



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

Weeds to Watch For



Watch for this weed in your garden! **Dame's Rocket** is a biennial or short-lived perennial that can grow to 1

m tall or more. Leaves are alternate, lance shaped, dark green, hairy on both sides, and have serrated edges. Flowers can be white, lavender-pink or purple with **four** petals. Flowers are in loose clusters at tops of stems. Seed pods resemble canola. Plant Garden Phlox, (looks similar but has 5 petals instead of 4), Purple Smoke Baptisia or Southcombe Double Cranesbill instead!

Repurposing Old Junk



Use an old rake as a wine glass rack!



Use an old pair of work boots as planters!



Turn an old tailgate into a coffee table or a bench!

Monsanto Scholarship

This year, Monsanto Canada estimates it will provide approximately 65 scholarships to deserving high school students across the country entering their first year of post secondary education in agriculture at a Canadian college or university. Each scholarship is valued at \$1500 and will be awarded to students who meet the criteria set out in the application form. Complete applications, including an application essay, must be post marked no later than May 24, 2014. Stop by the County Office for an application or visit www.monsanto.ca



Toxic Waste Round-Up

**Delia Public Works Yard
June 6th/8:00-4:30**



More information on Page 10 of this newsletter!

NOTICE TO FARMERS

STARLAND COUNTY

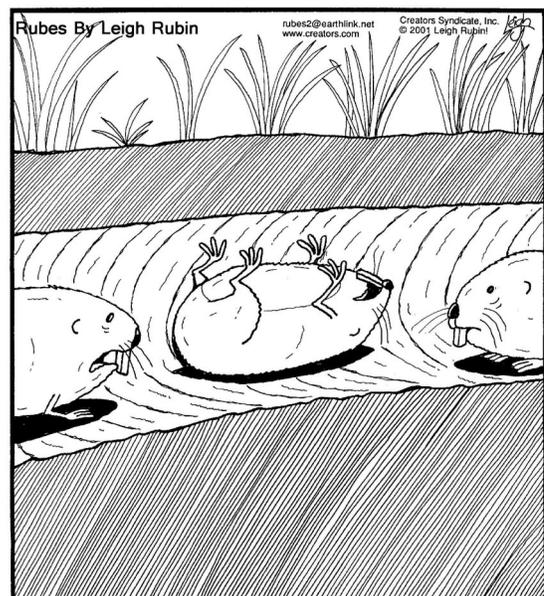
2% Liquid Strychnine Control Program

The sale of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (LSC) for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS's) has been approved for the 2014 season.

Starland County is participating in this program and will have 2% LSC available to qualifying farmers from April 2nd until June 30th. 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 AB Agriculture and Food,
 - 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 \$180.00 per case or \$7.50 per bottle. For more information or to book your product contact Alan Hampton or Dara Calon at 772-3793



"Sure it's sad that Harry's dead, but look on the bright side. We'll save a fortune on burial expenses."

Equipment Sanitation Guidelines

Starland County recognizes that movement of dirty equipment has the potential to introduce unwanted weeds and soil borne pests into and throughout our county. These guidelines are aimed at reducing this risk and are intended to act as a Best Management Practice for everyone involved in transporting equipment. This includes but is not limited to Agriculture, the Oil and Gas Industry, Utility companies, Private Contractors and Municipal Equipment.

As these are guidelines, enforcement is not considered feasible so they will be promoted by education, inspection and valid complaint investigation. Private landowners and industry are responsible for negotiating their own access and sanitation agreements with each other. Starland County will not get involved in private negotiations unless there is an enforcement issue regarding a positive Clubroot location or a Prohibited Noxious weed issue. Landowner and company agreements should clearly outline expectations and be monitored by the property owner.

If no written agreement exists between the landowner and the company and Starland County is called in to investigate a complaint our recommendation is final. Further, Starland County assumes no liability or responsibility if foreign weeds or soil borne pests are found on any property as a result of improper equipment sanitation.

Procedures

Starland County requests that any equipment brought in from outside Starland County be clean and free of soil and debris prior to entry. Pressure washing equipment is adequate to achieve this in most circumstances. If equipment is coming into Starland from a Municipality known to be infected with Clubroot, it is recommended that the equipment also be disinfected to minimize potential liability concerns.

Equipment that is moving between projects within Starland County should be free of soil and loose debris. Hand cleaning of the equipment is considered adequate in this circumstance unless the landowner has previously specified otherwise in writing with the company. It is important to keep in mind that equipment sanitation serves many purposes. Proper sanitation procedures will assist in preventing the spread of weeds, Clubroot and other soil borne diseases. If Clubroot is found within our County, cleaning requirements for movement may change.

Anyone involved in transporting equipment with visible dirt or mud into Starland County for the purpose of working in our area may be subject to stop work orders until the equipment is deemed suitable for transport.

Further information on cleaning equipment can be found on Alberta Agriculture website:

[www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm12120](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm12120)



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

TOXIC WASTE ROUNDUP (Including E-Waste)

DATE: Friday, June 6th, 2014

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Village of Delia Public Works Yard "Delia, AB"

Wastes in the following categories can be delivered to the Public Works Yard for safe disposal.

Items that will be accepted include:

- **Corrosives:** Rust removers, waste acids, batteries (car or household), and household cleaners
- **Flammables:** Oil based paints, degreasers, solvents, wood preservatives and gasoline
- **Poisons:** Outdated drugs, ant, rodent, weed killers, photographic chemicals, antifreeze
- **Reactives:** Waste bleaches, any unidentified chemicals, aerosols
- **E-Waste:** Computers, computer accessories, televisions

Items that will **NOT** be accepted include:

- Absolutely no commercial toxic waste is accepted.
- No biomedical wastes or radioactive materials
- No ammunition, dynamite, gun powder or fireworks
- No pressurized refrigerants, gases (i.e. Acetylene) or propane tanks over 20 lbs
- No automotive paint, and
- No stereos or speakers
- Household appliances

The above toxic wastes will be accepted on the day noted above only unless prior arrangements have been made, and no charges will be levied for the collection of the wastes. If you have any questions on a specific disposal item, please feel free to contact the Administration Office.

Alan Hampton
Agricultural Fieldman
Telephone: (403) 772-3793



P.O. Box 249, Morrin, Alberta, Canada T0J 2B0
Tel: (403) 772-3793 Fax: (403) 772-3807
www.starlandcounty.com

The Honourable Lisa Raitt
Minister of Transport
Tower C - 330 Sparks St.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0N5 Grain Transportation

Re: Grain Transportation Challenges

Dear Ms. Raitt:

We are writing this letter to offer our opinion about the issue of grain movement in Western Canada and possible solutions to keep our grain moving. We are a rural municipality in East Central Alberta whose tax base consists of grain and livestock producers and oil and gas. We used to have 30 elevators in our 6 small towns and 2 rail lines which provided shipment of grain and goods in and out of our area. This was back in the "good old days" when we had ample storage; rail companies who actually wanted to move grain, and small towns who were the benefactors of the commerce these rural areas generated.

As attrition would have it our elevators, towns and all of our rail lines have disappeared. What remains of our rural economies is now unfortunately at the mercy of an inefficient rail transportation system which from all appearances has little regard for our industry. Our politicians, grain company chairman and rail company executives have assured us that reducing prairie elevators to a handful and building new facilities to accommodate 100 car spots is the most efficient mechanism to get our grain to port in a timely fashion.

The farm industry has stepped up to the plate by building extra on farm storage and purchasing large trucks to accommodate delivery of large volumes of grain in a timely fashion. The grain companies have also followed suit by merging, buying out their competition and building giant inland terminals capable of handling the volumes of grain that the rails were requesting. The problem is our rail companies have not kept pace. The two primary rail companies we have left in our area have been good at cutting costs for their shareholders, but they have failed to keep up with the needs of some of their customers. As producers and disgruntled customers we would like to thank our government for imposing an order in council to get our product moving. However we think this is short term and does not address the real issue which is our current system is not capable of moving a normal crop let alone a bumper.

As is indicated in the news release dated March 7th you continue working on medium and long-term solutions to address the transportation issue. As fellow Canadians, grain farmers and local government representatives we are offering our opinions in hopes that a solution can be achieved. We fear that failure to come up with a tangible solution soon will hit our industry hard.

With that in mind here are the areas of concern that we feel require attention:

1. Lack of competition in the rail industry has led to higher freight costs, lack of investment in infrastructure, removal of infrastructure and ultimately reduced service. The rail companies may argue this point as they always get the grain moved at some point; however as a customer we need to get our product to market when sales dictate, not when it is convenient for our shippers.
2. The need for an enforceable service level agreement between grain companies and rail companies which would be implemented for non-performance in a specified time.
3. Expanding or adding to the existing sidings in the mountains which would allow more cars to be dropped off and provide for quicker turnaround time of cars.
4. Expand the terminal at Prince Rupert to accommodate more grain and make provisions for CN or other carriers to ship to this port.
5. Offer tax incentives to business to expand or build ethanol plants, bio-diesel facilities, flour mills, cookie factories, pasta plants etc. which would make use of the product we grow, add value to our raw resources and lessen the pressure on the current infrastructure.
6. Utilize the provisions contained in the current transportation act sections 138 and 139 which allow for running rights to other carriers on existing rail. Utilizing this provision could potentially change the nature of business in our rail industry and bring service and competitiveness which we are sorely lacking.
7. Consider building a second rail to the west coast

These issues are the ones that we see at the local level and have been concerns for quite some time. As farmers we continue to meet the challenges of growing food at a reasonable cost for our citizens and millions of others abroad. We feel it is incumbent upon our government to ensure we get this product to market lest we jeopardize our industry. Once again thank you for imposing the order in council to get some grain moving, but let's get the ball rolling and make some real changes to this system to keep our industry strong.

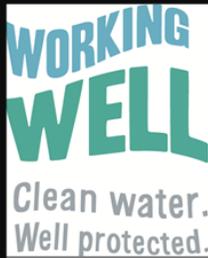
Sincerely,

Steve Wannstrom
Agricultural Service Board Chairman
Starland County

c:c The Honourable Gerry Ritz
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Honourable Verlyn Olson, QC
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Honourable Wayne Drysdale Minister of Transportation
Alberta Transportation



Working Well Workshop

THREE HILLS COMMUNITY HALL - JUNE 10TH

Did you know poorly maintained water wells can put your water supply at risk? As a landowner, you're responsible for looking after the water wells on your property.

Proper water well siting, construction, maintenance and plugging will help protect your well from biofouling and contamination, save you costly repairs, and ensure your well water yields are sustained over many years.

Learn what you can do to protect your well at a **FREE Water Well Management Workshop** hosted by Starland County & Kneehill County, and presented by the Working Well Program, with technical expertise from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This hands-on, informative workshop is designed to help well owners better understand and manage their precious water supply.

**To Register Call: Kneehill County at 403 443-5541
Starland County at 403 772-3793**

Where: Three Hills Community Hall

Doors open at 5, Dinner at 5:30, Program at 6:30

Dinner is Provided by Friends Catering

NOTE: Pre-registering is mandatory and ensures that drilling reports of your wells will be accessible to you for the workshop



Spring is a Good Time to Bait Wireworms

Neil Whatley

As damage to field crops is poised to escalate, consider playing a proactive role in finding a wireworm control solution for your area by submitting samples to Canada's wireworm research team. Lindane (e.g. Vitavax Dual, etc) insecticide kept wireworm numbers low for several decades on the Prairies. Since the ban of this organochlorine pesticide in 2004, wireworm damage in field crops is rebounding; some researchers are suggesting we may just be catching a glimpse of the tip of the iceberg at this point.

Varying from region to region, some 30 different wireworm species exhibit diverse behaviours and lifecycles, making a single control measure improbable. An individual region may contain more than one wireworm species. The worm-like larvae can feed on plant roots and germinating seeds for up to 3 to 5 years, depending on the species, before developing into the adult click beetle stage. While current seed treatments may repel wireworms for a growing season, their populations can continue to increase so that these treatment measures begin to fail.

Canada's wireworm research team, headed by Dr. Vernon and Dr. van Herk of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, is identifying wireworm species and researching control measures. The research team needs to know which specific wireworm species dominates in your farming region so the correct control option(s) can be applied as the problem worsens.

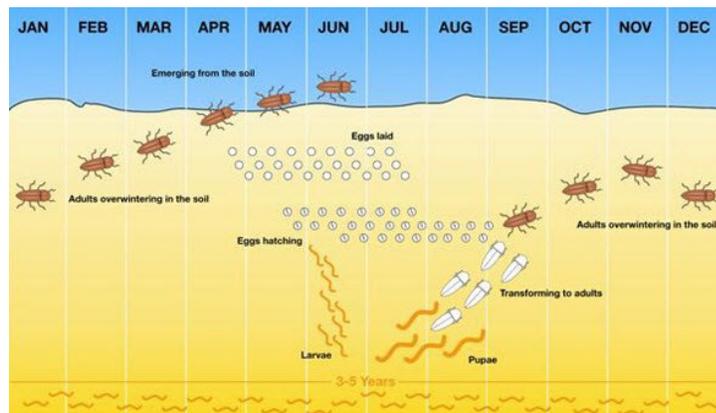
Although most crops are susceptible, wireworms prefer eating annual and perennial

grasses, so populations can build up in fields that have extended periods of cereal crops or pasture. Crops grown in recently broken sod are especially vul-



nerable. Due to a greater amount of soil moisture, wireworms migrate near to the soil surface in early spring, making spring the best time to bait and capture wireworms.

Baiting can be as simple as burying a small amount (a cup or so) of a cereal-based product like flour, bran or wheat seeds to a depth of four to six inches into the soil at marked locations randomly across a field. Dig up the baits 10 to 14 days later, collecting wireworms and some field soil (not too wet), and then insert them into a hard plastic container for shipping. There may be more than one species present, so collect as many wireworms as possible.



Mail wireworm samples to:

Dr. Vernon

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

6947 #7 Hwy P.O. Box 1000

Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0

Please include a brief description of where the sample was collected (nearest town or address), information about your crop rotation in this field over the past 4 years, your name and phone number. Once the species are identified, you will be contacted with the results.

DELIA CENTENNIAL

COME CELEBRATE WITH US

August 1, 2, 3 2014

SATURDAY AUGUST 2ND

Parade @10:00 am
 Official Opening Ceremonies
 Pancake Breakfast
 Kids Games/Activities
 Dance— Jo Hikk
 Train Ride Tours
 School Tours (Past/Present)
 Concessions
 Old/New Machinery Display
 Purple Martin Presentation
 Grain Elevator Presentation
 Discovery Walk/Graveyard Tour
 Heirloom Garden Tour
 Musical Jam & Buskers
 Handhills History Display
 Beer Gardens (both days)
 Delia & District Museum

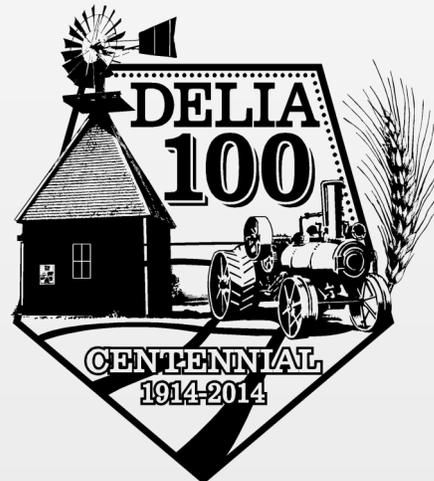
SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD

Interdenominational
 Church Service
 Pancake Breakfast
 Rededication of Veterans Park
 Dance-The Badlanders
 Kids Games/Activities
 Concessions
 Old/New Machinery Display
 Purple Martin Presentation
 Grain Elevator Presentation
 Discovery Walk/Graveyard Tour
 Heirloom Garden Tour
 School Tours (Past/Present)
 Train Ride Tours
 Fireworks Finale 10:30 pm

**REGISTER AT THE DELIA COMMUNITY
 HALL FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY
 MORNING AUGUST 1ST AND 2ND**

PLEASE PRE REGISTER BY JULY 1 2014

Registration forms can be found online at www.delia.ca or by calling Jill Clayholt @ (403) 364-2332. People are advised to pre-register as there are considerable savings if you do. An additional \$5.00/plate will be charged after July 1, 2014. There are limited spaces available so book your meals now!



PRE-REGISTRATION MEAL PRICES

Sat. Breakfast \$6/Sat. Supper \$21
 Sun. Breakfast \$9/Sun. Supper \$10
 Children 3 yrs and under are FREE
 Children 4yrs –10yrs HALF PRICE
 EVERYONE 11 & older FULL PRICE

Growing Forward 2

NEW Agricultural Plastic Waste Management Funding

Applications are now being accepted to the project “*Agricultural Plastic Waste Management*”. All projects listed here recently received funding as of April 1st, 2014. This program covers stand-alone grain bag rollers used for the purpose of rolling ag plastics (grain bags, silage covers). Grain bag extractors with bag roller attachments will also be covered under the funding (to a maximum of \$5000). Ineligible costs include trailers for transportation of grain bags, added on power supplies and hay balers. Funding levels are 70% Growing Forward 2 funding, 30% applicant contribution split to a maximum of \$5000. Rolling and compacting agricultural sheet plastics allows for more convenient and safe storage on farm prior to being transported to an approved recycling site. This practice will eliminate the need to dispose of plastics on farm.

NEW Improved Nutrient Management Funding

Funding is also now available for sectional control operating systems for seed drills or fertilizer applicators. Ineligible costs include leased/rented equipment, complete seeders or fertilizer applicators, Global Positioning System (GPS), GPS subscription services, variable rate technology, autosteer technology, extended

warranties, maintenance, computer hardware, laboratory analyses and custom application services. Sectional control increases fertilizer nutrient efficiency and minimizes the loss of excess fertilizer nutrients from entering the environment and affecting water quality or contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Cost share for this program is 50%.

NEW Shelterbelt Establishment

First year establishment costs, such as site preparation, planting and weed control will be covered by this funding, as well as purchase of trees and shrubs, wood/plastic mulch, water system components, first year fencing expenses, equipment use and labour. Ineligible costs include maintenance/renovation after first year of establishment, fencing of existing shelterbelts, chemical control, shelterbelts around farm sites, equipment/labour/contractor expenses for wood mulch and use of ATV's. Establishment of permanent shelterbelts supports winter feeding management, reduces manure nutrient build up and protects water sources. (Purchases will be funded to a maximum of \$5 per tree/shrub and to a project maximum of \$10,000 with a 50/50 cost share).

For more information go to www.growingforward.alberta.ca or call

Dara at the Starland County office

Ph: 403-772-3793

Email: dara@starlandcounty.com

 **@ddcalo @StarlandCounty**

Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program

THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO RINSE

- #1 Only rinsed containers can be recycled
- #2 Protect the environment in and around collection sites
- #3 Use *all* the chemicals you purchase
- #4 Protect collection site workers
- #5 Maintain your farm's good reputation
- #6 Unrinsed containers may not be accepted

NO EXCUSES NOT TO!

For more information or to find a collection site near you visit cleanfarms.ca



Now, take your empty fertilizer containers along for the ride!



Pesticide & Fertilizer Container RECYCLING

RINSE + REMOVE + RETURN

- 1. Triple or pressure RINSE** containers to ensure no product is wasted
- 2. REMOVE** caps and booklets
Without these simple steps, your containers cannot be properly recycled
- 3. RETURN** to your local collection site
For locations in your area, please visit cleanfarms.ca or call 877-622-4460

A proud CleanFARMS recycling partner



Take your empty fertilizer containers along for the ride!



Return your empty pesticide and fertilizer jugs to either the Rumsey or Michichi transfer stations. Always triple rinse and remove caps and booklets from jugs!

Michichi: Tuesdays 1:00pm-7:00pm
1st Saturday of the month

Rumsey: Wednesdays 1:00-7:00pm
2nd Saturday of the month