

# THE COUNTY CHRONICLE

COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5



FALL/WINTER 2021

## County of Warner welcomes a new councillor



SEE MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS on Page 2

### Hello Everyone,

First let me welcome our new Councillor, Jack Heggie. Jack was elected to Division 6 (Stirling area) and is replacing retiring Councillor Don Heggie. I would like to sincerely thank Don for his service to the County. Don was a great Councillor, and we wish him the very best in his retirement from Council. Also, congratulations to the rest of Council, on their acclamations. They are a great council and do the best they can for the County.

It has been another challenging year, as the pandemic lingers on. In person events, both social and business, are planned one day and changed the next. Virtual meetings

have become a normal part of Council committee meetings. Although they will never take the place of in person interaction, they allow us to carry on business, while keeping everyone involved safe. We are trying to avoid putting more strain on the healthcare system, by meeting virtual when possible, and following AHS guidelines when in person cannot be avoided.

Council will be starting on next year's budget soon, trying to work with the ever-changing Government grants not knowing what additional cuts are coming. The Federal Carbon levy is negatively impacting us in ways that is hard to imagine. The levy on fuel, natural gas, electricity, chemical, fertilizer, all rising to a point that is hard to predict and hard to budget for. We, as Council, will do our best to keep the mill rate as low as possible, while maintaining

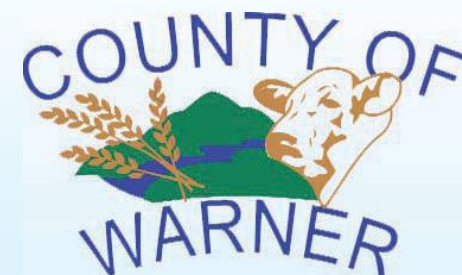
the level of service we are accustomed to. Not all doom and gloom though. We are so blessed to live in rural Alberta, and especially the County of Warner. Anyone that travels the south, or the province, has no doubt.

I would also like to thank our administrator, Shawn Hathaway. He has done a fantastic job again this year keeping to the budget, and maintaining a great staff, to carry out the needs of the County.

So, to the Snowbirds and those finally getting away on a holiday, safe travels. To the rest of us, have a safe and healthy holiday season coming up, and hopefully we can all socialize, recreate and visit normally in the near future.

*Take care,  
Reeve Randy Taylor*

### County of Warner No. 5



#### Contact Information:

County of Warner No. 5  
**Administration Office**

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

New Toll Free Number: 1-888-642-2241  
Website: [www.warnercounty.ca](http://www.warnercounty.ca)

Shawn Hathaway, Administrator/ Economic  
Development Officer  
[shathaway@warnercounty.ca](mailto:shathaway@warnercounty.ca)

Logan Wehlage, Property Assessor  
403-381-0135

County of Warner No. 5  
**Agriculture Service Board**

202 County Road, Box 90  
Warner, AB T0K 2L0  
Phone: 403-642-2255  
Fax: 403-642-2256  
Toll Free Call: 1-866-642-2221

Jamie Meeks, Agriculture Fieldman  
[jmeeks@warnercounty.ca](mailto:jmeeks@warnercounty.ca)

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

Phone: 403-642-3833  
Fax: 403-642-3832

New Toll Free Number: 1-888-642-3831

Larry Liebelt, Public Works Superintendent  
[lliebelt@warnercounty.ca](mailto:lliebelt@warnercounty.ca)

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Cody, Division 1	<a href="mailto:dcody@warnercounty.ca">dcody@warnercounty.ca</a>
Ross Ford, Division 2	<a href="mailto:rford@warnercounty.ca">rford@warnercounty.ca</a>
Phil Jensen, Division 3	<a href="mailto:pjensen@warnercounty.ca">pjensen@warnercounty.ca</a>
Randy Taylor, Division 4	<a href="mailto:rtaylor@warnercounty.ca">rtaylor@warnercounty.ca</a>
Shawn Rodgers, Division 5	<a href="mailto:srodgers@warnercounty.ca">srodgers@warnercounty.ca</a>
Jack Heggie, Division 6	<a href="mailto:jheggie@warnercounty.ca">jheggie@warnercounty.ca</a>
Morgan Rockenbach, Division 7	<a href="mailto:mrockenbach@warnercounty.ca">mrockenbach@warnercounty.ca</a>

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# Meet your COUNCIL MEMBERS

## Across the County



*Division #1 Milk River*  
**DAVID CODY**  
[dcody@warnercounty.ca](mailto:dcody@warnercounty.ca)



*Division #2 Coutts*  
**ROSS FORD**  
[rford@warnercounty.ca](mailto:rford@warnercounty.ca)



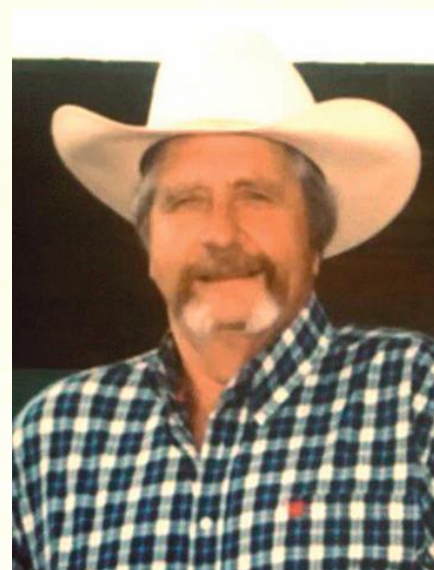
*Division #3 Raymond*  
**PHIL JENSEN**  
[pjensen@warnercounty.ca](mailto:pjensen@warnercounty.ca)



*Division #4 New Dayton*  
**RANDY TAYLOR**  
[rtaylor@warnercounty.ca](mailto:rtaylor@warnercounty.ca)



*Division #5 Warner*  
**SHAWN RODGERS**  
[srodgers@warnercounty.ca](mailto:srodgers@warnercounty.ca)



*Division #6 Stirling*  
**JACK HEGGIE**  
[jheggie@warnercounty.ca](mailto:jheggie@warnercounty.ca)



*Division #7 Wrentham*  
**MORGAN ROCKENBACH**  
[mrockenbach@warnercounty.ca](mailto:mrockenbach@warnercounty.ca)

# TESTING WATER QUALITY

*is important for many agricultural uses*

**I**n 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 required 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.**



# Preparing Trees and Shrubs For Winter

Harsh winter climates in Alberta can create many damages to trees and shrubs. Some of the most common damages occur due to cold temperature and dry air, winter sun, wildlife damage, salt, deep freeze, heavy snow and ice. There are a few things you can do to reduce potential damages.

## Cold winter damage and prevention

Cold winter damages can happen due to tree inability to survive cold weather, lack of snow in some part of Alberta, strong cold and dry wind; heavy snow and ice in late fall or early spring. There are a few things you are able to do to avoid cold winter damage.

- Choose hardy trees and shrubs that can withstand cold temperature. Alberta belongs to Canada Cold hardiness zones 1, 2 and 3 and partly zone 4. So choosing trees and shrubs that are hardy enough for our climate is the first step to protect them from cold winter
- Snow is an excellent insulator for trees and shrubs
- Planting trees and shrubs in protected area buildings or already established tree shelter to avoid direct exposure to strong wind
- Proper pruning will reduce the number of branch breaks during heavy snow or ice.

## Root injuries and protection

Root injuries due to cold are one of the most impactful damages that trees and shrubs can sustain. Roots do not become dormant at the same time as branches, buds or trunk/stems. Several studies are showing that roots remain mostly inactive. Roots can and do function and grow during winter months whenever soil temperatures are favorable, even if the air aboveground is brutally cold. The freezing, heaving and cracking of winter soils physically damages roots – particularly the fine feeder roots in the uppermost organic layers. The root damages can also trigger a range of effects such as reducing a tree's ability to take up water and nutrients, particularly during a spring bud break, and to support stem and branch growth in summer. Severe root damages from winter will greatly contribute to whole tree mortality or part of the trees.

Protecting roots is the most important thing that you can do for trees and shrubs. Here are several recommendations:

- Provide deep **watering** just before freeze (young or old



trees). Frozen water is an excellent insulator and will reduce frost penetration to the root zone. Moist soil holds more energy than dry soil. Once the soil is dry, it is easier for the frost to penetrate deep and dry out roots. The freeze will take moisture from roots and create crystal icicles in the roots which will create physical damages to the root system. The best way to water is slowly with a soaker hose with approximately at the rate of 10 gallons (around 40 liters) per inch of tree diameter (tree diameter is measured at breast height).

- Good deep and early snowfall will keep soil from freezing even if the air temperature is brutally cold
- If snowfall happened after soil is already frozen, deep snow will protect roots from January or March-early thaws when the temperature fluctuates
- **Mulching** is the most important root protection that you can do. Mulching provides a few key functions: prevents weeds, protects roots from extreme heat and keeps moisture around trees. Create a donut-shaped wood chip cover around your tree to keep water inside. Applying 2-4 inches (5-10 cm) of wood mulch will greatly reduce soil freeze. A layer of 3-4 inch of woodchips mulch will prevent heaving by maintaining more constant soil temperatures.
- For **newly planted trees; check if there is a crack** in the soil due to planting or dry fall. Filling up these cracks with soil to prevent cold air from entering the soil. Mulching would also prevent this as well.
- If you have a sandy soil you may **fertilize** in the spring or if you have heavy clay soil you may fertilize in the fall after the leaves have dropped
- **Leave leaves.** Instead of disposing of autumn leaves, keep leaves on the ground, mulch or blend them into the soil to retain nutrients. Be very aware if you have a leaf disease ( e.g. Leaf spots, bronze leaf disease, etc) you have to rake leaves to avoid future problems with diseases.

## Wildlife damages and prevention

As winter is very harsh for many wildlife species, they are looking for food usually on young and recently planted trees.

Several wildlife species will create damages to your young trees. Mice, voles, rabbits, deer and moose will griddle and eat the bark, twigs, branches and buds by feeding on them. They can create severe damages- total or partial destruction of trees and shrubs. There are a few things you can do such as erecting physical barriers to prevent damages.

- Use mesh wire (1/4 inch in size) to protect trunk bark from mice, rabbits, voles and to some extent deer and moose. Deer and moose will strip bark either by eating or using their antlers
- Use plastic tree guards for small animals
- Properly install mesh wires of plastic tree guards with no gaps between the bottom of the mesh cylinder and the ground where animals could crawl under the fencing
- Build a large fence for deer or moose. Use some repellent as well

## Salt damages and prevention

Various salt (chlorides) are used to prevent ice from forming on the road in Alberta. Among them, sodium chloride is one of the most damaging agents on trees and shrubs according to some studies. There are several things you may be able to do:

- Avoid or reduce the amount of salt used for de-icing
- Plant salt-tolerant trees and shrubs in the area with high use of salt
- Use other alternative de-icing material such as sand or small gravel
- You may put some trees under burlap to prevent salty particles spraying onto the trees
- Move trees and shrubs further away to avoid salt damages

## Pruning

After leaves drop (Sept and Oct) you may consider pruning dead, diseased and damaged (3D) branches. Any infested branches dispose of or burn any infested branches. Perform proper 3-way cut pruning techniques and do not damage the branch collar during this process. Otherwise, avoid pruning this time of year as this may create additional stress to the tree.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Toso Bozic P.Ag

ISA Certified Arborist • CERT ID: PR 5356A

Phone (780) 712-3699 • [bozict@telus.net](mailto:bozict@telus.net)

[www.yardwhispers.ca](http://www.yardwhispers.ca) or [www.attsgroup.ca](http://www.attsgroup.ca)



# Welcome to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership in Alberta

## About the Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial initiative aimed at generating economic growth in the agricultural sector and delivering the greatest benefits for farmers, food processors and Canadian families. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is in effect from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership investments will help ensure Canada's agriculture sector remains a leader in job creation and innovation. Canadian Agricultural Partnership will help achieve Canada's objective of expanding agricultural



exports to \$75 billion by 2025.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership outlines a national vision to create the most modern, sustainable and prosperous sector in the world.

The five year national agreement outlines a strategy to support the industry to:

- Increase competitiveness; productivity and profitability,
- Increase environmental sustainability,
- Expand domestic and international mar-

kets, and

- Improve the anticipation, mitigation and response to risks.

Get the most current information on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership by subscribing through the CAP website.

Which Canadian Agricultural Partnership program in Alberta suits your needs? Call 310-FARM (3276).

## What does Canadian Agricultural Partnership mean for Albertans?

In Alberta, Canadian Agricultural Partnership commits to the same level of investment from federal and provincial governments as Growing Forward 2 which is \$406 million towards strategic initiative programs over five years. This investment is cost shared between federal-provincial (60:40) governments and will be invested in programs and initiatives for Alberta's agriculture agri-food and agri-products based industry.

Visit <https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/News> to see latest News.

# WATER PUMPING PROGRAM

*Provides assistance to producers in securing adequate water supplies for domestic, livestock or agricultural purposes.*



## OVERVIEW

For a nominal fee, a producer or group of producers can rent pipe and pumping equipment as outlined from the ministry of Agricultural and Forestry of the Provincial Government to fill dugouts or other suitable catch basins from nearby water sources.

- Any full-time Alberta agricultural producer experiencing water shortages for domestic and livestock use has priority for equipment use
  - Equipment and pipe is sent from dispatch locations to the pumping site
  - Technical assistance is provided for proper operation
- Agricultural Water Specialists can also be contacted, if you require recommendations on constructing or maintaining a safe / secure water supply by phoning: 310-FARM (3276).

## OUTLINE YOUR REQUEST

Be prepared to provide the following information to apply for equipment use:

- Name
- Phone number
- Address
- Legal land location
- Municipal District / county
- Water source
- Distance to be pumped
- Estimated lift
- Date equipment wanted
- Days required

## SUBMIT APPLICATION

Mail your application and payment cheque to:

Water Pumping Program  
Irrigation and Farm Water Division  
Room 206, 7000 113 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6

Payment by MasterCard or Visa is available:  
780-422-5000

Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday (closed statutory holidays)

Website: [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/payment](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/payment)

## AFTER YOU APPLY

A coordinator or driver for your area will contact you to coordinate equipment delivery arrangements shortly before your equipment request date.

## FOR CONSIDERATION

Applicants should be aware that a temporary diversion license(s) is usually required to draw water from rivers, streams or permanent bodies of water such as lakes or sloughs.

Applicants are encouraged to contact their local Regional Support Person (Water) of [Alberta Environment and Parks](http://Alberta Environment and Parks) for information on obtaining this license.

## RURAL WATER

There are 151 water co-operatives throughout the province ([Alberta Federation of Rural Water Co-operatives](http://Alberta Federation of Rural Water Co-operatives)). Many formed in the 1960s and 1970s to provide water service to their immediate area, offering advice or technical assistance.

## CONTACT

Phone: 310-FARM (3276)

To connect with staff of the Water Pumping Program:

Phone: 780-422-5000

Toll-free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta)

Email: [af.waterpumpingprogram@gov.ab.ca](mailto:af.waterpumpingprogram@gov.ab.ca)

Address:

Water Pumping Program  
Irrigation and Farm Water Division  
Room. 206, 7000 113 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6

## 2% Liquid Strychnine

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency has cancelled the registration for 2% liquid strychnine for use on Richardson ground squirrels.

### Important Dates:

**March 4, 2021: Last date of sale by Registrant (Manufacturer)**

**March 4, 2022: Last date of sale by Retailer**

**March 4, 2023: Last date of permitted use**

## Dutch Elm Disease

Elm trees are common-place throughout Alberta. A 2017 American Elm inventory identified at least 600,000 elms growing in Alberta municipalities, rural properties, shelter-belts and provincial parks, valued at over \$2 Billion dollars.

Elm trees are susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease (DED) which is caused by a fungus carried by elm bark beetles.

The beetles are attracted to freshly-pruned wood and diseased and dying trees. If a tree contracts the disease, one or more branches will turn yellow, droop and curl and the tree will typically die within the next few seasons.

In 1998, one elm tree in Wainwright was confirmed to have DED. The tree was immediately removed and burned. And in July 2020, the City of Lethbridge had 2 elm trees that tested positive for the disease; they were immediately removed and city staff surveyed all elms trees and elm firewood in the area for DED symptoms. This is considered an isolated case and eradication was successful. Since 1994, however, the European elm bark beetle has been found throughout Alberta. And in 2006 the banded elm bark beetle was first found in Medicine Hat.

Under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act (APA) Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, both DED pathogen fungus and the European and native elm bark beetles that carry them – are named declared pests.

**Avoid pruning elm trees from April 1st to September 30th.**

**Report all suspect infected trees immediately to the STOPPED Hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS (3567)**

**For more information:**



## TAXES ARE DUE

The County of Warner would like to remind everyone that property taxes are due November 30, 2021 in order to avoid penalties. The County office is located at 300 County Road in the Village of Warner. It is important to note that the office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Cheques can be made payable to the County of Warner No. 5. If the cheques are mailed the envelope should be clearly postmarked by Canada Post no later than November 30, 2021 (a postage imprint is not an acceptable proof for date of mailing).

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

We look forward to your yearly visit and if you have any questions please contact our office at (403) 642-3635 or 1-888-642-2241.

## Canadian Agricultural Partnership Farm Technology Program

The Farm Technology Program supports producers in protecting their business by encouraging the adoption of best management practices in farm technology and security.

This two-year pilot phase (2021 to 2023) of the Farm Technology Program is focused on sensors that contribute to farm data systems, and technology-based security devices, and supports producers in protecting their businesses through the adoption of best management practices in farm security.

The Farm Technology Program supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency, and encourages the adoption of best management practices in farm security. More information on the program can be found at: <https://cap.alberta.ca/>



## On-Farm Climate Action Fund Government of Canada

The federal government has launched a new \$200 million fund named the On-Farm Climate Action Fund to reward Canadian farmers who adopt farm management practices that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The general categories under this fund are;

- Cover crops
- Nitrogen management
- Rotational grazing

Activities supported through this fund are expected to reduce Canada's agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions by up to two million tonnes by 2024.

Read the full news release using this QR code



Government of Canada  
Gouvernement du Canada

Canada





## ENERGY SAVINGS FOR BUSINESS

*\$55 million in funding for Alberta business to improve efficiency and reduce emissions*

**ESB Program Total Incentives Requested**  
54%

**Solar PV Incentives Requested (30% of ESB Program total)**  
100% – Fully subscribed



### MAKE YOUR ORGANIZATION MORE COST-COMPETITIVE

Energy Savings for Business will help eligible Alberta businesses reduce emissions, decrease operating costs, grow their operations and become more competitive, while creating skilled jobs and boosting economic recovery.

Recognizing that time is money to Alberta's businesses, the program will offer streamlined applications, quick turnaround times, expanded technology lists and clear, timely, comprehensive information. ESB will give businesses fast access to incentives for cost-effective efficiency measures:

- Up to \$250,000 is available per project
  - Up to \$500,000 per parent company is available to cover the cost of products and services.
  - Minimum incentive amount of \$500 \*NEW
- The ready made menu of incentives will save companies time and money in developing their projects.

### IMPORTANT NOTICES:

• **Application Assist announced:** ESB has launched a new service to make it even easier for Participants or contractors to submit applications. The Application Assist team will work with you, step-by-step to build your application for multiple-measure projects or complex applications, reducing the time it takes to apply. Reach out to our contact centre to learn more.

• **Solar PV applications** have now reached 30 per cent of the total ESB incentive budget. As a result, we will no longer be accepting new solar PV applications for pre-approval. We encourage participants to keep submitting applications for a range of projects.

### PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR INCENTIVES:

A wide range of cost-effective high efficiency products and on site energy generation technologies are eligible for incentives through this program:

- Compressed air measures
- Process heating
- Refrigeration
- Food service equipment
- HVAC
- Motors and drives
- Water heating
- Combined heat and power (CHP)
- Lighting systems
- Building envelope and windows
- Geothermal
- Agricultural lighting
- Waste energy recovery

**Open the full list of measures and incentives** (updated May 25, 2021. <https://eralberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ESB-Summary-of-Measures-List-Changes-May-25-2021.pdf>)

### BUSINESSES ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE:

The program is designed to support the more than 160,000 small- and medium-scale enterprises in Alberta. All business and non-profits serviced by an Alberta electric utility are eligible, except for residences, new construction projects, municipally, federal and provincially owned buildings, publicly funded institutions and Large Emitters —as defined under Alberta's TIER regulation.

Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Individual businesses
- Non-profit organizations
- Co-operatives
- Private schools not eligible for government funding

- The common spaces and equipment in multi-unit residential buildings
  - Farms registered as a business.
- For projects to be eligible, they must occur at facilities located within Alberta, meet project timeline requirements and follow the criteria outlined in the Participant Terms and Conditions.
- Download the ESB Brochure and share with your clients or organization.

### WHERE TO GO FOR QUESTIONS OR SUPPORT

Our resources page has videos, checklists and any program information you might need.

Still can't find what you're looking for? Our dedicated contact centre is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our team will work hard to get back to you within two business days. We're happy to help you with any questions about the program or how to apply.

**Email:** [support@esbprogram.ca](mailto:support@esbprogram.ca)

**Toll-free:** 844-407-0025

**Local (403) number:** 403-778-9467

**Local (780) number:** 780-306-8376

**Local (587) number:** 587-943-1688

### ABOUT LOW CARBON ECONOMY LEADERSHIP FUND

The Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund provides \$1.4 billion to provinces and territories to reduce carbon pollution and help Canada meet its 2030 climate target. The funding recognizes the key role provinces and territories play in addressing climate change, and it supports their efforts to reduce emissions, encourage innovation, save money, and create jobs and healthier communities.

## Investing in on-farm energy efficiency

Alberta's government is supporting farmers looking to reduce energy use through a new program.

Producers can apply for funding through the Efficient Grain Handling Program, which replaces the Efficient Grain Dryer Program. The updated program now offers an expanded list of eligible grain handling equipment.

For example, farmers can access funding to help purchase indirect-fired high-efficiency portable aeration dryers, automated bin fan control systems, automatic moisture-based controllers, high-efficiency burners, variable speed drives for electric motors, exhaust air re-circulation systems and heat exchangers.

A more complete list and grant application details are available on the Efficient Grain Handling Program web page.

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is a 5-year collaboration between the federal, provincial and territorial governments. For Alberta, the program is worth \$406 million and will continue until 2023.

This year, Alberta's modernized, simplified CAP programs have made it easier and quicker for farmers, ranchers and food processors to get the funds they need to update their operations. To make it even easier, the programs have been condensed from 16 to 9. Funding is limited so I encourage interested people to apply early.

Find one that fits your operation and apply at [CAP.Alberta.ca](http://CAP.Alberta.ca).

# AgriRecovery

**After a natural disaster, AgriRecovery helps producers recover extraordinary costs beyond what is available through other financial assistance programs.**

On August 6, 2021, the Government of Alberta announced an AgriRecovery response, the 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance Initiative, to help address the extraordinary costs being incurred by Alberta's livestock producers because of reduced grazing capacity caused by prolonged dry weather and extreme high temperatures.

The response provides support and cash flow for Alberta's livestock producers and beekeepers to cover extraordinary expenses incurred to feed livestock.

AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework to help agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from natural disasters. Eligible costs will be supported on the 60-40 cost-shared federal-provincial basis outlined under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

#### Things to know

- The AgriRecovery initiative will provide an initial payment of \$94 per head for eligible feed and water access costs for breeding females to producers across the province.
- Animals other than beef cows may have different support levels applied.



- Applications will be online through AFSC Connect and it is anticipated they will be available in early September.

- Producers **who are current AFSC clients** should ensure they have an AFSC Connect account and are signed up for direct deposit to receive program payments.

#### Livestock Feed Assistance Initiative Q&As

<https://afsc.ca/resources/livestock-feed-assistance-initiative-qas/>

#### Terms & Conditions (subject to change)

<https://afsc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-Canada-Alberta-Livestock-Feed-Assistance-Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>

Producers can take steps now to ensure a smooth process when the application is available by:

- Preparing an inventory of breeding females on hand as of August 6, 2021
- Keeping records for any expenses incurred for drought related costs

**NEW** – Producers **who are not currently AFSC clients** can start the client set up process on the **Getting ready for AgriRecovery** page.

Follow us on social media, sign up for **AFSC Product Information email updates** or visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

- Checking AFSC.ca regularly for updates and following AFSC on social media
- For additional information, please call the AFSC Client Service Centre at 1.877.899.2372, use AFSC on-line chat, or contact a branch office. AFSC is available to answer your questions and assist you.

## Contact Us

AFSC staff is ready to help you access what you need to do your business, your way. Call 1.877.899.2372 or email [info@afsc.ca](mailto:info@afsc.ca)

## LIVESTOCK TAX Deferral Provision

The Livestock Tax Deferral provision allows farmers who sell part of their breeding herd due to drought or flooding in prescribed drought or flood regions to defer a portion of sale proceeds to the following year. When prescribed regions are identified, the list is announced publicly and posted to this web page. <https://agriculture.canada.ca/>

#### How the provision works

To defer income, the breeding herd must have been reduced by at least 15%.

- Where the breeding herd has been reduced by at least 15%, but less than 30%, 30% of income from net sales can be deferred.
- Where the breeding herd has been reduced by 30% or more, 90% of income from net sales can be deferred.

In a year in which a region has been prescribed, income from livestock sales are de-

ferred to the next tax year when the income may be at least partially offset by the cost of reacquiring breeding animals, thus reducing the potential tax burden. In the case of consecutive years of drought or excess moisture and flood conditions, producers may defer sales income to the first year in which the region is no longer prescribed.

#### What are the criteria to Prescribe Drought and Flood Regions?

Prescribed regions are designated, on the advice of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to the Minister of Finance, when forage yields are less than 50% of the long-term average as a result of drought or flooding in a particular year. To be designated, the affected area must have recognized geo-political boundaries (for example munic-



ipalities or counties) and be large enough to have an impact on the industry. Impacts on individual municipalities/regions would not result in a designation.

A preliminary list of Prescribed Drought and Flood Regions is usually completed in the early fall, for those regions where it appears that the criteria will be met. Since forage yield information is not final until later in the year, these designations are made primarily on the basis of spring moisture and summer rainfall, and is supplemented with estimates of forage yield. Assessments of areas are reviewed in discussions with federal and provincial staff. A final list of Prescribed Drought and Flood Regions, including previously announced regions, is usually made

in December when finalized forage yield information is available.

#### Additional Information

For more information on the process or criteria to identify Prescribed Drought or Flood Regions, please contact [aafc.taxdeferral-reportdelimpot.aac@agr.gc.ca](mailto:aafc.taxdeferral-reportdelimpot.aac@agr.gc.ca)

For questions related to calculating and/or reporting income deferral for Prescribed Drought/Flood Regions for income tax purposes, please contact the [Canada Revenue Agency \(CRA\)](http://Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)) or consult the CRA publication T4002 Self employed Business, Professional, Commission, Farming, and Fishing Income, Chapter 2 Income. The Livestock Tax Deferral information is detailed in Line 9470 – Livestock and animal products revenue.



# Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

October 13, 2021

## Synopsis

Since the last report (September 27, 2021) conditions have remained dry across much of the Southern Region and through a large swath of land from Athabasca down to Calgary. In contrast, moderate moisture did fall across parts of the North East, the Special Areas and much of the Peace Region with total accumulations ranging from 5 to 15 mm (Map 1).

Following a relatively warm and dry September with pockets of killing frost (approximately  $< -4\text{C}$ ) first occurring during the third week of September (map 2) and on Sept 24 and 29. The first week of October turned colder as the final wide spread killing frost arrived (map 3). The second week of October was colder still and those areas that missed a killing frost to this point were not spared (map 4).

## 30-day precipitation accumulations as of October 13, 2021

Over the past 30-days, rainfall has been quite variable, ranging from 40 to 50 mm through parts of the northern Peace Region, down to less than 3 mm throughout large parts of the Southern, Central and North East Regions (Map 5).

The dry weather has persisted across much of Alberta's agricultural regions. The Southern Region remains dry with accumulations over the past 30-days in the less than once in 25-year low category (Map 5). Similarly, large areas across the Central and North East Regions are experiencing one in 25-year

lows over this same time frame. In contrast, recent moisture across the Peace Region has been near normal, grading to above normal in the North. As we approach freeze up this moisture should be available for next year's crops.

## Soil moisture reserves relative to long term normal as of October 13, 2021

Following a hot and dry growing season, soil moisture reserves for this time of year are generally depleted, and lack of moisture and a warm September across many areas have done little to replenish them (Map 6).

## The drought of 2021 - A pictorial historical perspective

2021 will be long considered by many as one of the worst drought years in memory. The drought of 2021 was initiated by dry conditions that began in August of 2020 and culminated in an acute lack of rain fall, primarily through the months of June July and August of 2021. This was coupled with a relatively rare heat event near the end of June 2021 and warmer than normal temperatures that persisted till at least the end of August.

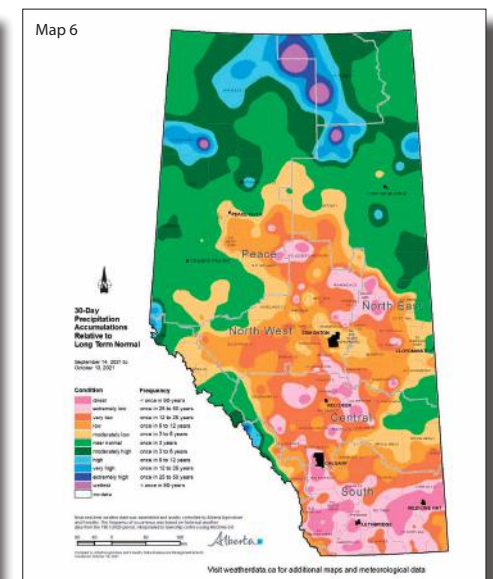
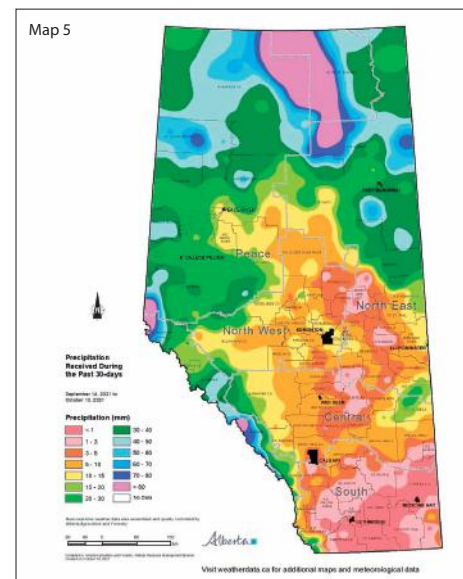
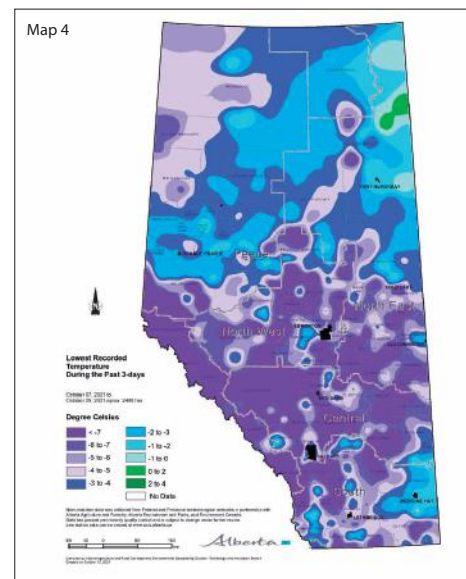
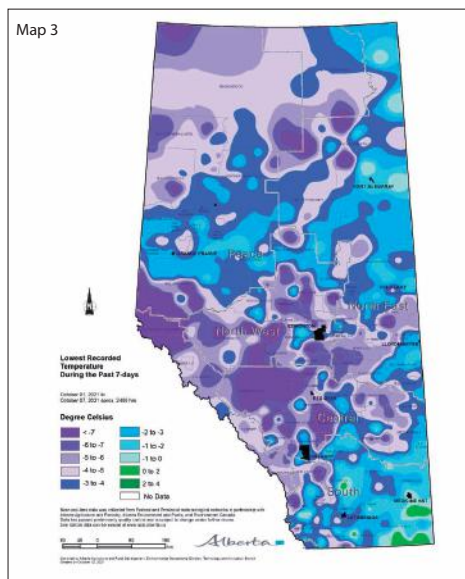
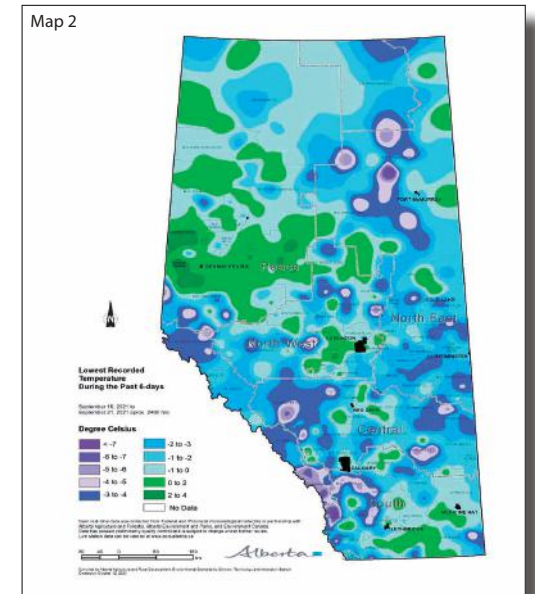
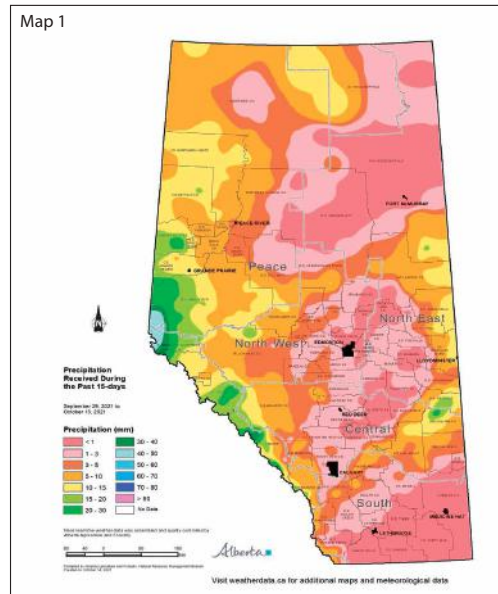
The following map set is presented for those that want to peer back through the meteorological record at similar time frames. This series covers 1962 to 2021 with 5 map pages, each showing 12 consecutive years, depicting June to August pre-

cipitation accumulations relative to normal and a companion set showing the total precipitation accumulations for the same time frame.

What is most striking about the 2021 drought was the large extent of the areas affected by below normal moisture, exceeded perhaps only by 1967. In addition, 2021 was preceded by a wetter than normal growing season across many parts of the North East and Central Regions that may have cushioned the blow somewhat, for those that went into the spring of 2021 with adequate moisture reserves.

The droughts of 2001, 2002 and 2003 provide an interesting perspective as unlike 2021, large areas were affected by three dry growing seasons in a row. One other interesting feature in these maps is the "on off" nature of dry years, which can end abruptly followed by wet years and vice versa. In addition, in many years there is a striking spatial variability between wet and dry areas across the land. Some large areas may be exceptionally dry and within 10's of kms some areas may be exceptionally wet. A perfect example of this is 2002.

For those worried about next year, these maps help to illustrate the unpredictable nature of dry and wet spells. The past shows us that making predictions about next year based solely on this year's weather is often not a reliable bet.



# Biosecurity and livestock

Preventing disease from entering or leaving Alberta farms protects human and animal health, and supports sustainable livestock production.

## COVID-19 response

To date, there have been no reports of livestock being infected by COVID-19 anywhere. However, livestock producers should follow normal biosecurity measures as always. This includes limiting visitors or workers who may have travelled to – or been in contact with someone from – an affected area.

For updates on COVID-19 and on-farm disease prevention, see Biosecurity and livestock – Resources: COVID-19 See also: COVID-19 info for Albertans

## Overview

Biosecurity refers to practices designed to prevent, reduce or eliminate the introduction and spread of disease. Concerns over the spread of animal diseases, particularly those of foreign origin, are high within the livestock industry.

## Livestock diseases

Can affect any type of operation regardless of size. Biosecurity practices tailored to each operation minimize the introduction and/or transmission of disease:

- On a given farm
- Between farms
- Between species

## Importance of biosecurity

Biosecurity plays a vital role in sustainable livestock production. Principles of biosecurity have become the foundation for animal health, which has an associated relationship to food safety, trade, and control of zoonotic diseases. Biosecurity practices are essential to maintaining market access and preventing the occurrence of Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) in Canada.

Biosecurity practices can:

- Prevent the introduction and spread of disease
- Protect humans from zoonotic diseases (diseases that are transmissible between animals and humans)
- Demonstrate commitment to animal health and food safety
- Be used as a recovery tool if disease incursions occur
- Save money spent on disease recovery costs

For more detailed information, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/biosecurity-andlivestock-overview.aspx>

## Working Well Workshop Schedule | Fall 2021

Register today for a live, online (Zoom) water well management workshop.

Just like the popular in-person workshops, these FREE, live, online workshops are hosted by local municipalities and community-based organizations and presented by the Working Well Program with technical expertise provided by staff from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Health Services and licensed water well drillers. All workshops start at 6:30 PM.

If you live in or own property in one of these municipalities and have a water well on your property, register for a virtual workshop today.

Workshop Hosts	Date	Workshop Registration Link
Woodlands County	October 21, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/38UeV8T">https://bit.ly/38UeV8T</a>
Red Deer County	October 26, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/3CoCglA">https://bit.ly/3CoCglA</a>
Stettler County	November 2, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/3tsoPh">https://bit.ly/3tsoPh</a>
Cypress County	November 4, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/2X7xELj">https://bit.ly/2X7xELj</a>
Starland County	November 9, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/38ZdxBG">https://bit.ly/38ZdxBG</a>
Yellowhead County	November 23, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/2YyviG8">https://bit.ly/2YyviG8</a>
MD of Bighorn	November 30, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/3A1mp5M">https://bit.ly/3A1mp5M</a>
Milk River Watershed Council Canada and County of Warner	December 2, 2021	<a href="https://bit.ly/3lq2PKl">https://bit.ly/3lq2PKl</a>

Learn more about Working Well and get resources for well owners at [workingwell.alberta.ca](http://workingwell.alberta.ca)

Alberta



**WORKING WELL**  
Clean water.  
Well protected.

Security Classification: Public

## Let's make it 100%

**Recycle every container!**



**Seed Treatment Containers**

**Important Instructions**

- 1 Rinse**  
Rinse, if possible.
- 2 Prepare**  
Keep cap on (if unrinsed).  
• Bag separately from rinsed containers (collection bags available from ag retailers).  
• Close bag with tie wrap, rope or knot.
- 3 Return here**  
Return bags of unrinsed seed treatment containers to your local municipal site for proper disposal. (Unrinsed seed treatment containers are not recyclable.)

**Triple or pressure rinse pesticide & fertilizer containers and return to municipal collection site.**  
Rinse seed treatment containers only if possible. Keep separate from other containers.



**Pesticide & Fertilizer Containers (23L or less)**

- 1 Rinse**  
Triple or pressure rinse to ensure no product is wasted.
- 2 Remove**  
Remove caps and booklets (when possible); dispose in regular garbage.
- 3 Return here**  
Collection bags available free from your ag retailer.  
• When full, securely close with tie wrap, rope or knot.  
• Drop off at your municipal collection site for recycling.

⊘ No containers larger than 23L (return to retailer).  
⊘ No obsolete pesticides (hold on farm for next collection event).



Scan to learn more!

**Cleanfarms.ca**  
[info@cleanfarms.ca](mailto:info@cleanfarms.ca) [f](https://www.facebook.com/cleanfarms) [@cleanfarms](https://www.instagram.com/cleanfarms)



Given the current COVID-19 situation, please call ahead to collection sites for instructions on delivering empties.

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT *in Agriculture*



2021 has been a challenging year for Alberta's producers. In many places, too little moisture and too much heat have created extremely stressful situations for producers as they grapple with the crisis at hand.

In the past, farmers have tended to deal with their stress and anxiety privately, but work is underway to change the way the ag industry views, promotes and talks about mental health.

## Handling the stress of farming

Do More Ag is one of the groups leading that change. The non-profit foundation founded in 2018 seeks to change the culture of mental health in agriculture. Since its inception, Do More Ag has trained thousands of producers and agribusinesses in mental health first aid and its own Talk-Ask-Listen workshops; trained mental health professionals in agriculture literacy; created a storehouse of mental health resources, including agriculture specific resources on its website; and facilitated speaking events and awareness campaigns.

In fact, one of Do More Ag's new programs, Talk it Out, emerged as a result of an awareness campaign from last year. Talk it Out is a virtual meeting space where farmers and their families can come together to share their experiences, worries and frustrations. It provides an opportunity for participants to ask questions, share resources and provide support to other farmers who are experiencing similar circumstances.

"The campaign is aimed at changing the everyday conversations, both within ag and from an outside perspective," explained Adelle Stewart, Do More Ag's executive director, adding they want to change the culture from 'if you can't handle the stress, get out of farming' to something more.

"We decided we wanted to continue that conversation, so we began bi-weekly virtual Zoom sessions, available to anybody across Canada, for primary producers to come and share their stress and be heard and develop a sense of community with one another."

## If you can't handle the stress, talk to someone

Farmers are good at asking neighbours for help with their equipment, or to borrow an item—but they can be slow to ask

for help with their well-being, said Lauren Van Ewyk, Talk it Out moderator, agriculture mental health advocate and registered social worker.

Talk it Out gives producers a place to ask questions about mental health, share their experiences and find support. Initially, Talk it Out sessions were held every other week on Zoom, however, Do More Ag has increased the frequency and availability of the sessions in response to the current challenges facing many Canadian producers.

Talk in Out sessions now take place on Zoom, Twitter and Instagram Live. Upcoming Talk it Out sessions include:

- August 25 (Zoom session): Communication – What to do and what not to do
- September 1 (Twitter chat): Ask Us Anything
- September 8 (Zoom session): Stress from Harvest
- September 15 (Twitter chat): Ask Us Anything

For full details, including how to sign up for a Zoom session, check out the Do More Ag Talk it Out webpage.

"We hope people feel welcomed and are given an opportunity to experience a level of support they are currently unable to find elsewhere," said Van Ewyk. "Do More Ag is hopeful that farmers and their families, who are curious about the mental health impact in their own life and farm, will feel willing to check it out, to test the waters of finding support for their mental health experiences."

In addition to sharing their experiences, producers who participate in Talk it Out can also find support and guidance as they find their way forward.

## The Do More Agriculture Foundation

"We didn't want people to come and not have any solutions or guidance or next steps (related to) the very vulnerable things they are sharing," said Stewart, "So we wanted to make sure it was both an outlet and a resource."

Do More Ag also has a robust list of resources – ranging from crisis lines to counsellors with lived ag experience – on the Resource page on their website.

## It's okay not to be okay

"It's okay not to be okay all the time," said Van Ewyk. "As farmers, we tend to think that we are the salt of the earth and that we can handle anything life throws our way ... we can't."

"We all have a story. We all have a journey, and some of that journey is difficult and painful."

Van Ewyk said it is important to remember that we are all still learning and that it's okay to take the time to talk about and learn about mental health.

To learn more about Do More Ag and the Talk it Out program, please see the Do More Ag website. If you need immediate help, please reach out to one of the following:

- Emergency Services 911
- Mental Health Help Line 1.877.303.2642 (Toll free)
- Crisis Services Canada 1.833.456.4566 (phone), 45645 (text). [crisisservicescanada.ca](http://crisisservicescanada.ca) (web)

AFSC continues to be a supporter and sponsor of Do More Ag, and an advocate for the mental health and well-being of Alberta producers.

# Southern Alberta Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Resources

## Farmer Specific Resources

**Farm Debt Mediation Service Regional Office**  
1-866-452-5556 (toll Free) • 306-780-5544  
613-773-2600 (TDD/TTY) • 306-780-7353

**Canadian Agricultural Partnership- Alberta**  
<https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/>

**Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies**  
<http://albertaagsocieties.ca/grants-funding/>

## Support Groups

### Coping with Anxiety and Depression

Address: Centre 104 Building Suite 706, 5241 Calgary Trail NW  
Day and Time: Wednesdays from 5-7pm  
Contact: Kimberly Masliuk-Giddings, MSW RSW (780) 757-0900

### A Gift of Hope - Community Mental Health

Address: Provincial Building 346 - 3rd St SE, Medicine Hat, AB  
Day and Time: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am-12pm  
Contact: 403-529-3500  
Additional Information: <http://palliserpcn.ca/Resources/Pages/Anxiety-Stress-and-Trauma-Support.aspx>

### Sharing Our Loss – Lethbridge Family Services

Address: 1107 – 2nd Avenue North, Lethbridge, AB  
Contact: Mary Shillington (403) 327-5724  
[mshillington@lethbridge-family-severices.com](mailto:mshillington@lethbridge-family-severices.com)

## Suicide Hotlines and Resources

**Alberta Health Services Mental Health Help Line**  
1-877-303-2642

### Distress Line of Southwestern Alberta

1-888-787-2880 (crisis, 24/7 Support)  
(403) 327-7905 (crisis, 24/7 Support)  
(403) 329-4775 (Business)  
<http://lethbridge.cmha.ca/>

### Distress Centre Calgary

(403) 266-4357 (crisis, 24/7 Support)  
(403) 266-1601 (Business)  
[info@distresscentre.com](mailto:info@distresscentre.com)  
<http://www.distresscentre.com>

### Wood's Home

1-800-563-6106 (crisis, 24/7 Support)  
(403) 299-9699 (crisis, 24/7 Support)  
(403) 270-4102 (Business)  
[crtstaff@woodshomes.ca](mailto:crtstaff@woodshomes.ca) • <http://www.woodshomes.ca>

# PREVENT INFESTATIONS

*in stored grain*

Contact the County of Warner Ag. Service Board to purchase stored grain fumigant. To purchase fumigant, you will need to have a farmer pesticide certification.

For more information please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/farmer-pesticide-certificate.aspx>

Module videos are available on the County of Warner website:

<https://www.warnercounty.ca/p/agriculture-service-board>.

You can prevent insect pest infestations from developing in your stored grain by preparing your grain bins, keeping grain in good condition, and monitoring stored grain.

#### Bin-stored grain

Follow proper grain storage procedures to maintain your grain's quality until you are ready to market it.

#### Prepare your bin before harvest

Insects in grain bins feed on debris, dockage and leftover cereal grain.

- Clean the bin with high-pressure water or air, a heavy broom and/or a vacuum
- Clean aeration systems
- Eliminate dust and dockage from any cracks in the bin
- Repair holes, cracks and leaks in the bin and any cracks in concrete floors
- Clean under the floor grates
- Clear the area around the grain bins of all weeds, volunteer cereals, and grain spills

#### Decide which bin you will use for each crop

How you clean and prepare an empty bin depends on the type of crop you plan to store.

- If you plan to store oilseeds, avoid using chemical insecticides on the bin, as oilseeds are absorbent and the residue remains in the seed
- If you plan to store cereal grains, there are several approved insecticides you can use to treat the interiors of empty grain bins
- Apply approved insecticides to disinfest grain bins if deemed necessary

#### Ensure the surface is level when you add clean grain to the bin

Aeration is more effective when the grain pile is level.

Grain is a very good insulator, so if warm grain is stored and left undisturbed, convection currents can develop and cause hot spots and condensation.

#### Bring the temperature of the grain down to 18°C as soon as possible

Lower the moisture content of grain to below 14.5 % and

cool the grain below 18°C to prevent stored-grain insect pest problems.

- Most stored product pests do not feed or reproduce below 18°C
  - Grain bulks that are stored above 14.5 % moisture content can develop heated regions
  - Heat encourages fungal growth, and both attract insects
- Monitor the temperature of stored grain and aerate the grain bulk**

Check the temperature of the bin every 2 weeks and aerate stored grain as soon as possible after harvest, particularly if aeration can reduce the bulk temperature to below 18°C.

- When the ambient temperature falls below that of the grain bulk (during the early evening, night and early morning), you can use aeration to reduce the temperature of the grain
- Aeration systems preserve stored grain and keep it dry by reducing the temperature of the grain and moisture migration
- Always ensure that temperature fronts have moved fully through the grain bulk before stopping aeration

#### Temporary grain storage

Occasionally, you may need to use temporary storage solutions such as bags or grain piles on the ground.

- If grain is stored on the ground, ensure the ground is hard and the site is convex
  - Clear the area of all debris
  - Choose an area that is graded so that water flows away from the grain
  - Determine if you need to manage grain temperature and/or moisture in temporary storage
  - Cover the grain as best possible
  - If you are using silo bags, regularly check and maintain the integrity of the bags
  - Move temporarily stored grain into bins as soon as possible
- Grain elevators licensed by the Canadian Grain Commission are prohibited from storing grain on the ground.
- Contact the Ag Service Board at 403-624-2255 to purchase stored grain fumigants.

## Canine parasite discovery in Alberta

A parasitic tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* is a recent discovery in the prairie provinces and can cause a disease called alveolar echinococcosis in humans. The parasite originated in Europe and has become established in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

The parasite is a small tapeworm which can spread from rodents to canines (coyotes, foxes and dogs), the disease can further spread to humans through accidental ingestion of the microscopic eggs. A human could become infected by petting a dog that has the disease, and then by touching food or the mouth.

The tapeworm can cause parasite symptoms such as unspecified pain, jaundice, weakness and weight loss and the development of tumor like growths.

To look at the study, use the following QR code:



## Alberta Beef Producers

### Nominate an outstanding environmental steward

Do you know a beef producer who doubles as a model steward of the land? Then find your favourite pen, or keyboard. Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA).

What is the Environmental Stewardship Award?

The ESA recognizes Alberta cattle producers whose practices contribute to the environment, and enhance productivity and profitability.

In addition to well-deserved recognition, the winner(s) will receive a commemorative gate sign, and an all-expenses paid trip from anywhere in Alberta to ABP's Annual General Meeting in 2022.

Award recipient(s) will also move on to the national level, to be considered for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA).

#### How to apply

All beef cattle farms and ranches in Alberta are eligible, and the nomination form is available from the Alberta Beef Producers by scanning the following QR code or visit <https://www.albertabeef.org/producers/environmental-stewardship-award>



Deadline for nominations is October 29, 2021.

# Thank You



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

## 2021 Project Highlights

- Stripping at our Nett south Pit for gravel crush.
- Road Gravelling at the time of Newsletter Preparation 376 KM of road 58,000 Tonnes of Gravel.
- Upgraded road to accommodate snow storage and drainage problems around the county.

- 21 Culvert replacements were completed.
- Warner West oil project for 2021 was completed.
- Construction was started on the new Masinasin Grader shop, completion to be the end of November.

With winter coming early and the prediction of above-normal snowfall, the public works department would like to remind ratepayers of the following:

- Please be patient while district operators make it through their routes while snow ploughing. They have a large area to cover and do it as efficiently as possible.
- Council has amended policy M-9 by deleting private laneway snow ploughing. This change allows our operators to spend the necessary time ploughing and sanding. If your laneway needs clearing, there are local contractors in all areas of the county that will be happy to assist you.



## Grain Bags and Twine Prepare it Properly



### ✓ Yes!

Machine Rolled & Secured with Twine



Clean & Bagged Twine



### ✗ No Thanks!

Hand-Rolled Bags



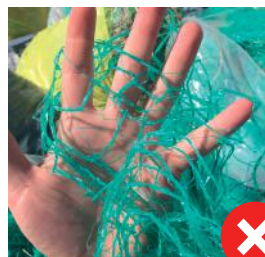
Loose Drop-Offs



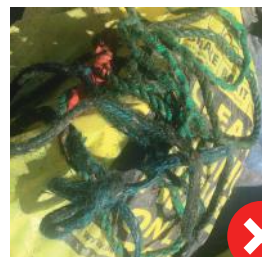
Silage Tarps or Other



Net Wrap



Nylon Rope/Sisal Twine



Hay or Other Material



COUNTY OF WARNER  
AG SERVICE BOARD SHOP  
SE-15-4-17 W4M  
403-642-2255  
warnercounty.ca

**PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNTY AG OFFICE @ 403-642-2255 TO SCHEDULE A DROP OFF AT THE COUNTY OF WARNER AG SERVICE BOARD BUILDING COLLECTION SITE**



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.

# FARMING SMARTERS' Soil Conservation Series



In 2021, Farming Smarter in partnership with municipalities in Southern Alberta produced a series of articles on soil conservation and methods which can be implemented to stop its spread.

The following five articles are summaries of the full content, please check out the full articles using the links below the articles.

## Yes, Blowing Soil Breaks a Law

*By Kristi Cox*

It's not just a heartbreak to see soil blowing east across roads and fields – it's also an infraction.

Soil erosion has negative effects, not just for the landowner losing precious soil, but also for neighbouring lands, roads, ditches, and buildings. In Alberta, the Soil Conservation Act and the Agricultural Service Board Act pair up to provide protection for this soil and help ensure longevity of agriculture in the province.

The Soil Conservation Act originated in response to the severe wind erosion the prairies saw in the 1930's. Alberta passed the Control of Soil Drifting Act in 1935, then replaced it in 1962 by the Soil Conservation Act.

<https://www.farmingsmarter.com/yes-blowing-soil-breaks-a-law/>

## Dollars Blowing in the Wind

*By Kristi Cox*

There's more to blowing soil than what (painfully) meets the eye. Those airborne particles can hold vital nutrients and even crop disease.

Finer soil particles such as silt, clay, and organic matter tend to be more vulnerable to wind erosion. They are also generally rich in nutrients and essential for healthy, fertile soil. Gurbir Dhillon Ph.D., research scientist with Farming Smarter in Lethbridge, explained that this is one of the biggest issues with wind erosion.

What else is blowing away with eroded soil? Money!

Dhillon explained that if an inch of soil is lost to wind erosion, approximately 550 pounds of nitrogen per acre



*Blowing soil can cause costly clean up.*

will be lost in addition to other major crop nutrients like phosphorus and potassium. Producers must replace them to maintain productivity on their land. The value for these nutrients in terms of equivalent fertilizer costs can be as high as \$325 per acre. With several dust storms, the erodible portions of fields can lose this amount of soil in about a decade. This estimate only addresses the loss of macronutrients and doesn't account for other factors that can reduce profits such as yield decreases, loss of soil structure, less water retention by soils etc.

Where does it blow?

All this macronutrient-rich soil is going somewhere. "Some is deposited on roads and in ditches, where it isn't productive at all," said Dhillon. "The deposition of nutrient-rich windblown soils in the drainage ditches or irrigation canals may have other implications such as aquatic weed and algal growth and reduction in water quality."

To make it worse, the soil can also come with problems like weed seeds or diseases. This is a gift the neighbour doesn't want.

<https://www.farmingsmarter.com/dollars-blowing-in-the-wind/>

## Economics of Agricultural Blow-Dirt

*By Madeleine Baerg*

When the wind picks up and the sky turns grey with blow-dirt, everyone loses.

For the farmer whose field seems suddenly half in the air, the economic impact of a major wind event can be nothing short of devastating.

"The topsoil is the most productive strip of soil. Losing any amount of topsoil disproportionately impacts productivity, even if there is a decent amount of topsoil,"



*Soil collected in ditches over the winter of 2020/2021. Credit: County of Newell.*

explains Gurbir Dhillon, a research scientist at Farming Smarter in Lethbridge.

Unfortunately, we need more research to account for the many field condition variables that make an effective assessment of wind erosion's actual costs at the farm level, says Dhillon. That said, he says some past studies can provide some guidance, including a study conducted in the 1990s by AAFC soil conservation research scientist Dr. Frank Larney that showed a yield drop of 40% when a two-inch layer of topsoil was stripped from a wheat plot.

Wind selectively removes soil's fine mineral particles, clay and organic matter. The loss of these soil components dramatically impacts the remaining soil's water infiltration and water holding capacity. It leads to increased soil crusting, run-off, and water erodibility. It also decreases soil's capacity to attract and retain positively charged molecules including nutrients, herbicides, etc. Together, all of these factors reduce soil fertility and productivity.



*Blow-dirt clogged canal.*

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Wind also costs nutrient availability. Since some nutrients attach themselves to clay or organic matter, a farmer's nutrients will hitch a ride out of the field when the soil blows. Too, losing organic matter means a corresponding loss of nutrients that would otherwise have become available through natural decomposition of that organic matter. Taken across all Canadian agriculture, the costs are very significant. <https://www.farmingsmarter.com/economics-of-agricultural-blow-dirt/>

## Don't Blow Good Neighbour Relations

*By Madeleine Baerg*

Blow-dirt can also be detrimental to farm fields downwind. Anyone who has found themselves in or next to a field that starts to blow knows that wind filled with particles of sand, clay and organic material is highly abrasive. When a field starts to blow, the abrasive action can decimate a seedling crop next door, and/or can scrape up the surface of a neighbouring field and start it blowing too.

At a municipal or regional district level, the costs of blow-dirt can be significant.

So far in 2021, the County of Newell, for example, spent nearly \$250,000 on its soil conservation program, specifically on contractor fees, labor, trucking, staff time, and gravel to resurface silt-covered roads. "This spring, Mother Nature gave us a whopping spring, so [the County] did bear the majority of the costs of clean-up," says Todd Green, director of agricultural services with the County. That said, he points out that costs aren't always so high: the County spent just \$908 on soil conservation programming last year, and \$0 in both 2018 and 2019.



*SMRID canal trash rack from spring 2021 clogged with blown crop residue. Credit: SMRID.*

To better meet taxpayers' needs into the future, the County is currently creating a soil conservation policy, and updating the Unauthorized Use of Property bylaw regarding who must pay for clean-up. "We've talked to many producers who have had [blow events] happen and they all know we can't sustain the practice of paying for the clean-up. It's not sustainable long-term for rate-payers who don't have soil erosion issues to pay for those who do," says Green.

<https://www.farmingsmarter.com/dont-blow-good-neighbour-relations/>



*Winter wheat crop growing in the spring of 2021 at Farming Smarter*

## Tillage is Problematic on the Prairies

*By Kristi Cox*

No till, cover crops and wind breaks all play a role in mitigating wind soil erosion on the Prairies, but are they equally effective? Allowing soil to blow has negative effects, so it's important for producers to determine the best practices to ensure they are protecting this resource. David Lobb, Professor in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Manitoba, explained that even small amounts of soil loss can cause big problems. Blowing soil and crop residue can: damage crops; reduce road visibility causing accidents; and cause respiratory problems. Ultimately, even with careful measures to decrease wind erosion, it can't be eliminated completely. "You should never have the expectation that wind erosion will be completely stopped," said Lobb. "We always need to produce food, and wind erosion occurs even in natural environments. But, when humans are involved, they need to make sure what they do doesn't make it dramatically worse."

How do we keep soil where it belongs?

"Use as little tillage as possible," said Lobb. "It reduces wind, water and tillage erosion problems."

No-till practices have a two-fold benefit when it comes to wind erosion. The plants themselves slow the speed of the wind at the soil surface, substantially decreasing soil loss. Tillage breaks the soil into individual, lighter particles, which are more easily lifted by the wind, so avoiding that practice holds soil in place as well.

Cover crops are used as an alternate source of fixed vegetation.

"If you keep your residue from the previous crop in the ground, the extra residue from the cover crop probably isn't going to make a significant dent in the wind erosion issues," explained Lobb. "They can add biomass, but they are not likely to have a huge impact on soil erosion. I would always argue that you shouldn't till in the first place if you can help it."

Cover crops can, however, be useful following low residue crops like pulses or potatoes.

<https://www.farmingsmarter.com/tillage-is-problematic-on-the-prairies/>

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Check out the Farming Smarter Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/farmingsmarter>

**FARMING SMARTER OFFICE**

211034 Hwy 512, Lethbridge County, AB • T1J 5N9 • Phone: (403) 317-0022



# RIDGE PARK EXPANSION

The County of Warner has undertaken a substantial construction project at Ridge Park to expand the existing park to include 23 new campsites, new washrooms, a landscaped treed recreational area and upgrades to the camp entrance and host area.

The boat launch has been improved and extended to allow greater ease of public use.

This project was partially funded by the Economic Recovery Grant Funding of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

The park is open seasonally from April 15 to October 15. Although the park is now closed, we look forward to welcoming you to the park in the new year.

