

STARLAND COUNTY

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

Harvesting & Preserving Your Garden Herbs

Just because summer is over doesn't mean you can't still enjoy fresh herbs from your garden all year round. Here are a few different methods to preserve your herbs and their freshness.

Freezing in Water

- Place herbs into an ice cube tray, let freeze and store in plastic bags until needed.

Freezing in Oil

- Use a good extra virgin olive oil and cover chopped herbs in the ice cube tray. Freeze overnight, then place cubes in Ziploc bags until needed. This method seems to keep the freshest taste.

In Salt or Sugar

- Simply layer fresh herbs in a sealable jar.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Rowley "Halloween"
Pizza Night
October 31st

Technical Large
Animal Emergency
Rescue Training
November 4th & 5th

Rumsey Fall Supper
November 7th

Craigmyle Pumpkin
Festival
October 24th
Craigmyle Church

Munson Thanksgiving
Supper, October 22nd

FCC's Ag Outlook
January 19th
Strathmore Centennial
Civic Centre
1:15-4:30 pm

FCC Forum
December 8th
Sheraton Red Deer
10:30-3:00 pm

Buying & Renting
Farmland, March 8th
Drumheller BCF
1:00-4:00 pm

You can register for
these events at:
<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/events.html>



Wes Kashuba

Owner
P.O Box 5, Morrin T0J 2B0
(403) 968-3912
kashubahvac@gmail.com

- Residential/Commercial
- Heating
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- Custom Sheet Metal
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- HRV's
- Water Tanks
- Roof top units
- Free Estimates

Surface Rights, Land & Energy: Pricing Transparency Mapping Project

A role of the Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) is to help Alberta Landowners by providing information and advice on surface rights, land and energy. They assist in answering the common question of "what is fair and typical for compensation in my area of the province?". Currently there is no repository where this data is compiled and accessible to landowners.

The FAO is collecting surface lease, transmission line, seismic and pipeline right of way agreements from landowners to create four interactive maps with information on projects, and the compensation values paid to landowners. By providing a starting point for negotiations, the maps will be a valuable resource for Alberta landowners.

The maps will be launched in Fall 2015, and updated on a continuous basis as agreements are received. The official name of this initiative is the Surface Rights, Land, and Energy : Pricing Transparency Mapping Project.

They are currently accepting pipeline right of way and seismic agreements no older than 2011, and surface lease and transmission line agreements no older than 2010. Landowners can send copies of their surface lease, transmission line, seismic and pipeline right of way agreements to:

Farmers' Advocate Office
Attn: Jeana Les
J.G O'Donoghue Building
305, 7000-113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

Fax: 780-427-3913
Email: jeana.les@gov.ab.ca

This project will greatly benefit landowners across Alberta. Additional information is available at www.farmersadvocate.gov.ab.ca.



TECHNICAL LARGE ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESCUE



AWARENESS LEVEL
Dr. Rebecca Gimenez



NOVEMBER 4TH- 5TH, 2015, DRUMHELLER

Hall C, Badlands Community Facility

More Information: www.tlaer.org

To Register: <http://bit.ly/1TTbkfF>

COURSE IS CLASSROOM BASED, WITH DEMONSTRATIONS



photo: Dr. Rebecca Gimenez

SHOULD YOU COME?

- **Firefighters, Rescue Personnel, Police, EMT/Paramedics**
- **Veterinarians, Vet Techs, veterinary school students**
- **Animal control officers, Humane Society workers,**
- **Livestock inspectors, livestock haulers, ranchers**
- **Anyone who is interested in livestock rescue**

**Course is NFPA approved and worth 12 CE credits from
Alberta Veterinary Medical Association**



Quinton Beaumont
(403) 742-4441



Dara Calon
(403) 772-3793



Kristen Hall
(403) 652-5111



WEED ALERT:
JIMSONWEED
 Not common
 in Alberta
 All parts of
 the plant are
 poisonous

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry have received reports of Jimsonweed in Alberta. This is not a common weed found in Alberta, and producers need to be diligent to stop its spread.

It is important that producers handle this weed carefully to prevent further spread and potential health risks to livestock and humans. Proper handling information can be found below and on the Agriculture and Forestry website. Jimsonweed is classified as a Class 1 weed under the federal Weed Seeds Order of the Federal Seeds Act. Jimsonweed is a prohibited noxious weed seed under the Seeds Act, and it must not be present in any seed imported or sold in Canada. The Seeds Act prohibits the sale of seed containing prohibited noxious weed seeds.

CFIA is taking the appropriate steps to investigate the source of Jimsonweed in Alberta.

Jimsonweed has now been found in eleven rural municipalities, as of September 14. Counties include Barrhead, Camrose, Flagstaff, Leduc, Lacombe, Lac St. Anne, Parkland, Ponoka, Westlock, Wetaskiwin and Wheatland. The majority of reports have been spotted in canola fields. While some barley and wheat fields have been reported, they have links to canola seeded in previous fields or in the previous year.

Proper Handling of Jimsonweed

Jimsonweed should be pulled from fields prior to swathing down; once cut, the seed capsules may mature into viable seed for next year. Jimsonweed seed is difficult to clean from canola. Please contact Alan Hampton or Dara Calon at the Starland County office for information or help in disposing of Jimsonweed.

If Jimsonweed is found, producers should take the following steps:

- When hand pulling, wear gloves and long sleeves
- Double bag the plants for landfill disposal
- Canola stubble should not be baled up for feed where the plants have been found. These practices will increase risk for poisoning in livestock feed
- Do not compost or burn, as this will release toxins in the air and may cause secondary poisoning

Collecting information on Jimsonweed sightings Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) continues to work with the CFIA and Ag Fieldmen to track fields. Counties and producers are asked to work closely with AF to obtain as much information as possible on all reports of Jimsonweed in cropping situations.

If Jimsonweed has been spotted please call Alan Hampton or Dara Calon at the Starland County office (403) 772-3793.

Producers who have spotted Jimsonweed in their fields are asked to provide the following information to help track and monitor the situation:

- Number of plants
- Type of seed
- Where it was purchased
- Seed lots, if available
- Names and contact information

Fall Soil Testing

Soil testing is used for assessing soil fertility and arriving at proper fertilizer recommendations. It can also help diagnose specific cropping problems, and soil changes in your field. An index for nutrient availability in soil can be provided from soil testing, and is an important step in nutrient management planning. Right now is an ideal time to soil sample. Fields should be banded with urea or anhydrous ammonia before the end of October, once the soil has cooled below 10 C. Samples taken need to be representative of the entire field in order to give accurate results. Working with a crop advisor and soil lab will provide producers with the information necessary to assess nutrient requirements.

Local companies that soil sample:

Evolve Precision Ag, Oscar Alen

Ph: (403) 393-7675

Premium Ag, Matt Gosling

Ph: (403) 899-5252

Crop Production Services, Delia

Ph: (403) 364-3735

Ordering Shelterbelt Trees



Trees can be ordered from the following companies, and the option of having your trees delivered to the Starland County shop is still available.

Alberta Nurseries Information:

Email: www.marketland.net

Ph: (403) 224-3544

Applicants will be notified in early May when the trees arrive and are ready for pickup. A \$26.25 administration fee must be included with the application (applications available at the Starland County office). Applicants choosing Morrin as their shipping location will have trees shipped to the Starland County shop.

Tree Time Information:

Email: www.treetime.ca

(Online orders open in January)

Ph: 1-866-873-3846

Free shipping is offered on orders over \$100.

Starland County still offers tree planting, and tree mulching services. To coordinate this please contact Alan Hampton or Dara Calon at (403) 772-3793.

INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES



Aquatic invasive species are non-native animals or plants that can cause economic or environmental harm in waterways where they are introduced. Prussian Carp, a type of wild goldfish, is a harmful aquatic invasive species and has recently been found in Alberta, including the Red Deer River in Starland County & in Drumheller. This species invades aquatic ecosystems and poses severe threats to aquatic habitats and native fish populations.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

1. Never release aquarium or domestic pond water, plants, dead or live animals into water bodies. Common aquarium and pond plants and animals can become invasive when released into the wild, potentially also spreading disease to native species.
2. If you catch a Prussian Carp while fishing, please kill it and either take it home to eat or properly dispose of the carcass.
3. Know the law! It is illegal to use live bait fish in Alberta. It is also illegal to move live fish from one water body to another. Penalties for illegally transferring fish can be up to \$100,000 and/or a year in prison.

PRUSSIAN CARP QUICK FACTS

- There are many kinds of carp species now in North America, and were imported as pond or aquarium species or sold in Asian food markets. Alberta is the only jurisdiction in North America known to have Prussian Carp
- This species has established breeding populations across the province in several ponds and lakes, and in main stem and tributaries of the Bow, Rosebud, Red Deer and South Saskatchewan Rivers
- They are extremely hardy, reproduce rapidly and can survive in low oxygen and polluted environments like dug-outs and drainage ditches. They are also able to survive out of water for relatively long periods of time.
- These fish pose threats to native fish populations by outcompeting native species for food and habitat
- They can easily spread from one water body to another, and are very costly and difficult to try and manage, contain and destroy once established.

If you catch a Prussian Carp, please **KILL IT** and report it to Dara Calon or Alan Hampton at Starland County, or call the hotline listed below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL:
1-855-336-BOAT (2628)



WOULD YOU LIKE TO INVEST IN ALBERTA'S FIRST COMMUNITY OWNED SOLAR FARM?



Over the next few months, Alberta Solar Co-op will be launching a community-owned solar farm in Starland County. As an Alberta resident, you will have the opportunity to become a member of our co-operative and invest in this profitable renewable energy project.

To learn more about Alberta's first solar co-op, please join us at our open house:

DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2015 (THURSDAY)

TIME: 7PM

VENUE: DELIA COMMUNITY HALL

The Delia & District Community Center is located on Main Street in the Village of Delia, Alberta. 2 km South off Highway 9, North East of Drumheller and West of Hanna

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

info@AlbertaSolarCoop.com



**ALBERTA
SOLAR
CO-OP**

NEW DISEASE TO WATCH FOR Verticillium Wilt in Canola

Verticillium wilt (*Verticillium longisporum*) was confirmed for the first time in a canola field in Canada in 2014. Although more widespread in Europe, this disease has also been found in cauliflower in California and horseradish in Illinois. Broccoli, cabbage, horseradish, canola and other plants in the mustard family are affected. This disease effects yield loss with a reduction in seed size and in lipid content.

Symptoms in canola include leaf chlorosis, early ripening, stunting, and in severe cases necrosis and shredding of stem tissue. It is best to look for signs after flowering. Fully ripe plants that are infected will reveal tiny black microsclerotia in the stem, which looks like black pepper, and is much smaller than what is found with sclerotinia. These microsclerotia can survive in soil for many years, and move with surface and ground water, through wind dis-



persal and in soil on contaminated equipment. Infection can be

scattered throughout the field or in groups. If infection is established



early, the disease is capable of significant yield loss from 10-50%.

Infection can occur when the fungus enters the vascular system in the root or through a wound opening. Spores multiply within the vascular system of the plant, preventing the regular flow of water and nutrients, which eventually causes the xylem to plug, turn black, collapse and shrivel. As the plant begins to die, the pathogen moves in the stem base and roots, and causes breakdown, making it easy for the plant to be pulled from the ground.

Verticillium wilt causes significant yield losses in canola, but only when disease severity and infection are at high levels. Due to the late onset of this disease, it is less damaging than blackleg or sclerotinia. There are no registered effective fungicides or seed treatments for this disease at this time. Control measures include increasing rotation, weed management and increasing soil fertility. Verticillium wilt is most effective in hot dry conditions above 23. If you have seen this disease, please report it to Starland County.

Canola Storage Considerations

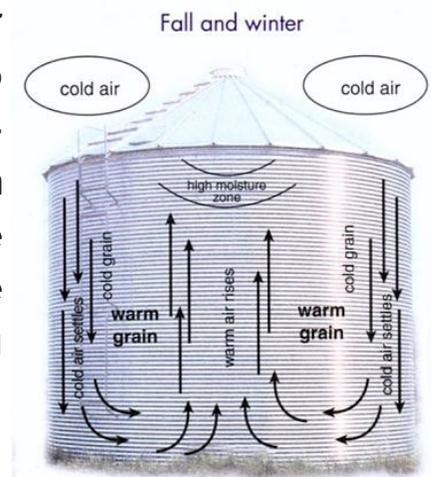
By Neil Whatley

Due to the rapidity with which damage can occur, continued attentiveness to potential canola storage problems is necessary as fall transitions into early winter. As a result of its high oil content, canola seed is more susceptible to deterioration in storage than cereal grains; thus canola is stored at a lower seed moisture level to prevent spoilage. Safe, long-term canola storage is at or below 8% moisture content and cooler than 15 degrees Celsius. However, declining outside air temperatures also need to be properly dealt with to ensure safe storage.

Canola respire or goes through a 'sweat' period for up to 6 weeks after being binned. Therefore, even if it is initially binned dry, canola should continue to be monitored. Respiring canola generates additional heat and moisture, creating an unstable condition. This instability can potentially result in hot spots or mould growth, and can create more heat that accelerates the spread of more mould growth. Aer-

ating stored canola during its respiration period is important. Spoilage can be eliminated if the canola is sufficiently conditioned to the point where the aeration cooling front moves entirely through to the top of the grain mass.

Changing outside air temperatures in the spring and fall cause repeated moisture cycles in a bin, allowing moisture to concentrate in certain areas, and can lead to spoilage and heating. As outside air temperatures decline during October and November, the grain nearest to the outside bin edges cools first and this cooling system migrates downward along the bin edge, and then upward through the central core. As this cooling system migrates, it gathers moisture and warmth which creates a pocket of humid and warmer air at the top of the central grain core where spoilage can begin.



So, as outside air temperatures decline, aeration fans should be operated again until canola at the top of the bin is cooled to the average daily temperature. Due to continuously declining outside air temperatures, it is wise to aerate repeatedly until the whole bin of canola is between 0 and 5 degrees C. November is an important month to check canola bins again to confirm if they are stable going into winter as temperatures drop below zero degrees C and stay there.

Producers may also consider turning one third of the canola bulk out of a full bin by truck in November. This would be the method used if aeration is not possible, but may be an important task to complete in November regardless if aeration is used. Moving the grain disrupts the moisture cycle created by declining outside temperatures, cooling the grain mass and reducing the risk of spoilage. Even if a bin temperature is being monitored with sensors, this may not provide a complete reading of the whole bin because problems may emerge in pockets away from the sensors. Turning the grain ensures cooling as well as allowing

producers to be able to smell the grain as they are moving it to realize if any grain is in the first stages of spoilage. If green counts, moisture, weeds or dockage are high, turning the whole bin may be safest.

Extra caution is required in unique circumstances. Canola that was stored with a higher green seed count has a higher moisture content than your average mature canola seed, potentially increasing spoilage risk. Such canola should be delivered as soon as possible to prevent spoilage, which could result in further price reduction. Extra attentiveness is also required when canola is stored in large bins, especially tall and narrow bin types that can reduce aeration air flow due to increased compaction.

Stored canola requires continued watchfulness as seasonal air temperatures decline. November is the month to ensure canola is stable going into winter.

Starland County Awarded for Solar Innovation

Starland County was recently presented an award for innovation at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Conference in Calgary. Starland County managed to out compete the bigger municipalities and cities for the award. Success of the program can be attributed to partnerships with Bullfrog Power and Municipal Climate Action Change Centre, as well as farmers.

Ten solar arrays were established on Starland County farms in 2015, and the program is still growing. Each system is custom to the needs of the farm, and now farmers can do as much as 100 kilowatts, and contribute power back into the grid. Part of Starland County's solar program incorporates sharing their knowledge and information with other municipalities and farmers.



Pictured above: Reeve Barrie Hoover, CAO Ross Rawlusk and Economic Development Officer Jordan Webber



Return your unwanted or obsolete pesticides and livestock medications

Farmers: Safely dispose of your unwanted agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications from **October 26th-30th, 2015** at one of the following locations, **for no charge.**

Thursday, October 27th

Hanna, Fox Lake Agro
(403) 854-2820

Wednesday, October 28th

Drumheller, Kneehill Soil Services
(403) 823-4600

Thursday, October 29th

Linden, Kneehill Soil Services
(403) 546-4050

Friday, October 30th

Hussar, Richardson Pioneer
(403) 787-3931

** Obsolete pesticides and livestock/equine medications will be accepted from 9 am until 4 pm at each site on the date indicated**