



AG TALK NEWSLETTER



Starland County ASB Members

Chariman: Barrie Hoover
Council Member: Murray Marshall
Council Member: Allen Avramenko
Council Member: Bob Sargent
Council Member: Steven Wannstrom
Farm Member: Brian Heck

Special Projects Manager: Matthew Kreke
Farm Member: Kerry Sharpe
Agricultural Fieldman: Alan Hampton
Assistant Ag Fieldman: Dara Kudras
Recording Secretary: Ross Rawlusyk
Key Contact: Neil Whatley

AG TALK NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY INFO

**Rumsey Spring
Fling & Pie Auction**
April 15th

Delia Spring Spiel
Celebrate Canada's
150th Birthday!
March 24-26th
Prizes for most
patriotic team, silent
auction, turkey &
ham shoot & cash
prizes. Call Tammy
Graham to enter
(403) 364 2101

Air Brake Refresher
Course & C2000
March 27 Delia Hall
\$20 for non
members, free
for members.
Includes Lunch!



WELCOME BACK SNOW BIRDS!

Is your water safe to drink?

Whether you have a well, a cistern, or are hooked up to the regional water lines this is a very important thing to consider after returning from a long vacation. Your water pipes diligently work towards providing all the points in your home with safe and clean water. When in constant use, these pipes are likely to provide this service for a good long while, but what happens when water sits for a few days or a few months?

Water that has been exposed to air has about 12 hours until it goes flat and, as carbon dioxide from the air interacts with the H₂O in your glass, it slightly lowers its pH. This will cause an odd, almost stale, taste but still likely is safe to drink. Water in your pipes will contact little to no air but what it will react with is your piping material and the different properties within your drinking water. Different reactions can occur depending on your homes piping material but regardless of what material your home is plumbed with there is always a risk of bacterial and algae growth. Even with treated water the chlorine that was added to keep your water protected dissipates with time to the point that bacteria and algae start to grow.

What to do?

It is recommended that you flush your home lines after returning from a long trip. This will help to clear all of the old stagnant water out of your lines and bring in new and fresh water to refill your pipes with. Alberta Health Services in conjunction with Alberta Environment recommend a three fold change over. This means that if it would take 5 minutes to run the water from your fresh water source to the farthest point in your homes system then the water should be run for 15 minutes (a simple test for this is to time and run your cold water tap until the tap runs as cold as it will get) Don't forget to flush the water in your hot water heater as well! For additional protection if you are concerned about the safety of your water the Alberta Health Services in Drumheller can provide you with a sample bottle and help to ensure that your homes water is safe to drink.

Grain Corn Harvest in Starland County

This past growing season Brett Adams tried out a 120 acre early maturing grain corn plot. The variety P7005 was seeded on May 16th, and fertilized with 110 lbs actual N, 40 lbs P & 10lbs S. It yielded 100 bu/ac and was harvested at 24% moisture on November 22nd (but could have been taken a month earlier). This coming season Brett will be trying out a higher yielding, longer season variety with larger cob size in the same location. Could grain corn become a reality in Starland County? (Photography credit to Doug Stanger)



STARLAND COUNTY PRESENTS

**GARDENING WORKSHOP
+ TRADESHOW**

APRIL 8TH MUNSON HALL

DONNA BALZER

CO-HOST OF HGTV'S BUGS & BLOOMS
CBC RADIO HOST & CALGARY HERALD GARDENING COLUMNIST

DR. KEN FRY

COORDINATOR FOR HORTICULTURE
ENTOMOLOGY INSTRUCTOR AT OLDS COLLEGE
CO-AUTHOR OF "GARDEN BUGS OF ALBERTA"

TOPICS INCLUDE

DISEASE & PEST MANAGEMENT
SHELTERBELT TREE PLACEMENT

***HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: GROW YOUR
OWN MUSHROOMS! * ONLY 50 SPOTS!**

8:00 AM-9:00 AM TRADESHOW

9:00 AM-3:30 PM WORKSHOP

LUNCH & TRADESHOW

COST: \$25

TO REGISTER CALL STARLAND
COUNTY AT (403) 772-3793

SHELTERBELT TREE OPTIONS

Prairie Shelterbelt Program

The Prairie Shelterbelt Program is still accepting orders for the 2017 season. All trees are on a first come, first reserved basis. As Starland County no longer runs a bulk program, all orders need to be placed directly with Prairie Shelterbelt Program Ltd., and are conveniently shipped right to your door. For more information check out www.prairieshelterbeltprogram.com

TreeTime.ca

Trees can also be ordered from TreeTime.ca. They offer free shipping on orders over \$100, and have a large selection of trees, shrubs, berry seedlings, fruit trees and native plants. Check out www.treetime.ca for easy ordering and extra information on planting, tree varieties and more. Tree seedlings are shipped in a frozen state,

and are thawed and ready for planting when you receive them. Online ordering opens up in late fall, and closes in early June. Because seedlings sell on a first come, first-served basis, it is to your advantage to request your seedlings for the next season as early as possible. All products are backed by a 30 day new growth guarantee.

Starland County still supports the development of shelterbelts, and offers tree planting and plastic mulching services at no charge (plastic mulch must be purchased).

If you have any questions or would like to book tree planting or mulching services for next year please call Dara Kudras at (403) 772-3793.



Heightened Risk of Pea Leaf Weevil Damage in 2017

Properly inoculated annual legume crops, like field pea and faba bean, produce most of the nitrogen they require for growth through the growing season via nitrogen fixation carried out by nodules on plant roots. Hence, field pea and faba bean are generally grown on nitrogen deficient soil without much, if any, additional synthetic nitrogen fertilizer. When the pea leaf weevil (PLW) insect pest feeds on the nodules of pea and faba bean seedlings, this natural nitrogen source is greatly compromised, inhibiting optimal pea and faba bean growth throughout the remainder of the growing season as well as decreasing crop yield. The pea leaf weevil was reported in southern Alberta in 1997 and remained for several years south of highway 1. Since 2013, this insect's geographic range has greatly expanded into central Alberta, extending as far north as Sturgeon County, north of Edmonton, with lower levels of feeding reported in east central Alberta. Given that 2016 survey levels were high in the aforementioned areas, there is a high risk of infestation in the same areas if winter and spring conditions are fa-

vourable. A potential predictor of population increase is precipitation in August. As many areas with high weevil populations in 2016 experienced August precipitation, pea and faba bean producers in these areas are advised to plan control strategies for the 2017 crop year. After spending the winter as an adult beetle in perennial legumes, adults are attracted to annual and perennial legume crops in spring, including field pea, faba bean, lentil, alfalfa, and bean. However, egg laying only takes place in soil near field pea or faba bean seedlings, so root nodules of lentil and alfalfa, for example, are not affected. Just prior to egg laying, adult PLW insects feed on the margins of seedling leaves resulting in a notched or scalloped leaf appearance (see Figure 1), which is not expected to reduce yield.



Figure 1. PLW feeding damage (L. Dosdall)

After hatching from eggs, the worm-like larvae proceed downward into the soil where they primarily feed on root nodules resulting in decreased nitrogen fixation by pea and faba bean plants. Spring weather conditions can alter the timing and severity of PLW damage. Weevils arrive early to pea and faba bean fields if warm temperatures above 20 degrees C persist for more than a few days in late April or early May, potentially corresponding with higher yield losses. Alternatively, if cool weather occurs during the same period, yield is generally not as compromised especially when the crop advances past the 6th node stage before the weevils arrive. In either case, field scouting is required to make control decisions on a field by field basis. It is advised not to seed into cold soil. Yield losses may occur when there are more than 30% of seedlings (3 out of 10 plants along a seed row; assess groups of 10 plants in multiple rows) with feeding damage on the clam leaf before the 6th node stage in peas. The clam leaf is the most recently emerged leaf. Most research has not shown that control of weevils using foliar insecticide prevents yield loss. The ineffective-

ness of foliar spraying probably arises because weevils have already laid enough eggs to significantly damage root nodules when sprays are applied or because healthy weevils immigrate after spraying. According to research on the Prairies, nodule protection is more effective when pea seed is treated with a systemic insecticide product prior to seeding. Faba bean may be similarly protected, but this requires investigation. If feeding damage is only apparent on the older, lower leaves and not on the newer clam leaf, the weevil has probably already laid eggs and spraying would be of no value. Therefore, producers should scout for damage on the clam leaf and not on lower leaves. Since PLW migrate into field pea and faba bean fields, foliar damage is initially observed along field edges. Foliar insecticides applied early in an infestation to field edges may be a sound economic decision; however, additional on-farm research will provide more clarity. Limited spraying would also reduce the risk of affecting beneficial species, such as ground beetles, that may help manage PLW populations via predation.

Neil Whatley¹, Hector Carcamo², Meghan Vankosky³

¹Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Stettler

²Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge

³Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon

The Wedding Dance

WEAR ANYTHING "WEDDING"!
WEDDING GOWN, BRIDESMAID DRESSES,
MOTHER OF THE BRIDE, TUXEDOS, EVEN GRAD DRESSES

April 1st, 2017
Cocktails 7 PM
Dance 8PM-1PM

MUNSON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Midnight Lunch- Including Wedding Cake
Pass the Boot (50/50)
Gift Table (Silent Auction Items)

TICKETS \$25.00 OR RESERVE A TABLE OF
10 & PRE BUY YOUR TICKETS
CALL TERRA AT (403) 823-4510

14th ANNUAL Southern Alberta Grazing School For Women



Registration
Deadline:
July 18th
Cost: \$100.00



REGISTER BY JUNE 16TH FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

JULY 25th-26th
2017

MUNSON
COMMUNITY HALL
STARLAND COUNTY, AB

Link to Register:

<https://2017SAGSW.eventbrite.com>

To Register Contact:

Kristi Stebanuk
Ph: 403-382-0927
email:

kstebanuk@cowsandfish.org

Blogspot

southernalbertagsw.blogspot.ca



"Grazing Schools for Women"

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Range & Riparian Health
- Local Plant Identification
 - Pasture Weeds
 - Post Calving Care
 - Primrose Farms Tour
- Tour Starland County in an AC Bus
- ** Evening Social Opportunity to the Historic Last Chance Saloon in Wayne**



Conserving Alberta's Wild Side

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 2017 season. Starland County is participating in this program and will have 2% LSC available to qualifying farmers March 15th 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 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 \$264.00 per case or \$11.00 per bottle.

For more information or to book your product contact

Alan Hampton or Dara Kudras at 772-3793



Negotiating Renewable Energy Leases - An Informative Workshop-

MARCH 24th MUNSON HALL 2:00-4:00 PM

Solar and wind leases provide an opportunity to contribute to greenhouse gas reduction and earn extra income from your land, but there are some important considerations that should be examined before finalizing an agreement. Negotiating a renewable energy lease is not the same as negotiating with the oil and gas industry. This workshop will give you the tools and information you need to make informed decisions regarding your land.

Hosted by:



Presented by:



Cost: FREE

**Beverages & Snacks Provided
To Register contact the
Starland County Office
at (403) 772-3793**



JUNE 10, 2017 CELEBRATING 4-H ALBERTA 100 & CANADA 150

Drumheller District 4-H Celebrates
Join us Saturday, June 10 at Rowley to celebrate 4-H Alberta 100 and Canada 150. The event starts at 2 pm and winds up with pizza and entertainment. The program will be at 3 pm.



You are invited

Calling all 4-H members, leaders, supporters – past, present & future

Program, Displays, Food, Fun and More!

Tickets \$5.00

I ♥ 4-H

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION

DRUMHELLER 4-H DISTRICT

MELANIE 403-772-0000
JANICE 403-364-2040
KOREN 403-823-4048

JOIN US FOR OUR

SPRING GARAGE SALE

MUNSON COMMUNITY CENTRE

APRIL 29TH 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TABLES \$20 CALL TERRA (403) 823 4510 TO BOOK YOUR SPOT!

TABLES ARE ONLY \$20!

BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW!

CINNAMON BUNS & COFFEE FOR SALE!

FREE TO ATTEND!