor cattle to ensure they stay healthy, remain in good body condition, and have access to forage that is of adequate quality, as well as access to water and shelter.

Producers are finding forage management success and cost savings by trying new methods of extensive wintering, but like any beef cattle production practice, bale grazing requires planning and management. Stay tuned for part two in the series that covers producer experiences and top tips for bale grazing from different regions across Canada.

BCRC
BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Pesticide waste solution

Using biobeds on your farm

Biobed on-farm remediation systems were first implemented in Sweden about 20 years ago and have gained traction throughout the globe on many agricultural businesses, research farms, golf courses, greenhouses, and municipalities. These systems have been used extensively throughout the European Union and provide an environmentally friendly option to rinse out spray equipment and minimize pesticides in agricultural runoff.
Studies have shown that the area where the sprayer is filled with pesticide, rinsed and washed can be a major contributor to pesticide contamination. Constructing one, or a series of these biobeds on your property can be an option to remove the pesticide from rinsate. Biobeds may remove about 90% of the pesticides from the rinsate including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.
Preventing pesticide residues from reaching water supplies is important to the aquatic life of those systems, and also to any animal including livestock or humans that use it as a water source. These systems provide a means to limit the runoff of pesticides into those systems and prevent pesticides from contaminating underground groundwater aquifers and soils.

Canadian research:

Extensive research and development with biobeds has been done in Sweden through Agrifood and Bioscience which is part of the Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE). This research has spread across the world and has been adopted to Canadian agriculture through the work of research scientists at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
Extensive analysis of pesticide degradation in five biobeds across Western Canada was conducted as part of a three-year study led by AAFC. Between eight and 51 products were analyzed per site, including herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides. Their results showed that single biobeds could remove about 90% of the introduced pesticide, and two in sequence usually removed more than 98%.
However, for herbicides with clopyralid, bentazon, and imazethapyr, the biobeds are only able to remove about 60% of these herbicides. Also, increased rainfall, decreased temperatures, and increased application rates all affect the effectiveness of the biobed. Pesticides that tended not to degrade rapidly were removed to a greater degree in the subsequent second biobed. Further, concentrated pesticides should not be introduced to a biobed as this will kill the microbial populations.

Sprayer fill station (Source: Tom Wolf)

A pesticide rinsate biobed provides a living environment to microbes which naturally breakdown and remove pesticides from the water used to rinse sprayers. The biobed is a lined pit or box that includes a weeping tile piping system to remove effluent after it has trickled to the bottom.
The system contains a 'biomix' of three ingredients: chopped cereal straw, peat and coarse-textured soil. After moistening the mix and letting it sit for four to six weeks, the natural pesticide-digesting microbial community is ready to begin breaking down pesticides.
The setup requires a sprayer rinse area with a sump to collect the rinsate. It also requires a tank to hold rinsate, which is then applied dripwise over the biobed.


Canada's first commercial biobed installation at Indian Head, SK, 2009 (Source: Murray Belyk, Bayer CropScience (retired)).

This article includes information from the following sources. If you are interested in learning more about biobeds, or constructing one, please consult the following resources.

RISE Agrifood and Bioscience, Biobeds. https://biobeds.net/en/about-us-2/

Biobeds for Pesticide Waste Disposal, authored by Tom Wolf, this guide includes instructions on construction and use. The article can be found at the following link: https://sprayers101.com/biobed/

The biobed construction, operation and maintenance manual authored by Claudia Sheedy, Larry Braul, and Sharon Reedyk and published by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The document can be found at the following link: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/aac-aafc/A42-123-2018-eng.pdf

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Farming Smarter has a portable biobed trailer which you can use as a template to construct one on your property, if you are interested in accessing this resource please contact Farming Smarter at (403) 317-0022.

FARMING SMARTER
Growing new ideas

For more information:
Canola Watch, Biobeds: What are they and why build them: https://www.canolawatch.org
Farming Smarter: Try a biobed for pesticide rinsate management: https://www.farmingsmarter.com/