

STARLAND AG TALK

Volume 4, Issue 2

IN TUNE...IN PROGRESS

May 2007



Events to Keep in Mind

Toxic Waste Roundup ~ June 8th, Morrin

Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women ~ July 5&6, Cypress Hills

Livestock Essentials: Pasture Field Day ~ July 12th, Starland Recreation Area

Starland County Summer Agricultural Tour ~ TBA

Gopher Control



The final order for Gopher Bait (Ready-to-use-wet with strychnine) will be placed at noon on June 5th

8 Kg pail - \$73

12Kg pail - \$98

Call 772-3793 to place your order

KEEP MALATHION AWAY FROM CANOLA SEED!

The Canola Council of Canada reminds growers to keep malathion far away from canola seed. Council crop production vp JoAnne Buth says growers must not use the insecticide to treat canola in storage bins. In fact, she says growers shouldn't store canola in bins that have been treated with malathion in the past six months.

Buth explains that malathion is an insecticide registered in Canada for foliar use and for empty bin treatment for stored product insects. It can still be used on the canola plant for in-season insect control according to label directions.

"But," she says, "using it to treat canola for storage or in empty bins where canola will be stored will result in residues in the seed. And residues detected in canola exported to Japan could cost the industry, including farmers, millions of dollars in lost business."

Japan is the number one customer of Canadian canola seed with imports valued at over \$450 million each year. Buth says the Japanese industry is "very concerned over pesticide residues, especially those that are applied to stored canola or to empty bins. In addition, the Japanese government is introducing new food safety legislation that

will prohibit entry of any commodities if pesticide residues are found above the allowable limit." If malathion is detected above the allowable limit in Japan, Buth says the shipment will be rejected and subsequent shipments would be subjected to increased testing.

Buth says there are other much better ways to make sure that insects are not a problem in canola. Most insects in stored canola will not feed on sound, healthy seed. Moisture-loving fungus feeders such as foreign grain beetles, psocids and mites may be found in canola if it is in poor condition but the main problem is with stored product insects who invade if there's cereal grain mixed in with stored canola.

She recommends that growers make sure their canola bins are free of chaff, seeds, and foreign material. Combine settings should be set to harvest sound seed. Bins must be well sealed to prevent moisture infiltration and totally insecticide-free. It is important to keep canola cool and dry in the bin. For long term storage, temperatures should be kept at less than 15 °C and grain moisture levels below 8 %.

For further information, call 1-866-834-4378 or check out the Canola Export Ready Recommendations at http://www.canola-council.org/export_ready.html

~Canola Council of Canada, August 11, 2006

Alberta Surface Water Quality Awareness

The Alberta Water Quality Awareness Survey is an annual event that samples all types of surface water bodies from May 15th to June 30th in order to create a database of water quality in Alberta. The survey records the temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and pH.

Temperature affects:

- The amount of oxygen that water can hold (cold water holds more oxygen)
- How chemicals dissolved in water will act
- The metabolic rate of aquatic organisms
- The rate of photosynthesis by aquatic plants

What influences water temperature?

- Sunshine or light energy
- Type and size of waterbody
- Human activities (wastewater or runoff may be warmer or cooler than the receiving waterbody)

Aquatic organisms require a certain amount of dissolved oxygen to survive. The amount of dissolved oxygen needed varies between species.

What influences dissolved oxygen?

- Water temperature
- Aquatic plants and algae (Photosynthesizing plants add DO; rotting plants and algae remove DO)

Water turbulence and wave action (Waves and rapids mix the water with oxygen from the atmosphere, increasing DO levels) pH is a measure of how acidic or basic your water is. It is important because:

- pH affects water chemistry and the biological state of aquatic organisms
- Changes in pH can be very stressful on aquatic life, especially during reproduction
- At a low pH certain compounds, like heavy metals, become increasingly toxic to plants and animals

What influences pH?

- The type of rocks and soil in the area
- Human additions (such as fertilizers, chemical spills, urban runoff and acid rain)

Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water is. It is important because it affects:

- The amount of light reaching aquatic plants
- The ability of aquatic organisms to see
- Dissolved oxygen levels
- Water temperature

What influences turbidity?

- Soil erosion
- Urban runoff
- Algae growth
- Water movement and flow rates
- Bottom sediment disturbances such as feeding fish and boat traffic

~ AWQA Field Guide and Data Sheets

If anyone is interested in being involved in the Alberta Surface Water Quality Awareness survey by joining in on a sampling location or by sampling your own water body, please contact Lindsay Cherpin.

**TOXIC WASTE
ROUNDUP**

JUNE 8, 2007
MORRIN

Starland County Agricultural
Service Board Shop

Starland and Kneehill Counties present...

LIVESTOCK ESSENTIALS

A hands on approach to learning about your grass and water for better pasture productivity

When: July 12th
9 am to 3 pm
Lunch Included

Where: Starland Recreation Area
(Morrin Bridge Campground)

What: The day includes hands-on, interactive sessions within the following topics:

- Range Health Assessment, Plant Identification and Successful Grazing Systems
- Water Quality and How It Affects Cattle Weight Gains
- Off-site Water System Options
- Electric Fencing Facts and Trouble Shooting Tips
- **Ladies Electric Fencing Clinic—fault finding, common concerns, theory and hands-on work**

To register or for more information, please contact Lindsay Cherpin, 772-3793 or Callie Fox at 443-5541.

**Registration
Deadline is
July 10th,
2007**

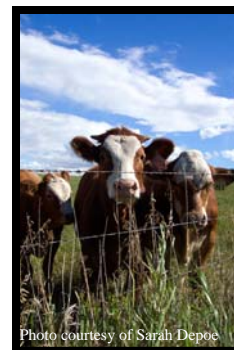


Photo courtesy of Sarah Depoe

PROGRESS IN STARLAND

The Environmental Farm Plan Program provides access to cost-share funding from the Canada Alberta Farm Stewardship Program. This Program is designed to assist producers in making beneficial management practice changes on their farms. To date, Starland County has had 99 farms start the EFP process and over 74 producers have accessed funding totaling \$141,696 to make changes in the following areas:

- Improved Cropping Systems
 - Water Well Management
 - Livestock Management
 - Product and Waste Management
 - Manure Storage and Handling
- The Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program is set to end March 2008. If you have any projects that require funding, it is advised that your applications be submitted ASAP.

If you have any questions about getting involved with the Environmental Farm Plan program or require assistance in completing CAFSP applications, please contact Lindsay Cherpin.

Canada-Alberta Farm Water Program

The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance towards the cost of long-term on-farm water supply developments completed during the period April 1, 2006—December 31, 2007. This supply can relate to domestic use, live-stock watering, fish farming and small scale irrigation.


You are encouraged to submit all applications as projects are completed. The application deadline is January 15, 2008 for projects that will be completed by December 31, 2007.

This program is for active producers with at least \$10,000 annual value of farm commodity production.


Eligible projects could include: wells, dugouts, dams, spring developments, cisterns, pipelines, and remote watering system components.

Maximum payment will be \$5000 per eligible producer

For more information contact Lindsay Cherpin, 772-3793 or visit Ropin' the Web.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR WEEDS?



Starland County has obtained a new weed identification tool from the Weed Science Society of America. This tool is an interactive computer program that uses plant characteristics to sort through the database and identify your weed. If you have an unknown weed, please contact Alan Hampton or Lindsay Cherpin for identification assistance.

4th Annual Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women

July 4th and 5th, 2007 ~ Elkwater, Cypress County, AB

The Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women offers an opportunity for women to enhance their knowledge of beneficial management practices relating to pasture and riparian health. Participants will be provided with resources to take home and new management techniques to apply to their own pasture.

Topics include: Herd Health, Grazing Strategies, Stocking Rates, Plant Identification, Weed Management, and much, much more...

For more information contact Lindsay Cherpin or visit www.cowsandfish.org. To register contact Jaclinn Vincent at County of Newell (403) 362-2772 or vincentj@countyofnewell.ab.ca.

REGISTRATION IS \$50 AND INCLUDES ONSITE ACCOMODATION FOR THE 4TH, ALL MEALS AND BOOKS

Funding for this project is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Greencover Canada Program

ASB SERVICES

1. Shelterbelt Spraying Program 150 Gallon Tank
~ \$50.00 per hour plus Chemical (*minimum charge \$50.00*)
2. Noxious Weed Spraying Program for spot control 150 g tank
~ \$50.00 per hour plus Chemical
3. Backsloping Program for Fenceline Topsoil Work
~ 40 % Incentive Program for Qualifying Projects
4. Weed Spraying Honda Quad 15 gallon Tank
~ \$50.00 per hour plus Chemical (*minimum charge \$50.00*)
5. Tree Planter
~ Free of charge if trees ordered through County Office
6. Treflan Applicator & Disc for Shelterbelt Weed Control
~ \$50.00 per Hour plus Chemical
7. Fabric Roller for Shelterbelt Weed Control
~ \$20.00 per Hour plus cost of fabric (*minimum charge \$50.00*)

For further information or to book any of our equipment please contact the office at 772-3793

Available to You

Thanks to the Morrin-West Conservation Club, the full set of Prairie Farm Report DVD's have been purchased and are available for Starland County residents to borrow. If you are interested in viewing any of these films, please contact Lindsay Cherpin at the Starland County office.

2007 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD EQUIPMENT RENTAL RATES

The ASB recently purchased a JD 1590 no-till drill which is available to rent to county farmers. This is a 15 foot unit with a grass seed attachment and is ideal for seeding grass into standing stubble or even into sprayed out sod.

1. 15 foot JD No-till Drill
\$ 6.00 / Acre (*min 25 acre charge includes delivery*)
2. 10 Foot Brillion Grass Seeder
\$ 1.00 / Acre (*min charge \$25.00*)
3. Cattle Squeeze
\$ 10.00 / Day
4. Hoof Trimming Chute
\$ 20.00 / Day
5. Livestock Weigh Scale
\$ 10.00 / Day
6. Water Transfer System
\$ 250.00 / Dugout (*includes delivery*)
7. Magpie Traps
\$ 5.00 / Week
8. Skunk Traps
\$ 5.00 / Week (*paid up front*)
9. Pruning Tools
1 Day Free \$5.00 / Day Thereafter
10. Measuring Wheel
1 Day Free \$5.00 / Day Thereafter
11. Back Pack Sprayer
1 Day Free \$5.00 / Day Thereafter
12. Bran Bait Applicator for Grasshopper Control or Broadcast Grass Seeding
\$25.00 per Day (*\$25.00 damage deposit*)

Elm Pruning Ban in Alberta from April 1st to Sept 30th

The pruning ban in Alberta is now in effect. To reduce the risk of Dutch elm disease (DED), pruning of elm trees is prohibited from April 1st to September 30th each year throughout Alberta.

Fresh cuts from pruning attract the beetles that can spread the disease and increase the chance of an infection. This ban period is intended to coincide with the period during which elm bark beetles are most active.

Pruning of dead and dying elm branches is encouraged from October 1 to March 31st. This helps to reduce beetle breeding habitat. Prompt and proper disposal of the pruned elm wood is also essential to keep the vectors and disease from spreading.

For more information contact Janet Feddes-Calpas, DED prevention program coordinator at 403-782-8613 or check out STOPDED's website at www.stoppeded.org.

Starland Ag Talk is published by Starland County Agricultural Service Board four times annually. If you have an article suggestion or questions on the topics you see here feel free to contact Alan Hampton or Lindsay Cherpin.
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