



AG TALK NEWSLETTER



Starland County ASB Members

Chariman: Steven Wannstrom

Council Member: Murray Marshall

Council Member: Allen Avramenko

Council Member: Barrie Hoover

Council Member: Robert Sargent

Farm Member: Brian Heck

Farm Member: Kerry Sharpe

Agricultural Fieldman: Alan Hampton

Assistant Ag Fieldman: Dara Calon

Recording Secretary: Ross Rawlusyk



AG TALK NEWSLETTER

ASB SUMMER FARM TOUR

Thanks to all who came out for our annual ASB Summer Tour on August 5th. Some stops included the CPS canola plots, Meijer's honey farm, and a water cannon demonstration followed by a delicious steak dinner, door prizes and a chance to fly our drone. We hope to see you all out again next year!

**MAKE IT SAFE,
MAKE IT VISIBLE!**



This harvest season please be safe when moving farm equipment & always use a pilot truck. Peace Officer Brenda Gallagher will be handing out complimentary map books to all who are seen using a pilot truck when moving combines and farm equipment.



MORRIN CONCESSION BOOTH

The Morrin Arena Concession is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday and hosts a wide selection of food including appetizers, salads, smoothies, burgers, donairs, sandwiches, soups and more! If you would like to place an order for pick up please call (403) 772-5831

- Secure your hook up**
- Check reflector strips**
- Display SMV Emblem**
- Check the lights**
- Plan your route**
- Check your flags**
- Drive Responsibly**
- Secure your load**
- Obey traffic laws**



Starland County is pleased to again offer a solar installation incentive.

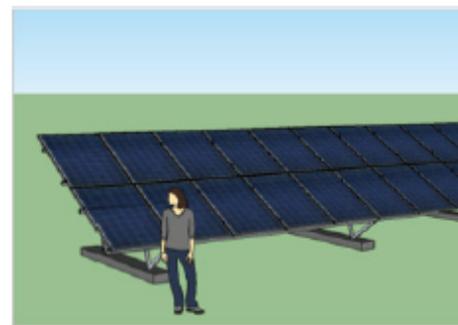
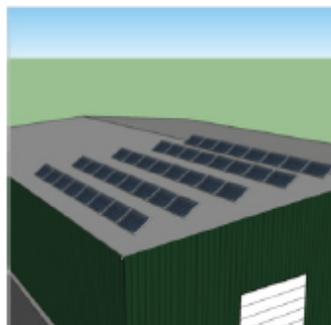
Through 2015 residents of Starland County will be eligible to receive 20 cents per installed watt of photovoltaic solar up to a maximum of \$2000. The funding is available for solar installations completed in 2015 on a first come first serve basis.

Installation prices have reduced significantly. Turn key costs are lower then ever before. Take advantage of these low costs in conjunction with a solar incentive to get involved with alternative energy on your farm.

Sample Projects and Pricing

Sample Pricing for 10kW installation

Configuration	Turnkey Price - not including GST or travel expenses	(*1) Trenching and Ballast Provided by Client	(*2) Trenching, Ballast and Racking provided by client
Mounted On Sea Can - flat array - no ballast	\$26,500	-\$750 (trenching)	-\$3,000
Shop Roof - -	\$ 25,000 to \$32,000 depending on the angle of tilt	N/A	-\$2,000 (racking for tilted system)
Ground Mount - pre-engineered racking	\$30,000	-\$3,000	N/A
Ground Mount - custom racking	\$30,000 concrete \$32,000 screw piles	-\$3,000 concrete -\$5,000 screw piles	-\$2,000 (racking)



Contact Jordan Webber at Starland County for more information.
jordan@starlandcounty.com | 587.795.0503

INSECTS TO WATCH FOR IN STARLAND COUNTY

Recent insect sweeps in the county have revealed higher than normal numbers of cabbage seed pod weevil, lygus bug and diamondback moths.

DIAMOND BACK MOTH



DAMAGE TO BUDS

ADULT & LARVAE

Larvae feed on canola and mustard, and adult moths arrive on wind currents in the spring from the U.S or northern Mexico. Larval feeding damages canola leaves and has a minor effect on yield, while feeding on buds and flowers is more damaging, especially when plants are under stress such as drought, which is the case this year. Plants cannot compensate by producing new buds and flowers. To check for diamond back moth larvae re-

move a plant and beat on the hood of a truck. Larvae will be dislodged from the plants. Do this 5 times throughout the field twice a week to obtain an average count. The economic threshold in canola is 1-2 larvae/plant in immature/flowering plants and 2-3 larvae/plant in plants with flowers and pods. The only effective way to control a warranted outbreak is to apply insecticide with a high enough water volume to ensure good coverage.

LYGUS BUGS



DAMAGE TO PODS

NYMPH & ADULT

Adults have a characteristic "V" shaped marking on their backs, and fly when startled. Nymphs are light green and wingless, and are often mistaken as aphids. They use their needle like mouthparts to feed on the sap of new growth and developing buds and seeds. CONTINUED...

LYGUS BUGS CONTINUED

Hot dry weather worsens damage and promotes insect development. Adults move into canola from alfalfa fields, so checking numbers of lygus bugs when alfalfa is cut is important. The economic threshold is 5 lygus per ten sweeps, but this is dependent on the price of canola, the weather conditions and the staging of the crop. Once the seeds have ripened from yellow to brown, the cost may exceed the damage they will cause before harvest.

pollen, nectar, buds and racemes in June at the bud to early flowering stages. Yield potential is reduced in dry years, when the plants ability to compensate is limited. Eggs are laid inside the developing pod, and when the larvae matures it leaves a small exit hole in the pod as it drops to the ground and pupates in the soil. Pods that have the weevil larvae appear distorted, due to the larvae only eating 15-20% of the seeds in a pod, growth is irregular and misshapen pods occur. Check for weevils by sweeping 180° in 10 locations, making sure to check the edges. Economic threshold is 3-4 adult weevils per one sweep at 10-20% flowering. This is also the best time to spray, and will prevent future egg laying. Spraying after this stage may result in a yield loss, and will also affect beneficial insects.

CABBAGE SEEDPOD WEEVIL



ADULT



DAMAGE TO PODS

Most damage is done when the larvae feed within canola seed pods and destroy developing seeds. Adults are grey, and have the characteristic curved snout of most weevils. The adults feed on

**CABBAGE SEED
POD WEEVIL
LARVAE**



GLYPHOSATE MANAGEMENT ALONG STARLAND COUNTY RIGHT OF WAYS



The picture above depicts a scene that we are seeing with more frequency in our county, which is farmers spraying glyphosate to the edge of the road to manage weeds along their headlands. This photo is extreme as there is no vegetation left to the road shoulder, and it almost looks like a newly constructed road. The picture below is much more common and this can be found along many road allowances in our county.

Glyphosate use pre-seed, pre-harvest and post-harvest is a very common practice in our area and has done a fantastic job of cleaning

up annual and perennial weeds in our fields. However if we are not careful or deliberately spray to the shoulder we are removing any protective cover on our roadsides and leaving an opportunity for less desirable species to replace the existing grass. Other potential issues include erosion, softer road shoulders, and extra maintenance costs such as extra grading, roadside weed management and grass re-seeding.



We ask that when you are spraying, slow down on the headlands, lower your spray pressures and do not spray when conditions are unfavourable. Please spray responsibly so we can eliminate the scenes that we see above, as well as the costs associated with them.

HERBICIDE RESISTANCE AND WEEDS

Herbicide resistance can affect the performance of any herbicide, but its impact on weed control can be limited by combining the use of both chemical and non chemical options into your cropping system. Herbicide resistance is relatively rare, and a very small percentage of plants have the genetic make-up that allows them to survive treatment that normally kills other plants of the same species. Resistant weeds then produce seed, which creates an infestation that is resistant to that herbicide, as well as all other herbicides with a similar mode of action or same herbicide group. In western Canada at least one in six fields has wild oats resistant to either Group 1 or 2 herbicides. Rotating between broadleaf and cereal crops allows different herbicides to be used each year. Giving the crop its best possible advantage to grow will help to out compete weeds. Seeding at the right time, using high quality seed and banding fertilizer are ways to help give a crop an edge. Controlling weeds with a pre-seeding burn off will also help give the crop a few days growth before weeds

emerge.

Keeping track of what types of weeds are in your field, and their growth stages are important in knowing what you may be dealing with. If you think you might have resistant weeds you should check if they were present at spraying, or if they were part of a later flush. Resistant weeds are generally found in irregular patches. You can eradicate these patches manually or use a non-selective herbicide.

Choosing lower risk products (Group 4 & 9) rather than higher risk products (Group 1 & 2) will help keep resistance low. Don't apply high risk herbicides to dense populations of weeds, and in southern AB for example, assume kochia is group 2 resistant and control with another product. Switching group mode of action is needed to reduce selection pressure. Do not use a group 1 or 2 product more than once in three years. Using these management practices will help minimize the spread of resistant weeds.

CLEAVERS



KOCHIA



WILD OATS



BERTHA ARMYWORM SURVEY

The number of bertha armyworm larvae in a crop is not a reliable indicator of what to expect the following year because populations fluctuate widely from year to year.

The number of moths collected by traps gives an indication of the risk of bertha armyworm larval infestations within a region, although not specifically for the field the trap is in. Generally, higher numbers of moths during the flight period (around mid-June through July) indicate a greater risk of larval damage (in July and August).

This year in Starland County four bertha army worm traps were set up, two west of Rumsey, and two south of Craigmyle. The cumulative moth catch for the season rates as low risk. Infestations are unlikely to be widespread, but fields should be inspected for signs of insects or damage. You can view the online bertha army worm trap results at:

http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/listings/bertha/bertha_map.jsp

PRE-HARVEST BIN PREP

Many different kinds of insects can live in stored grain, such as beetles and moths (larval stage). Some insects also feed on the moulds and fungi in damp grain bins. Ensure that your bins, augers and aeration systems are cleaned before storing grain in them. You can add a “grain protectant” while loading your bin such as diatomaceous earth or Malathion (except on oilseeds). Temperature control is also a way to deal with infestations. Low and high grain temps will both kill insects, but cold temperatures do take longer.

- 5 ° C: Insects die in 8 weeks
- 10 ° C: Insects die in 6 weeks
- 15 ° C: Insects die in 4 weeks
- +40 ° C: Insects die in 1 day
- +50 ° C: Insects die in minutes

