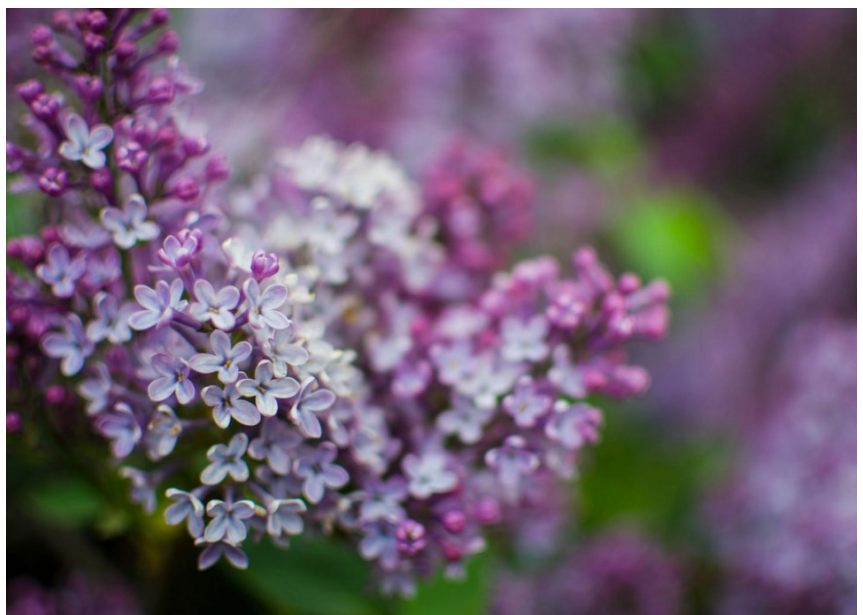




## AG TALK NEWSLETTER



### Starland County ASB Members

**Chairman:** Bob Sargent

**Council Member:** Murray Marshall

**Council Member:** Allen Avramenko

**Council Member:** Barrie Hoover

**Council Member:** Steven Wannstrom

**Farm Member:** Brian Heck

**Farm Member:** Kerry Sharpe

**Agricultural Fieldman:** Alan Hampton

**Assistant Ag Fieldman:** Dara Calon

**Recording Secretary:** Ross Rawlusyk



# AG TALK NEWSLETTER

Hello Starland County residents, my name is Jeff Zimmer, I am the District Fish and Wildlife Officer in Drumheller. My district includes both Starland and Kneehill Counties. As a an officer for Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, working under the Public Safety Branch of Justice and Solicitor General, my primary mandate is conservation law enforcement; so basically checking fishermen and hunters, responding to complaints of illegal activities that negatively impact our natural resources or threaten public safety and investigating suspected poaching incidences.

We also deal with problem wildlife complaints so things like large ungulate issues such as elk in hay stacks as well as large carnivore problems concerning public safety and predatory kills of livestock.

As the seasons change so does my focus when it comes to my patrols. Spring and summer are busy with river patrols checking anglers and various other river users. Fall is the busiest with hunting season, this is typically when I am seen the most out in the rural areas patrolling. The Report A Poacher program is a very important when it comes to reporting illegal activity, much like Crimestoppers, callers can remain anonymous and they do offer a cash reward for information that leads to charges. Like I said earlier I am the only officer in the area and the more eyes and ears I have out there the better. The Report A Poacher number, 1-800-642-3800 is also linked into our central dispatch so if you need to reach an officer in a timely fashion don't hesitate to call this number and you will be put in contact with an officer.



To reach me call the office at 403-823-1670 or stop at the office which is located in the Provincial Building, across from the town office in Drumheller.

## That Guy's Catering

### Breakfast Buffet

**Saturdays at the  
Cretaceous Conference  
Centre in the Jurassic Inn  
(Drumheller) from  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
General Public \$15.00**

**Seniors \$12.00**

**7-12 years \$10.00**

**6 & Under FREE**

### Fish & Chips

**1st Friday of the month at  
the Cretaceous  
Conference Centre in the  
Jurassic Inn (Drumheller)  
from 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Prices Start at \$10/Plate**

**CASH ONLY**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Events on April 16th

- Jim Hole Workshop
- Brent Butt, Delia Hall
- The Chevelle's, BCF
- Rumsey Spring Fling

**ASB Summer Tour  
July 28th**

**Southern Alberta  
Women's Grazing  
School  
Cypress Hills**

# NOTICE TO FARMERS

## 2% Liquid Strychnine Control Program STARLAND COUNTY

The sale of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (LSC) for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS's) is approved for the 2016 season. Starland County is participating in this program and will have 2% LSC available to qualifying farmers March 15th until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The abbreviated details of the program are as follows:

- The product is only available to Agricultural Producers in Starland County
- Each producer is restricted to 2 cases (48 bottles) of Strychnine per purchase and the minimum purchase is 6 bottles
- The purchaser must sign a document that states:
  - A) They have a severe infestation as defined by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
  - B) They will use 2% LSC only for control of the RGS's,
  - C) They will not sell or give away any 2% LSC,
- Provincial Pest Inspectors may inspect your property to ensure that you are complying with all the label directions and conditions of use and registration
- Any non-target poisonings must be reported and the product cannot be used on any quarter which has burrowing owls or any other species at risk
- Violation of any of the outlined terms and conditions will result in the purchaser forfeiting the right to any further purchases of strychnine and could result in a fine of no less than \$1500.00

Cost of the product is \$252.00 per case or \$10.50 per bottle.

For more information or to book your product contact

Alan Hampton or Dara Calon at 772-3793



## 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. These continued actions may result in costs to the farmer to condition, and re-seed affected ditches.

-Alan Hampton  
Agricultural Fieldman, Starland County

## WCB Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta

### Information for Farm Owners on Workers' Compensation Coverage

Some farm and ranch operations in Alberta are no longer exempt from workers' compensation coverage, effective Jan 1, 2016.

Any farm or ranch with waged workers who are not business owners or family members of business owners, will now be required to have a WCB account. You will have until April 30th, 2016 to set up your account.

An account can be set up online at [www.wcb.ab.ca](http://www.wcb.ab.ca)

The Workers' Compensation Board has developed industry classification for farming operations. Businesses are grouped together that have similar operations and risks. Below are the new industry classifications as well as each industry's premium rate for 2016.

If you have any questions about who you have to cover, call the WCB at 1-866-922-9221, email [employer.account.services@wcb.ab.ca](mailto:employer.account.services@wcb.ab.ca)

Industry Description	2016 Rate (per \$100 of insurable earnings)
Agri-tourism farms, greenhouses/market gardens, mushroom producers/bait farms	\$1.70
Apiaries, fishing/fish or fur farms, goat/sheep producers, hog producers, poultry/egg producers	\$1.75
Forage & peat moss processing, hay/grain/crop farming, harvesting/baling-custom	\$2.25
Beef producers, dairy farms, elk/bison producers, feed lots, livestock auctions/stockyards, llama/alpaca producers, riding academies/horse stables	\$2.97

# HORTICULTURAL WORKSHOP

FEATURING

**Jim Hole**

Alberta's Top Horticultural Authority

PRESENTING on 'Garden Myths'

also featuring

**Tim Schowalter**

Local Natural History Authority



Saturday, April 16, 2016

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Verdant Valley Community Centre

15 kms east of Drumheller on Hwy 576 (paved)

**Pre Registration is Required by April 8**

\$12/person ~ Children 12 & under No charge

Registration fee includes Lunch

To register contact:

Pat at 403 321-0210 or Toni at 403 321-0061

Sponsored by Verdant Valley Ag Society and Starland County



BE PLANTWISE

grow me  
instead

With the upcoming 2016 gardening season not far away, many are already planning out their gardens and flowerbeds. When selecting plants be aware that many noxious and prohibited noxious weeds are sold in greenhouses, stores and in wildflower seed mixes. Although these plants may appear harmless, they are rated under the Provincial Weed Control Act as invasive species, and must be controlled. Some common weeds mistaken as garden plants include perennial baby's breath, and dame's rocket, both of which have been found across Starland County in many yards, and have moved into ditches and along riparian areas.

**DAME'S ROCKET***Hesperis matronalis*

Often confused with garden phlox (5 petals; opposite leaves), Dame's rocket (4 petals; alternate leaves) is a prolific seed producer. Flowers are magenta to pink or white. Found in "wildflower" mixes. Especially problematic near woodlands.



AVOID

**NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES****David's Lavender Garden Phlox***Phlox paniculata* 'David's Lavender'

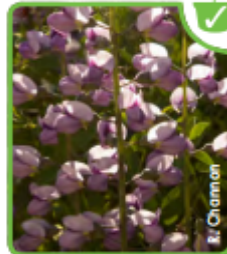
Stunning lavender-pink blossoms on tall stocks. Fragrant. Blooms mid to late summer. Highly mildew resistant. Deer resistant. Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies. Other varieties such as 'Flame Blue' also available. Zone: 3



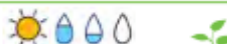
Ht. 106 cm; W. 38-45 cm

**Purple Smoke Baptisia***Baptisia australis* 'Purple Smoke'

Hybrid. Tall, bushy mound of grey-green foliage. Long spikes of smoky violet-blue and purple flowers on black stems. Good substitute for Lupines. Excellent cut-flower. Attracts butterflies. Zone: 3



Ht. 90-120 cm; W. 60-90 cm

**Southcombe Double Cranesbill***Geranium oxonianum* 'Southcombe Double'

Unusual double flowers with layers of bright pink petals. Blooms from June to August. A true geranium. Versatile and nearly carefree. Compact plants excellent for edging and borders. Zone: 4

**COMMON BABY'S BREATH***Gypsophila paniculata*

Ornamental perennial used in floral arrangements. In winter, stems break off, blowing around in the wind, like tumbleweeds, spreading seed to pastures and natural areas. Widespread infestations across Canada and northern United States.



AVOID

**NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES****German Statice***Goniolimon tataricum*

Prickly heads of tiny white flowers. Low rosettes of leathery green leaves. Branching heads of flowers bloom July – August. For rock gardens, xeriscaping, edging or containers. Excellent as fresh or dried flowers. Popular for wreaths. Attracts butterflies. CAUTION: All plant parts poisonous if eaten. Zone: 3



Ht. 25-40 cm; W. 30-45 cm

**Yarrow***Achillea millefolium*

Alberta native. Herbaceous perennial with broad, flattened heads of flowers and feathery leaves. Commercial cultivars with varying flower colours are available. Zone: 3



Ht. 60-90 cm; W. 60-90 cm

**Russian Sage***Perovskia atriplicifolia*

Upright bush. Fragrant, grey-green foliage. Lavender blue blossoms. Flowers July to October. Good for cut flowers/dry arrangements. Attracts butterflies. Zone: 4



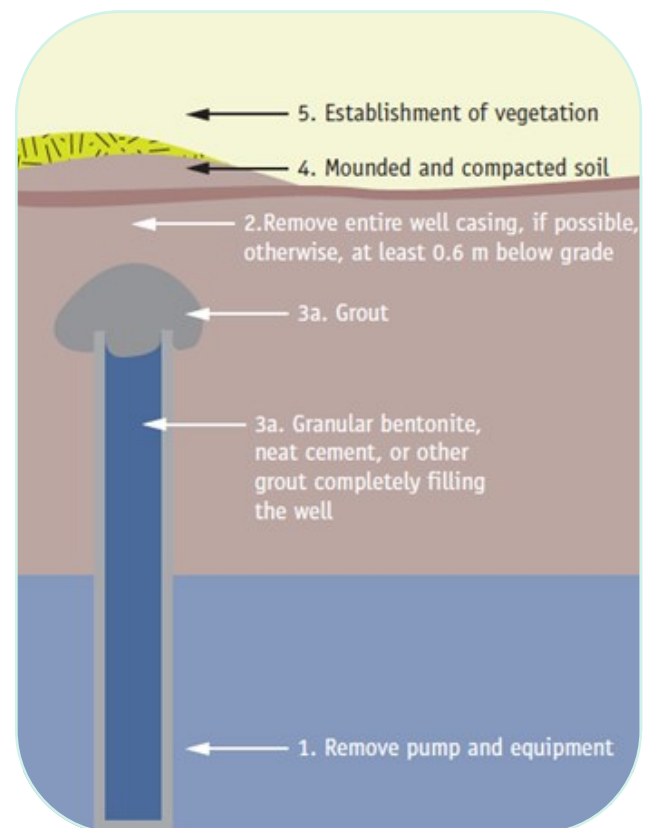
## Starland County's Water Well Decommissioning Program

Funding for water well decommissioning is still available through Starland County. Abandoned water wells can pose a potential environmental risk to aquifers and ground water. By filling in these wells we can eliminate potential threats to our water supply. Wells are decommissioned by removing any pumps, casing or equipment. A grout material such as bentonite, sand-concrete mix or neat cement is used to fill and cap drilled wells. Compacted earth is mounded at the surface of the well to prevent water ponding, and vegetation is planted to increase stability. Dug wells can be filled with natural backfill and capped with compacted clay or bentonite. Because abandoned wells are a safety hazard and can threaten the water supply, it is encouraged for them to be decommissioned properly. An incentive of \$200 per well is offered. If you would like to have your wells decommissioned please contact Dara Calon at Starland County for more details (772-3793).

## Growing Forward 2 Funding

The On-Farm Water Management Program shares costs relating to enhancements of a producer's on farm

water supply. Standard Incentive projects include construction of water sources (wells, dugouts, springs, dams, pipelines) and are eligible for reimbursement of up to 1/3 of expenses to a max of \$5000.00. Special incentive projects include well decommissioning, well pit conversions, water meters and connections to multi-user water supply pipelines. These are eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of expenses to a specified maximum. A long term water management plan must be completed before applying for funding. For more information visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca)







## AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD 2016 EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SERVICE RATES

FOR MORE INFO CALL AL HAMPTON OR DARA CALON AT THE  
STARLAND COUNTY OFFICE (403) 772-3793

10 ft Brillion Grass Seeder	\$5.00/acre, Min Charge \$100
Hoof Trimming Chute	\$20.00/day
Livestock Weighing Scale	\$10.00/day
Livestock Water Transfer System	\$350.00/dugout
Magpie & Skunk Traps	No Charge
15 ft JD 1590 No-Till Drill	\$8.00/acre, Min Charge \$100.00
14 ft Kello Breaking Disc	\$500.00/day \$250.00/Half-day (at the discretion of the Fieldman)
Tree Planting Services	No Charge. Minimum of 300 Trees
Shelterbelt Fabric Roller	Free Service + Cost of Plastic Minimum of 300 Trees Required
Back sloping Program (Fence line topsoil work)	40% Incentive Program for Qualifying Projects
Solar Waterer for Livestock	For Demonstration Purposes Only
Back Pack Sprayers	1 Day Free, \$5.00/ day thereafter
Rawhide Portable Corral System	\$200.00/day
Kirchner Grain Bag Roller	No Charge
Shelterbelt Pest Spraying	\$50.00/hour + Chemical
Water Well Decommissioning	\$200.00/Well

# The Morrin Ag Society Presents The Chevelle's

Saturday April 16, 2016

@ The Badlands Community Facility

Doors Open @ 8pm

Silent Auction & Midnight Lunch, 18+

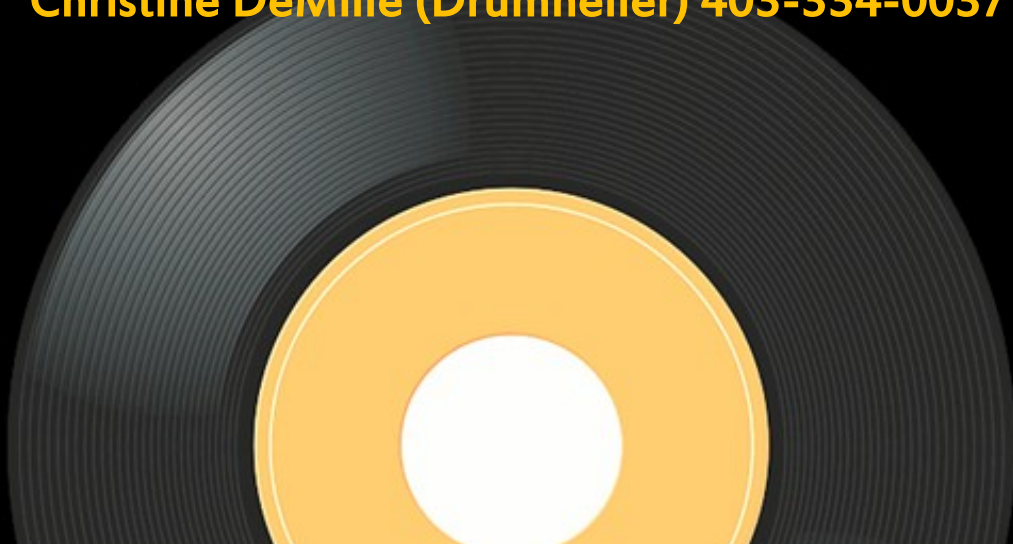
**Tickets \$45 each, or Table of 10 for \$400**

**Tickets Available at:**

**Starland County Office in Morrin**

**Mark Chambers (Morrin) 403-321-0134**

**Christine DeMille (Drumheller) 403-334-0037**



## Ordering Trees for 2016

For the 2016 growing season, trees can be ordered through three different companies. Starland County no longer offers a bulk seedling program, as these companies actually offer a better price and the added benefit of a replacement guarantee. Starland County will still offer tree planting services and plastic mulching for shelterbelts of over 300 trees.

### Prairie Shelterbelt Program

This program is based out of Sundre, AB. An application fee of \$26.25 must be included with your order form, and the applicant must pay shipping. Trees are sold in bundles of ten for \$28.00 + GST and are delivered in May via Canada Post. April 1 is the suggested deadline for best results.

Order forms can be found online at [www.prairieshelterbeltprogram.ca](http://www.prairieshelterbeltprogram.ca), and must be returned to them, not the County.

### HELP International Shelterbelt Tree Program

This program is run out of Weyburn, and offers a limited selection of shelterbelt trees (Walker, Okanese

and Assiniboine Poplar, and Golden, Silver, Mixed and Pussy willows). Regular sized seedling are \$1.50/each and XL seedlings are \$2-\$3 each. Shipping options include customer pickup in Weyburn, or COD bus delivery.

### Tree Time

This tree nursery is based out of Smoky Lake AB, and offers the most selection of trees, ornamentals and shrubs. Shipping is free on orders of over \$100, and orders are sent via Canada Post. Ordering can be done online at [www.treetime.ca](http://www.treetime.ca) or by calling 1 866 873 3846. Seedlings that do not perform as guaranteed will be replaced or store credit will be issued. If seedlings do not put on growth within the first 30 days of being planted, Tree Time can be contacted for a replacement.

**Order forms can be picked up in the County office or emailed to you. Please contact Dara at (403) 772-3793 or [dara@starlandcounty.com](mailto:dara@starlandcounty.com) if you have any questions.**





AN EVENING OF COMEDY  
WITH  
**BRENT BUTT**

**Celebrated Canadian  
Comedian & Former Star  
of Corner Gas**

Brent Butt is often referred to as "one of the funniest men in the country". Appearing on A&E, CBC, Global-TV, The Comedy Channel, and former star of Corner Gas, Brent Butt is at the top of the Canadian comedy game.



**Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016**

**Roast Beef Dinner at 6 p.m.**

**Show begins at 8 p.m.**

**Delia Community Centre, Delia**

**Tickets \$100 each ~ Call 403 820-1116**



Fundraiser for the Delia Community Centre