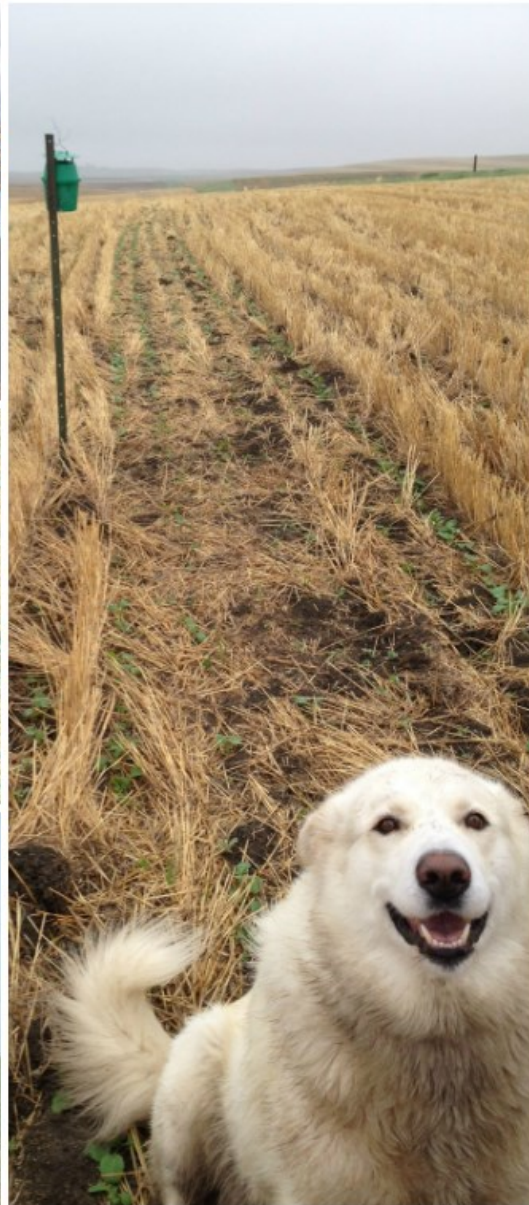


# STARLAND COUNTY

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



# AG Talk NEWSLETTER

## ALBERTA OPEN FARM DAYS

Farms across the province will be opening their gates. Primrose Dairy Farms is offering a farm tour of livestock and barns, showcasing many animals such as cows, calves, chickens, goats dogs and cats. Demonstrations of fully automated milking and information on the Canadian Dairy industry will be provided as well.

**Farm Type:** Dairy

**Host:** Cornel and Cremona Primrose

**Contact:** 403-321-0217

**Date:** Sunday, August 24th, 2014

**Hours:** 10 am to 5 pm

**Directions:** From Morrin head North on 56, then west on TWP 34.0 for 2.5 km. Located on the north side of the road.

More info can be found on [www.albertafarmdays.com](http://www.albertafarmdays.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Starland County

Annual Summer Tour

**When:** August 7th,  
Registration 12:00pm,  
bus leaves at 12:45pm

**Where:** Rowley

Call the County Office at 403-772-3793 to register now as space is limited! This will be a fantastic tour with tons of giveaways and great food! See the back of this newsletter for more details.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Practice Workshop,  
Olds College July 28th and 29th

Delia Centennial  
August 1,2,3 2014

Canola Galla, July 31st  
Brooks 8am-3:30pm

## WEED TO WATCH FOR WHITE COCKLE : NOXIOUS

**Information:** Introduced from Europe. Often found in tame pasture or hayland.

**Life Cycle:** Annual, biennial, short lived perennial, deep fleshy tap root

**Leaves:** Leaves are opposite, sometimes covered with slightly sticky hairs

**Stems:** Hairy, slightly sticky, 20-80cm tall

**Flower:** White petaled flowers, veins may be green or reddish brown, flowers are hairy and sometimes sticky.

**Seed:** Aggressive seed producer, seeds are kidney shaped, grey and bumpy.

**Control:** Hand pick, bale hay or spray well before seed set.

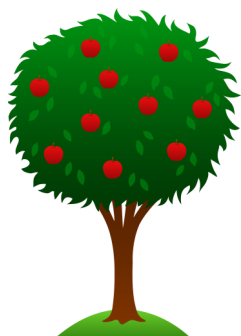
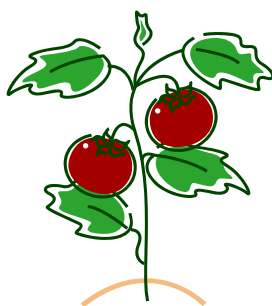
Please report sightings of this weed to the County office (403) 772-3793





## DELIA SCHOOL GARDEN GRAND OPENING

The Delia Health Champions had the grand opening of their school garden on June 24. They have created a beautiful space for the school which includes fruit trees, lilacs, flowers, memory trees and an edible garden. The Grades 1/2 and Grades 3/4 each performed a song to commemorate the grand opening and thank everyone involved with making the project a success. If you are interested in helping take care of the garden over the summer months please contact Donna Johnson at (403) 820-4531.



## GRAIN STORAGE MANAGEMENT TO PREVENT GRAIN PESTS

With harvest approaching it is time to focus on proper bin sanitation to help prevent grain storage pests from developing. Infestations normally start because the granary is infested before the grain is stored. Surveys of empty granaries on the prairies showed that 50% of bins contained residual populations of storage pests. Consequently, the addition of grain to a bin just provides the conditions for a problem to develop. Many such problems can be prevented by routinely cleaning empty granaries before harvest and applying a residual malathion spray treatment to the bins and surrounding areas. The procedure is easy, cheap and a good management practice. The one exception to this would be when storing canola seed. In this case, malathion must not be used. Feed mill and seed cleaning facility managers should regularly use a similar precautionary treatment since they could be acting as a source of insects for their customers. They should check undisturbed sites that accumulate grain and dust, as they may harbour insects. Proper sanitation makes good sense!



For Immediate Release:

## Alberta Farmers Hope for Quieter Hail Season Following Record Hail Damage the Last Two Years

### AFSC Increases Hail Coverage to Better Protect Crops

With crops now seeded and starting to grow, farmers across the province are hoping for a quieter hail season this summer following record levels of hail damage over the past two years.

"Last year marked the third highest amount of hail damage to crops across Alberta in our 77 years as a provincial hail insurer," says Jackie Sanden, program coordinator with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). "Our branches reported 522 storm cells last year that pelted crops with hail from Fort Vermilion to the US border. The damage was widespread. Southern Alberta and 'Hail Alley' – which stretches westward along Highway 2 from Rocky Mountain House to Calgary, and eastward through Wheatland County – were particularly hard hit."



*Following record hail damage to crops across Alberta over the past two years, AFSC is increasing the coverage on its Straight Hail Insurance program to help farmers better protect their crops as they brace themselves for the coming hail season, says Jackie Sanden.*

More than \$257 million was paid out on more than 6,400 hail claims across Alberta last year through AFSC's Straight Hail Insurance program and the Hail Endorsement rider that most farmers add to their crop insurance. The highest claim year was in 2012 when \$445.6 million was paid on more than 8,400 claims. "Alberta's top three years for record hail damage have all occurred in the last six years," says Sanden, noting 2008 marked the second highest year with \$263 million in claims paid out.

### Ingredients for Hail

Environment Canada meteorologist Dan Kulak says wet spring weather and unusually high humidity over the last few years have likely contributed to the amount of hail in Alberta lately. "Humidity and ground moisture fuel thunderstorms that produce hail," says Kulak, noting other ingredients include heat and a trigger to set everything in motion. "That trigger can be simple daytime heating, causing warm air to rise and mix with cooler air above. Another trigger is the jet stream – that river of air that storms tend to follow – which flows over the mountains and right through the middle of Alberta every summer," he explains.

The mountains play a huge role in thunderstorm formation. They're the reason Alberta tends to get more hail than anywhere else in Canada, says Kulak. "You can be sure Alberta will get hail this year. The question is how much," he says, noting every part of the province is susceptible to hail. "The wetter things get in June, the more storms we can end up with because the moisture just keeps recycling itself."



### **Straight Hail Coverage Increased**

As farmers brace themselves for the coming hail season, AFSC is increasing the coverage levels offered through its Straight Hail Insurance program. "Producers have asked us to boost the coverage caps to help them protect their crops and cover their hail risk more effectively. As such, we're raising the maximum coverage farmers can insure on most crops to better reflect today's higher crop values and rising input costs," says Sanden.

Coverage has increased by a minimum of \$75 per dryland acre and \$175 on irrigated crops, with significant increases on potatoes, says Sanden. "We've also created new coverage categories for higher-value crops like chickpeas and canola, which can now be insured for \$325 per dryland acre, and \$425 on irrigated crops. Full details are available at [www.afsc.ca](http://www.afsc.ca)."

A growing number of farmers Auto-Elect Straight Hail coverage with their crop insurance in April, says Sanden, pointing out it gives them a two per cent premium discount. "It also gives them hail protection as soon as their crops emerge. If crops are struck by an early hailstorm before they're insured, fields with more than 25 per cent damage will be declined Straight Hail coverage for the rest of the growing season," she explains, adding, "Last year an early hailstorm was reported on May 29, and by early June 53 hail claims were triggered on crops across Southern Alberta."

### **Administrative Costs Reduced**

"We're also seeing more farmers purchase Straight Hail coverage online because they like being able to access it from home around the clock," says Sanden. About 20 per cent of farmers bought Straight Hail online last year, creating efficiencies that led to a two per cent reduction in the administrative costs built into Straight Hail premiums this year. Sanden notes first time users must contact AFSC for an activation key to purchase online coverage.

AFSC has provided hail insurance to Alberta farmers since 1938 when special legislation was passed creating the Alberta Hail Insurance Board, which later became AFSC. "Farmers needed someone to offer hail insurance in every corner of the province, because back then it wasn't available everywhere; the risk was too high," says Sanden. "That same need exists today because hail is still the biggest risk Alberta farmers face each year. We continue to offer hail insurance in every township, and we don't limit the number of acres we'll insure," she says, noting AFSC's mandate has broadened today to include the delivery of all-risk crop insurance, livestock price insurance, lending, and income stabilization programs on behalf of government.

For more information about hail coverage, farmers can contact their local AFSC Branch or the AFSC Call Centre at 1-877-899-AFSC (2372). Straight Hail Insurance is available anytime through the growing season and takes effect at noon the day after it's purchased.

## PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

Any pesticide drift onto adjacent areas is not only a waste of money but can be a potential hazard to neighbours' crops, houses, dugouts, pastures and gardens. Some hazards may not be visible until spray equipment is too close to prevent damage or exposure.

Notification that pesticides, such as insecticides, fungicides or herbicides are to be applied creates the opportunity to identify and resolve problems prior to spraying. Notification is not seeking permission to spray. Farmers have the legal right to apply pesticides on their property. Notification is simply a good neighbour policy that helps eliminate potential risks.

Adjacent landowners can adjust their practices and schedules to accommodate spraying. For example, livestock and beehives might possibly be moved or otherwise protected. Residents can plan to be away from the area if they choose, or ensure that they remain inside their houses with their windows closed while spraying is in progress.

If there are additional concerns, farmers or their custom applicators can adjust application practices to prevent problems.

## NOTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Contact any landowners immediately adjacent to a field that is to be sprayed. Priority is given to land parcels with residences but other land parcels should not be ignored in case they have sensitive crops, beehives, new shelterbelt plantings or other hazards that may not be immediately obvious. Provide a notification 48 to 72 hours in advance (if possible). Persons receiving notification should be advised that, due to weather or drift management considerations, spraying might be delayed. For sensitive situations, arrangements can be made for notification after a delay has occurred. Notify neighbours of the chemical that will be sprayed, the method of applications (ground or air), the pest being controlled, the name of the application service if a custom applicator has been hired, and any specific concerns that may be important, e.g. bee safety. Continued...

Try to have neighbours identify any potential hazards that you or your custom applicator will need to factor into spraying decisions. For a high hazard situation on one side of a field, you may want to spray when a light breeze is blowing away from this area.

For additional information to help address concerns prior to spraying, consult the pesticide manufacturer. Most pesticide labels will identify toll free information lines provided by pesticide manufacturers. If you are using a custom applicator, the applicator can provide required telephone numbers or discuss precautions with your neighbour.

## RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Producers have the legal right to apply pesticides on their property provided that the pesticide application does not contravene any by-laws, regulations, or generally accepted practices. Producers have the legal responsibility to ensure that any pesticide application performed on their property does not cause harm to adjacent properties

or people. When using custom applicators, ensuring that applications are conducted by a qualified service that is legally registered to perform pesticide application is the first step in meeting producer responsibility. The second step is ensuring that the applicator is aware of potential hazards in advance of the application. Producers may be held accountable for compensation to adjacent landowners if pesticide damage occurs.

Notification is about cooperation and mutual respect. If a neighbour has concerns, the neighbour should be willing to work with the producer to a mutually satisfactory solution. Most people are cooperative and will have reasonable suggestions. Neighbours who are less cooperative and see notification as "permissioning" can be reminded of the producer's legal right to spray.



**Be safe like Al,  
always wear your  
Personal  
Protective  
Equipment!**

# SUMMER FUN 2014

## THEME BASED SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR CHILDREN AGES 6-12

### Program Fees

Individual \$4.00/day  
\*An extra fee of \$10.00 is applicable for special events such as field trips\*

### Program Details

9:00am to 4:30pm,  
Delia and Morrin  
alternating days

#### Delia

Mondays/Tuesdays

#### Location

Delia United Church  
Phone: (403) 364-3932

#### Morrin

Wednesdays and  
Thursdays

#### Location

Morrin United  
Church

Phone: (403) 772-3851

The last day of the  
program will be  
Tuesday, August 19

## Field Trips and Special Events

### Vlad Correa's Skateboard Workshop

Join us at the Munson skate park to learn how to ride a skateboard, and even master a few tricks.

**The Discovery Wildlife Park** provides a wild-life sanctuary for orphaned animals such as monkeys, bears, jaguars, wolves, alligators, tigers, lions, and camels. Get up close and meet the animals! We will see a bear presentation as well as a jaguar show. Some of the animals at this park have been stars in movies such as Dr. Doolittle 2, Anchorman, and R.V.

**The Ellis Bird Farm** program will include building a nestbox campers can take home! More activities include pond dipping, owl pellet exploration and a nature walk!

**This years Summer Program Leaders are Amber Marshall and Shelby Gerlinger. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Diana Rowe, Community Services Director, Starland County (403) 820- 1116**



## **Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch**

Starland County is working with the Drumheller RCMP and the Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch program to operate a crime watch call out crime notification system. The County is housing the system, and is supporting Crime Watch with meeting space and technical support for the fan out system.

Rural Crime Watch needs members, and Starland County is encouraging our residents to join the Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch program. The Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch program has objectives:

- To improve community awareness with regard to crime prevention
- To promote crime prevention through the sharing of information regarding techniques, products and ideas;
- To interact and share information with other crime watch/prevention groups within the Province of Alberta;

Please consider joining Rural Crime Watch. The annual cost is just \$20.00, and all members are automatically enrolled in the "Fan Out" service (by telephone, email or text) operated in conjunction with the R.C.M.P detachment. You will also get Crime Watch signs for your property. With the information fanned out, members become the "eyes and ears" of the local authorities.

Let's all work together to make Starland County a safer community.

To join the Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch program, send your \$20.00 membership fee to:

**Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch Association**

**Box 671**

**Drumheller, Alberta**

**T0J 0Y0**





# 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  
 Train Ride Tours  
 School Tours (Past/Present)  
 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  
 Kids Games/Activities  
 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

#### SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT JO HIKK



#### Delia Centennial hosts THE BADLANDERS



Sunday, August 3rd  
 Delia Arena  
 7pm-10pm

#### SUNDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT THE BADLANDERS

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

#### MEAL PRICES

Sat. Breakfast \$11/Sat. Supper \$26  
 Sun. Breakfast \$14/Sun. Supper \$15  
 Children 3 yrs and under are FREE  
 Children 4yrs -10yrs HALF PRICE  
 EVERYONE 11 & older FULL PRICE

## TREE PESTS

### COTTONY ASH PSYLLID

**Description:** Adult psyllids are small, 3-4 mm in length, and light green to yellow green in colour with black markings.

**Symptoms:**

Browning, yellowing and curling of margins of ash leaflets indicating a first generation psyllid population. White cotton within the curled leaflets margins that roll under and towards the midrib, covering the nymphs inside the curled leaf.

**Control:** The most effective weapon against this pest is a soap/permethrin treatment known as Trounce. Treatments should occur in early June and July. It becomes more difficult to treat the older the insect gets.



## YELLOW HEADED SPRUCE SAWFLY



**Description:** This insect looks like a small wasp and has four shiny transparent wings with a network of visible veins. New larvae have a yellowish head and

light yellowish green body. Full grown they are green and glossy or waxy in appearance.

**Symptoms:** First sign of damage appears in June, and needles are eventually consumed. By mid-July infested trees will be ragged in appearance, especially near the top and turn a yellowish brown colour.

**Control:** Effective control on smaller trees is done by picking the larvae off the tree when they first appear and destroying them. Chemical application on large trees is an option if the infestation is severe.





# STARLAND COUNTY 2014 ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR

**AUGUST 7th ★ ROWLEY ★ REGISTRATION 12:00**

**Cost:**

**\$20.00**

**Includes:**

Transportation  
(air conditioned  
greyhound bus),  
Refreshments,  
Beef Dinner  
& LOTS of  
Door Prizes!

**Registration:**

12:00, bus leaves  
at 12:45 from  
Sam's Saloon



**REGISTER NOW!**

Limited Spaces  
available Call the  
County Office at  
(403) 772-3793



**ROWLEY GRAZING LEASE  
BRUSH CONTROL**



**PRIMROSE ROBOTIC DAIRY  
BIO WATER PRESENTATION**

**AB PULSE GROWERS  
SOYBEAN FIELD  
FABABEAN FIELD  
PEA FIELD WITH ROOT ROT**



**INNOVATIVE SOLAR  
SYSTEM MOUNTED ON  
A SET OF HARROWS**

**CANOLA PLOTS  
STOLLER PLOTS**



**DRONE  
DEMONSTRATION**