



AG Talk JULY



Starland County ASB Members

Chairman: Murray Marshall
Council Member: Norman Stanger
Council Member: Allen Avramenko
Council Member: Barrie Hoover
Council Member: Robert Sargent

Farm Member: Ray Trout
Farm Member: Tracy Nelson
Agricultural Fieldman: Alan Hampton
Assistant Ag Fieldman: Dara Calon
Recording Secretary: Ross Rawlusk



Starland County won 2nd place in the Community Groups category in the Drumheller July 1st parade!



Stay cool this summer, I know I sure will.



In This Issue...

New Information on www.foragebeef.ca Page 3

Delia History Book Page 4

Equipment Rental Rates Page 5

Assessing risk level of spot diseases in wheat Page 6,7

Starland County Summer Tour Page 8

Record Hail Page 9, 10

Growing Grapes in AB Page 11

For the most up to date news from Starland County follow @StarlandCounty on Twitter



Wagon Wheel

Taco Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

1 lb wagon wheel pasta
1 can black beans, drained
1 10oz pack frozen corn
2 medium tomatoes, diced
8 oz shredded mozzarella cheese
1 1/2 cups salsa
1/2 cup olive oil
3-4 tbsp. lime juice
1 tbsp. cumin
1-2 tsp chili powder
2 garlic cloves, minced
Freshly ground salt & pepper
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1 avocado, diced

Directions:

Cook the pasta al dente according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cold water. In a large bowl combine the beans, corn, tomatoes, salsa and cheese. Add the cooled pasta and mix well. In another bowl whisk together olive oil, lime juice, garlic, cumin and chili powder. Pour over the pasta salad, add the cilantro and mix well. Season with salt & pepper. Before serving stir in the diced avocado. Enjoy!



New Information on www.foragebeef.ca

Forage and beef producers in western Canada and the northern United States have a source for the latest research information on forage and beef production. www.foragebeef.ca summarizes forage and beef cattle research for farmers and ranchers. It is a unique approach to developing and organizing research information for the Canadian forage and beef cattle industry.

Approximately 200 research papers have been added to the website as they become available over the past year.

[Www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca) is a living library for research and extension information that is useful to Canadian beef producers. The website provides three levels of information. The top level is “cut to the core” information on a particular topic. Called “Knowledge Nuggets”, this level provides the most important piece of advice on that topic. The next level is for the reader who

wants more information about that topic. Links are provided to the best related information, either in fact sheet format or as videos. The objective is to select the most comprehensive and applicable information for Canadian and northern USA agriculture. The third level is for people who want related, in depth information. This level focuses on relevant scientific review papers, research abstracts, research papers, major publications and links to research communities throughout Canada and the world.

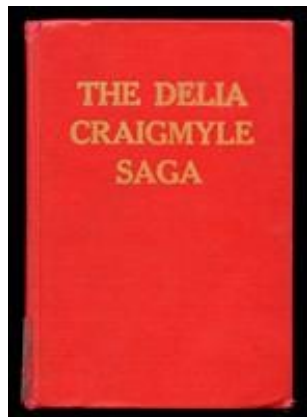
The site features in depth information on forage production, silage management, forage seed production, beef cow management, animal health issues, grazing management, and range management in addition to many other topics.

This is a living web site and news items, research results and summaries will continually be added to the site. With these knowledge summaries, fact sheets, and research reviews, 111/foragebeef.ca is the gateway in the future for forage and beef information for the forage and cow calf industry.

Delia and District History Book

A History Book Committee has been formed to compile and publish stories of those residing , or who have formerly resided (from 1970 to date), in the present day boundaries of the Delia School District. Submissions of written and pictorial family histories are requested by November 1, 2013.

The committee welcomes all stories and copies of family photos but does retain the right to edit submissions. Your stories may be submitted to any of the below listed committee members. There will be a booth for a collection of stories at the Delia Fall Fair on October 19, 2013.



For more information please email:

deliahistory@magtech.ca

or contact one of the following committee members:

Bev: 403-364-2260

Linda: 403-364-2122

Art/Pat: 403-364-2168

Norlene: 403-364-2401

Denise: 403-364-3798

Stan/Loralee: 403-364-3793

Keith/Gloria: 403-823-8851

****The Craigmyle Historical Committee is currently collecting stories for publication of a history book of their area. ****



STARLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD 2013 EQUIPMENT RENTAL/SERVICE RATES

EQUIPMENT	PRICE
K-Hart Barrier Strip Seeder	No Charge
2011 Brillion Grass Seeder-10'	\$100.00 min charge, \$5/acre
Cattle Squeeze	\$10.00/day
Hoof Trimming Chute	\$20.00/day
Livestock Weighing Scale	\$10.00/day
Livestock Water Transfer System	\$250.00/dugout
Magpie Traps	\$5.00/week
Back Pack Sprayer	1 day free, \$5.00 thereafter
Pruning Tools	1 day free, \$5.00 thereafter
Measuring Wheel	1 day free, \$5.00 thereafter
Skunk Traps	\$5.00/week
Transit	1 day free, \$5.00 thereafter
15 foot JD 1590 No-Till Drill	\$100.00 min charge, \$6/acre
Rawhide Portable Corral System	\$200.00/day
14' Ezee On Braking disc	\$395 full day, \$200 half day \$6/acre if over 100 acres
SERVICES	
Shelterbelt Spraying Program (150 gallon tank)	\$50.00/hr + chemicals, min charge 1 hr
Weed Spraying Program (150 gallon tank)	\$50.00/hr + chemicals (less 60% on Toadflax and Scentless Chamomile Incentive Program)
Quad Sprayer	\$50.00/hr + chemicals
Tree Planter	Free of charge for shelterbelts
Shelterbelt Fabric Roller	\$20.00/hr + Fabric (min \$50.00)
Grasshopper Bait Spreading Equipment	\$25.00/day (spreader only) \$25.00 deposit
Backsloping Program (Fence line topsoil work)	40% incentive program for qualifying projects
Solar-Powered Water Pumping System	For demo purposes only. 2 week demonstration period. Pre booking required

Contact Alan Hampton or Dara Calon at 403-772-3793 to set up a rental.

How you can Participate in Wireworm Control Research for Your Farming Area

Wireworm populations and their damage to crops are increasing, and you can help to find a solution for your distinct farming area.

Lindane (e.g., Vitavax, Furadan, etc), an organochlorine insecticide, kept wireworm levels low for several decades on the Prairies, however, this insecticide has been banned for its detrimental effects on human health and the environment. As wireworm damage in field crops rebounds, entomologist, Dr. Bob Vernon, is heading a research team investigating new approaches to keep wireworm problems in check.

A silver bullet approach has disappeared and wireworm is not like other insect pests where dealing with only one species makes control measures relatively easy. There are some 30 different wireworm species that exhibit variable behaviours. Wireworm species vary from region to region and a single field may contain more than one species, and therefore more than one type of wireworm

behaviour. Instead of persisting for only one season like some insect pests, a single worm-like larva can feed on plant roots and germinating seeds in the soil for 3 to 5 years, depending on the wireworm species. Eventually reaching over an inch long, larvae burrow higher or lower in the soil profile in response to soil temperature and moisture conditions.

While some seed treatments (e.g., Cruiser Maxx and Raxil WW) suppress wireworm damage for a growing season, their effectiveness varies with different wireworm species.

Clearly, this new generation of wireworm control requires a more integrated approach.

Wireworm losses are generally greater in crops grown on silty, medium-textured soils. Crop injury is less likely in heavy or very light textured soils. Wireworm damage shows up as crop thinning and most loss occurs during the earlier part of the growing season before larvae burrow deeper in the soil to escape warm summer temperatures. Unlike cutworm, wireworm larvae shred seedling stems rather than cutting them off. While central leaves die, outer leaves often remain green for some time before eventually wilting and dying, resulting in thin or patchy crop stands.

Crops grown in recently broken sod are especially vulnerable for one or two years, then damage decreases rapidly only to gradually increase in succeeding years if no wireworm control measures are applied. Wireworms prefer eating annual and perennial grasses, so due to extensive egg-laying, populations can build-up in fields that have extended periods of pasture or cereal crops. This means that wireworm risk remains high when canola, potato, sugar beet, etc. are incorporated into the field rotation after cereals and pasture.

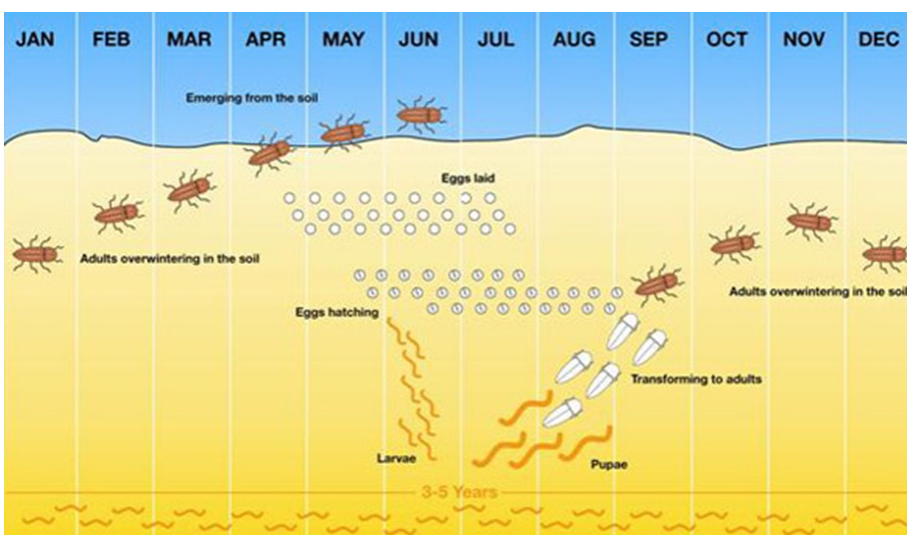
By sending wireworm samples to Dr. Vernon's research team, you contribute to finding a solution for your unique grain growing region. The research team needs to know which specific wireworm species dominate in your area so the correct control option(s) are selected. To obtain live wireworms, you may need to bait them by burying whole potatoes about four to six inches deep at marked locations randomly across a field in either early spring or early to mid-August when the worms are nearer to the soil surface. Dig the potato baits up a couple weeks later, searching for wireworms and their tunnels in the tu-

bers. Collect wireworms, along with some of the field soil, and put them in a hard plastic container. There may be more than one species present, so collect as many as possible. Mail these wireworm sample(s) to Dr. Vernon at: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 6947 #7 Hwy P.O. Box 1000 Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0 As damage to field crops escalates, please consider playing a part of the wireworm control solution for your area by submitting samples from your farm to the wireworm research team.

-Neil Whatley, July 2013



Wireworm (left), Click Beetle (right) The adult stage of wireworm Images courtesy of W. Van Herk





2013 SUMMER TOUR: AUGUST 7th



Some Stops Include:

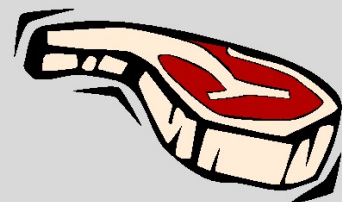
- Tillage Radish Field
- 4R Nutrient Management Project
- Solar Power Project
- Viterra Canola Trials
- Fababean Field
- Dupont *Lumiderm* Trial
- BASF Trials

AND MUCH MORE!

WHERE: Michichi Dam
Campground

WHEN: 12:30 pm, Bus leaves at
1:00 pm

Cost is \$20.00, and includes
transportation, refreshments,
BBQ steak dinner & door prizes!



For additional information or to register contact the Starland
County Office at 403-772-3793

Alberta Farmers Hope Crops Avoid Hail Damage This Year

Record Hail Last Year – Almost \$450 Million Paid on Hail Claims

As crops start to grow and another hail season begins, farmers across the province are hoping to be spared from the kind of record hail damage that battered crops in every part of Alberta last year.

“Last summer was the worst hail year we’ve ever seen. There were only 11 hail-free days all summer, from early June to mid-September,” says Brian Tainsh, Manager of On-Farm Inspections with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), the Crown corporation that administers crop and hail insurance in Alberta on behalf of the provincial government.

Hail pounded crops in every region of the province from Foremost to Fort Vermilion, triggering more than 11,000 claims and record payouts of almost \$450 million through AFSC’s Straight Hail Insurance program, and the Hail Endorsement rider that many farmers add to their crop insurance each spring.

“There wasn’t one AFSC office across the province that didn’t have hail claims reported,” says Tainsh, noting the previous record hail year in Alberta was 2008 when hail claims totalled more than \$265 million.

Moisture Increases Hail Risk

What this year’s hail season will bring is still anybody’s guess, says Tainsh. He points out hailstorms in late May and early June have already triggered claims in the Vulcan, Lethbridge, Camrose, Ponoka, and Sedgewick areas of Alberta – although crops at such early stages of growth have great potential to recover from hail damage.

Environment Canada Meteorologist Dan Kulak says it’s too early to tell what the summer holds. “Alberta is a hail capital, so we know we’ll get hail. The question is how much. A lot depends on what happens through the rest of June and how much moisture we have going into July. The wetter it is, the greater likelihood of hail,” he says, noting high humidity last summer was a key factor that contributed to so many hailstorms.

Kulak points out there are three ingredients for hail – heat, surface moisture or humidity, and a trigger. “The sun is often the day-to-day trigger. It shines on the mountains, warming up the air, which then rises and often produces storms that move eastward from the foothills. If that warm air collides with cooler air



As the summer hail season begins, Brian Tainsh, with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), shows photos of the record hail that triggered close to \$450 million dollars in crop damage across Alberta last year through AFSC's Straight Hail Insurance program and the Hail Endorsement rider on crop insurance.

moving in from the mountains, the storms can be intense. Alberta is designed for hail production and the mountains play a key role," he explains.

Early Hailstorm Protection

Tainsh says an increasing number of farmers are choosing to 'Auto Elect' Straight Hail coverage at the same time they purchase crop insurance in April. "It gives them a two per cent premium discount and protects their crops against hailstorms early in the season."

That early protection is important, he says. "If farmers wait and their crops are struck by hail before they're insured, any fields with more than 25 per cent damage become ineligible for Straight Hail Insurance for the rest of the season."

Straight Hail Insurance is available any time during the growing season at AFSC offices, and takes effect at noon the day after it's purchased. "Farmers also have the option of purchasing it online – giving them 24-hour access and a two per cent discount," says Tainsh. "But first they need to contact AFSC for an activation code to enter the online site."

75-Year Hail Mandate

It's been 75 years since Alberta passed special legislation giving AFSC its mandate to provide hail insurance in every corner of the province – even the highest risk areas, says Tainsh. "Many farmers couldn't get hail insurance back then because the risk was too high for private insurers to take on. That's why the Alberta Hail Insurance Board, which later became AFSC, was initially created – to ensure every Alberta farmer has access to hail insurance," he explains. "That's still an important part of our mandate today."

For more information about hail insurance, farmers can contact their nearest AFSC office or the Call Centre at 1-877-899-AFSC (2372).

Doing it Right: Make it Safe, Make it Visible!



Congratulations to Mick and Gary Chambers on showing great initiative being safety conscious! Mick was spotted with a proper lead vehicle and correct signage and lighting. He received a coffee mug, backpack and County map book. Brenda Gallagher handed out 20 safety packs this year for safe movement of farm equipment on county roads. She looks forward to seeing you "doing it right" at harvest time. Have a safe season!

Grapes in Alberta

Many homeowners believe that grapes aren't an option with our severe winters in Alberta, but it is possible to grow a good grape crop given the right varieties and environmental conditions. Grapes favor maximum sunlight exposure to the south as well as sandy soil. An ideal place to plant would be along a south wall or a southern facing slope of a hill. Lighter, sandy soils help with higher sugar and earlier ripening, but it is important to maintain nutrients and moisture, so manure or compost should be added. Mulch should be used to eliminate competition as grapes do not compete well with other plants. The grape plants should be pruned back to 2 or 3 buds, and sucker growth should be prevented. Before freeze up they should be watered well. Lay the vines on the ground, cover with 15 cm of soil and a layer of straw. Gradually uncover in the spring over a period of ten days. Varieties that will do well in this area are Beta, Riding Mountain, Fredonia. Beta is the most popular, and is perfect for jelly, jam and juice, but can be tart to eat. For more info visit www.agric.gov.ab.ca



Avoid This:

Oxeye Daisy

Leucanthemum vulgare

European origin. Widespread invader in North American pastures and natural areas. Classic white daisy. Lower leaves toothed, upper leaves have wavy margins. Reproduces by seed, or by shallow rhizomes (creeping roots). Single plants quickly become large patches. Unpalatable for grazing by livestock or wildlife, giving it a competitive advantage. Has become a serious invasive problem in natural areas. Some cultivars sold as 'Shasta Daisy' are in fact Oxeye Daisy.

CAUTION: Oxeye Daisy seeds are often found in Wildflower mixes. Shasta Daisy should also be avoided in Wildflower mixes.
(See: **Wildflower Mixes**)

Instead Try:

White Alpine Aster

(Aster alpinus var. albus)

Branching stems, single daisy-shaped, clear white, yellow-eyed flowers on low clumps of bright green leaves. Blooms in late spring/early summer. Grown in rock gardens or used for edging. Self-seeds to produce successive generations.

www.swallowtailgarden.com

Ht. 20-30 cm
W. 20-30 cm

White Opal Aster

(Aster novi-belgii 'White Opal')

Fall blooms. Favorite for autumn color. Plants form a bushy clump, bearing loads of small daisy flowers. A dwarf selection with yellow-eyed white blossoms, may have the slightest touch of soft pink during cooler weather. Excellent for cutting.

www.flickr.com

Ht. 25-30 cm
W. 30-45 cm

White Pavement Rose

(aka Snow Owl)

Easy maintenance ground cover. Fragrant. Pure white, semi-double blossoms. Good spreader. Repeater. Strong grower. Tolerant of extremes in temperature. Highly salt tolerant.

www.monrovia.org

Ht. 1 m
W. 1.5 m

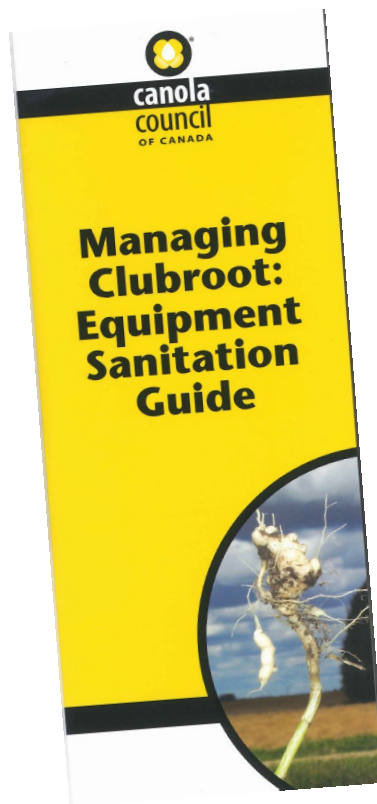
Also consider...

- ✓ **Showy Aster Fleabane** (*Eurybia conspicua* aka *Aster conspicuosus*) – Native to AB
- ✓ **Smooth Fleabane** (*Erigeron glabellus*) – Native to AB
- ✓ **Showy Fleabane** (*Erigeron speciosus*) – Native to AB



@StarlandCounty

To read online visit www.starlandcounty.com



Visit <http://www.canolacouncil.org/>
for more information



Stop by the County Office to pick up Canola Council information on Clubroot, Equipment Sanitation and Insect ID today!