



# 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:** Brian Heck  
**Farm Member:** Kerry Sharpe  
**Agricultural Fieldman:** Alan Hampton  
**Assistant Ag Fieldman:** Dara Calon  
**Recording Secretary:** Ross Rawlusyk



# AG Talk NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

Alternative Farm Energy Workshop for Farmers March 12<sup>th</sup>

Delia C-2000 Club Annual Workshop & Tradeshow February 5<sup>th</sup>

Delia Seed Plant Meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> 7pm, @ Seed Plant Seed plant members very welcome!!

Farm Succession Planning Workshop January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Delia Community Hall

## Rumsey Curling

### Men's Bonspiel

January 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

### Ladies' Bonspiel

January 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

### Mixed Bonspiel

March 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

## Ordering Trees Through Alberta Nurseries

Shelterbelt trees can either be ordered through Starland County using the tree order form found on page 7, or directly through Alberta Nurseries. AB Nurseries will offer a wider selection, and a replacement guarantee but with a higher cost (\$26.25 application fee) If you order through AB Nurseries you can get your trees shipped to the Starland County shop at no charge.

Please visit [www.marketland.net](http://www.marketland.net) for more information on trees and ordering details.

## Moving Farm Equipment

Don't forget to use pilot vehicles when moving equipment this spring. Thanks Starland Colony for practicing safe movement of farm equipment!



## Easy Slow Cooker Borscht Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 celery stalks, diced
- 2 carrots, peeled & diced
- 4 gloves garlic, minced
  - Salt and pepper
- 1 28 oz can tomatoes
  - 1 tbsp. sugar
- 3 beets, peeled and diced
- 1 potato peeled & diced
- 4 cups beef/veggie stock
- 1 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 4 cups shredded cabbage

## Instructions

1. in a skillet heat oil, add celery, onions & carrots, cook until soft (5-7 minutes) Add garlic, and salt/pepper
2. Transfer the carrot/onion/celery mixture to a food processor, add 1/2 of the tomatoes and process until smooth
3. Transfer to slow cooker
4. Add remaining tomatoes, sugar, beets and potato
5. Add the stock, stir
6. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours, or high for 3
7. After this add the vinegar & cabbage, mix and cook on high for 20-30 minutes.

## Starland County Farm Members Retire

Big thanks to Ray Trout (7 years) and Tracy Nelson (6 years), who provided insight, valuable ideas and good company on the Ag Service Board. They are pictured below accepting watches from Agricultural Fieldman Alan Hampton and CAO Ross Rawlusyk. Thank you for your dedication and service!



## NOTICE TO FARMERS

### 2% Liquid Strychnine Control Program

We are being cautioned by our suppliers that the sale of 2% Liquid Strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS) may be limited for the 2015 season.

Maxim Chemical International is currently waiting for an approval by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) which will allow them to procure and distribute 2% LSC. We have been in contact with Maxim and they have said that depending on when the approval is granted or if it is granted will determine the availability of product this season. As such Starland County is unable to obtain or provide 2% Liquid Strychnine until approvals and supply situations are ironed out.

If you are a farmer and have purchased strychnine in previous seasons and have carry over you can legally use this product until April 11<sup>th</sup> of 2015 unless a new registration is granted. Due to the uncertainty of the situation we advise that producers be prepared to utilize other control options such as Rozol and treat early as this will give you the best chance of effectively reducing the RGS population.

Please follow us on twitter  
@StarlandCounty, or contact Alan Hampton or Dara Calon at 403-772-3793 for updates or control option advice.

## Testing For Fusarium

*Fusarium graminearum* infected grain has been positively identified at trace levels in Starland County. *F. graminearum* is a seed-borne pathogen, and infected seed or feed, along with infested crop residues such as straw represent the greatest risks of introducing or spreading this pest. *Fusarium graminearum* is the causal agent of Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). Once established, FHB is a costly disease to deal with and left untreated can impact yield, grain quality, feed efficiency, malt barley production and negatively impacts seed potential.

Starland County has a policy of zero tolerance on *fusarium graminearum* infected seed grain for use in our County. Due to the known occurrence of this pest in our County and the increasing presence of *F. graminearum* in Alberta, we advise that you test your seed for the presence of *F. graminearum* prior to planting and do not use this seed if *F. graminearum* is present.

Seed testing eliminates the un-

known and is the first line of defense in reducing the potential spread of this disease. Seed testing along with a seed treatment, crop rotation and complementary agronomic practices will go a long way to reduce or prevent the establishment of not only *F. graminearum*, but a host of other potential crop diseases and pests.

The standard *fusarium graminearum* screen costs \$43.00 and a germination and fusarium test cost \$56.00. A cereal seed health test which includes fusarium, root rot and alternaria is \$88.00. Seed is the ultimate crop input, and testing tells you everything you need to know to make an informed decision not only this season, but possibly in years to come. For more information contact Al Hampton or Dara Calon at the County office at 403-772-3793.



## Wheat Midge Forecast for 2015

Central Alberta has shown a general increase in wheat midge risk with several areas of particular concern east of Edmonton. The population has fallen to very low numbers in most of southern Alberta with the exception of some irrigated fields in the County of Forty Mile. Producers should pay attention to midge downgrading in their wheat samples and use this as a further indication of midge risk in their fields. Field to field variation can be high throughout the province. Individual fields throughout Alberta may still have economic levels of midge. Each

producer also needs to assess their risk based on indicators specific to their farm. The best time to check for midge is when the midge adults are flying, and wheat is in anthesis (susceptible stage). Regular, night time field scouting on multiple nights in a row is important to understand the population.

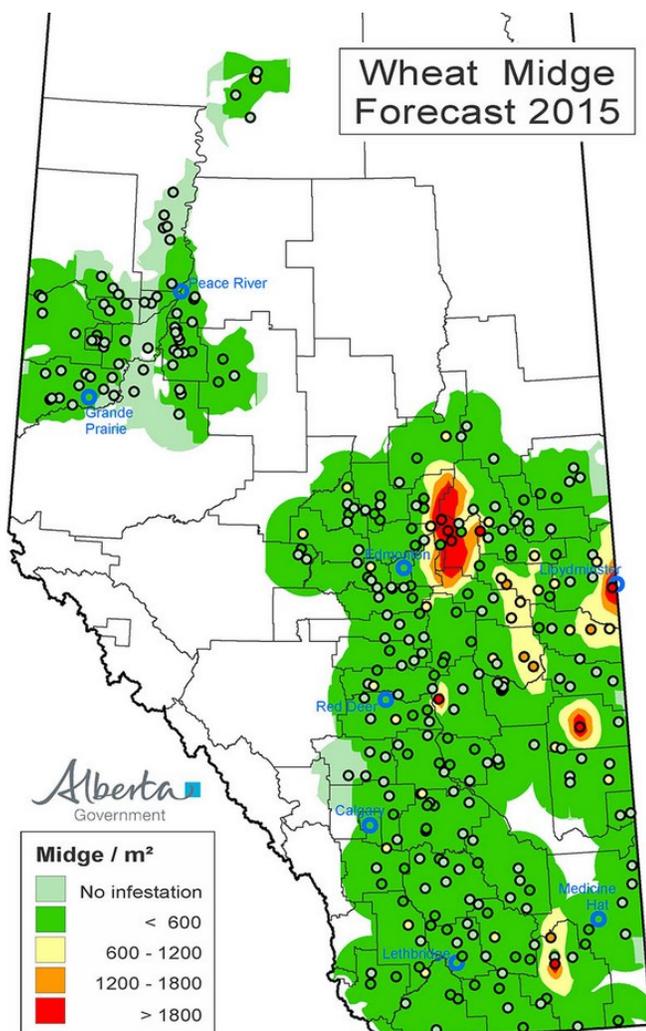
### Environmental Factors Affecting Midge

The map provides a general picture of existing densities and the potential for infestation in 2015. Temperature and moisture will determine the extent and timing of midge emergence during the growing season, and temperature and wind also play a critical role in egg laying activities of adult female midge.

Parasitism of midge larvae by a small wasp has been important in keeping populations below the economic threshold in many areas. These wasps are beneficial, and thrive in warm, dry conditions. Parasite numbers increase and decrease with changes in midge population and are very important in moderating population levels in Alberta.

Once midge has established in an area it is unlikely to ever completely disappear. Moist and low lying areas provide a refuge, which enables the population to survive even when conditions are not favourable in the rest of the world. These low population levels also help sustain a population of natural enemies.

Management strategies for dealing with midge include seeding earlier, crop rotation, scouting your fields, and using higher seeding rates.



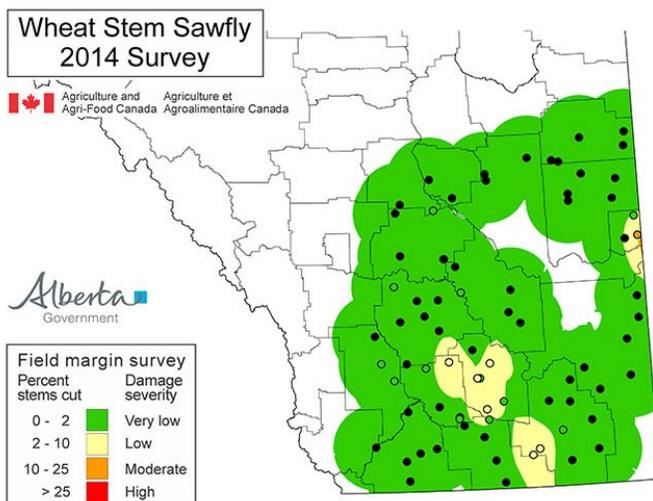
## Wheat Stem Sawfly 2015 Forecast

Economically significant risk areas of sawfly populations in 2015 will be limited to only a few areas. The 2014 survey shows low populations, including the traditional sawfly areas in the Special Areas and the County of Forty Mile. Some fields with elevated sawfly infestations were found in the MD of Acadia, Lethbridge, MD of Taber and Forty Mile, but overall the concerns remain very low.

There are sufficient numbers to fuel wheat stem sawfly resurgence if dryer conditions occur for several consecutive years. Individual fields may still have higher wheat stem sawfly populations indicated in the map, because overall there were zero or low numbers in 89% of the fields surveyed. (The black dots on the map indicate zero sawfly found). The percent of stems cut by sawfly gives an indication of the

number of adults that will emerge in late June/July. Winter conditions have little impact and many wheat stems cut in the fall with produce adults. Consider using a solid stem variety of wheat as a control strategy if you have moderate to high levels of cutting. Females lay eggs inside grass and grassy crop stems, they hatch and tunnel inside stems until crop dry down/harvest. When the crop ripens the larva migrates to the stem base and cuts a notch through the stem. Feeding damage such as this can cause hidden yield losses of 10-15%.

It is possible that population hot spots still exist in areas of low risk, individual producers need to be aware of risks in their own fields. Damage higher than 10-15% in last years crop indicate the need to consider seeding solid stem wheat. Parasitism can reduce populations and reduce the level of cutting. When populations are low it is typical to have small localized populations of sawfly that affect only one field or even just a portion of one field. Parasitism can reduce population and reduce the level of cutting. The use of solid stem wheat varieties and the increase in parasitism are the major factors in lower sawfly populations in Alberta.



## BULK SEEDLING PROGRAM FOR FARM SHELTERBELTS

All orders must be placed through Starland County.

To place an order call (403) 772-3793, email [dara@starlandcounty.com](mailto:dara@starlandcounty.com) or drop off your form.

Name:

Phone Number:

Address:

Minimum Order is 1 Bundle (10 Trees)

DECIDUOUS TREES	\$/Bundle (10 Trees)	\$/Tree	Quantity (# of Bundles)
Green Ash	\$15.00	\$1.50 each	
Manitoba Maple	\$15.00	\$1.50 each	
Caragana	\$15.00	\$1.50 each	
Laurel Leaf Willow	\$17.50	\$1.75 each	
Sharp Leaf Willow	\$17.50	\$1.75 each	
Northwest Poplar	\$17.50	\$1.75 each	
Chokecherry	\$17.50	\$1.75 each	
Trembling Aspen	\$17.50	\$1.75 each	
Hybrid Poplar	\$22.50	\$2.25 each	
<b>DECIDUOUS SHRUBS</b>			
Dogwood	\$15.00	\$1.50 each	
Villosa Lilac	\$17.50	\$1.75 each	
Common Lilac	\$17.50	\$1.75 each	
Saskatoon	\$27.50	\$2.75 each	
Prickly Rose	\$27.50	\$2.75 each	
Silver Buffalo Berry	\$27.50	\$2.75 each	
<b>CONIFEROUS TREES</b>			
Scots Pine	\$15.00	\$1.50 each	
Colorado Spruce	\$15.00	\$1.50 each	
White Spruce	\$15.00	\$1.50 each	

Orders **MUST** be placed by March 27th, 2015

In order to provide low pricing we do not offer any replacement warranty

Bulk tree seedlings can be ordered through Starland County again this year.

To submit your order you can find a form at the County office, or email [dara@starlandcounty.com](mailto:dara@starlandcounty.com) to have one sent to you. Orders must be in by March 27th. Trees will be delivered to the County shop and ready for pick up in May.

Payment is required the day of pick up.

## STRIPE RUST UPDATE

Evidence of overwintering stripe rust was reported by Dr's Kequan Xi and Krishan Kumar in 2013-2014 in central Alberta. This winter (2014-15), Dr. Denis Gaudet has extended his stripe rust survey to include some winter evaluations in Southern Alberta. Dr. Gaudet reported that 8 winter wheat fields in the southwestern region (Lethbridge, Cardston, Raymond and Coaldale) of southern Alberta were surveyed on December 12, 2014. Stripe rust levels of 5% were observed in 2 fields and trace levels in a third field. Stripe rust was widespread in volunteer winter and spring wheat throughout the region. It was apparent that stripe rust had infected winter wheat that was seeded from early to late September (ie Zadoks stage 21) but later seeded winter wheat (Zadoks stage 1) remains clean. Stripe rust was also wide spread in winter wheat research plots.

Dr. Kequan Xi had also noticed the effect of seeding date on stripe rust infections of winter wheat. Dr. Xi noted that his limited survey results from central AB showed that the degree of stripe rust severity or prevalence appeared to be more associated with seeding time of winter wheat than cultivar resistance ratings during fall surveys (at the seedling stage). More specifically, an early seeded field (i.e before early September) tended

to have more stripe rust than late seeding (i.e. after early September) regardless of genetic resistance ratings of each cultivar. The early seeding effect observed by both researchers is likely due to the fact that stripe rust spores were in the air in early September, but not later in the month. Therefore leaves of the later seeded plants escaped disease because they had not yet emerged and could not be infected. The difference in severity between resistant and susceptible cultivars becomes apparent later, in early spring.

Dr. Gaudet indicated that his group would be monitoring plots and a few fields for stripe rust survival throughout the winter and early spring. He also noted that the presence of stripe rust in the three winter wheat fields in southern Alberta does not necessarily mean that the stripe rust pathogen will be able to survive overwinter in those fields. If any overwintering survival of the stripe rust pathogen occurs, it cannot be detected until spring, 2015.



Michael Harding, PhD  
Research Scientist, Plant Pathology  
Crop Diversification Centre South  
301 Horticultural Station Rd. E.  
Brooks, AB T1R 1E6



# DELIA C-2000 CLUB 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL WORKSHOP & TRADESHOW

## ***FEATURING***



### ***AFSC Program Update***

Cam Sinclair



### ***Herbicide Tolerance Breakdown***

Chris Neeser, CDC South

### ***Hiring Temporary Foreign Workers***

Shannon Nauss, FNA

### ***Root Rot in Pulses***

Robyne Bowness, Pulse Research Scientist

### ***Managing Market Risk & 2015 Market Outlook***

Charlie Pearson & Jason Wood, Alberta Ag



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**DELIA COMMUNITY HALL**



**Registration & Tradeshow 8:30 A.M**

**Workshop: 9:30-4:00 P.M**

**Cost: \$20.00/person, (Includes Lunch, Door Prizes & Tradeshow)**

**DON'T MISS IT! PLEASE PRE-REGISTER WITH  
STARLAND COUNTY AT (403) 772-3793 OR  
BARRY MASON AT (403) 364-2129**

# BRENDA'S SAFETY CORNER



Starland County would like to remind everyone to drive safe this winter. Please remember that distracted driving is against the law!

## Drivers are restricted from:

- Using handheld cell phones
  - Texting or emailing
- Using electronic devices like laptop computers, video games, cameras, DVD players
  - Ipods and MP3 players
- Entering information on the GPS
  - Reading printed material
- Writing, printing or sketching
  - Personal grooming
- A distracted driving ticket is \$172.00



## RURAL SAFETY

Intersection safety is important when travelling on gravel roads in

the county, as many are unmarked.

- In 2013, 80 people were killed and 8,046 people were injured in collisions at intersections in AB
- Some people think that driving in the city has more risk, but not necessarily. 55% of last years fatal intersection related collisions happened at rural intersections
- In 2013, about 87% of all collisions are attributable to driver error. In Alberta, 3 of the top 5 most frequent driver errors in casualty collisions were making a left turn across the path of an on-coming vehicle, committing stop sign violation or disobeying a traffic signal.
- Please remember to share the road with large trucks, and be aware of constraints linked to operating heavy vehicles
- Keep visible, and don't tailgate



## CROTCHES KILL

Because every text you send from your lap takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds.

# FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOP

## REG SHANDRO

### FARMACIST ADVISORY SERVICES



Succession Planning has been earmarked by the Agricultural Industry as one of the sector's biggest challenges to be addressed over the next decade due to demographics and the number of farms that will transfer. The potential financial and emotional consequences of transferring the farm could have a significant impact on the farm family dynamic. Reg's Succession Dispensary System introduces the culture, necessary tools and processes that are required to assist with navigating through a successful succession planning process.

**WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

**12:00 Lunch, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM Workshop**

**WHERE: DELIA COMMUNITY HALL**

**COST: \$20/person, \$30/couple**

**TO REGISTER CALL:**

**STARLAND COUNTY (403) 772-3793**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>**



# ALTERNATIVE FARM ENERGY WORKSHOP

## This Event is FREE to Starland County & Kneehill County Farmers

DATE: Thursday, March 12th, 2015

LOCATION: Drummheller Ramada "Raptor" Conference Room, 680 2nd Street SE

TIME: Registration 8:30 AM, Session 9:00 AM—4:30 PM

LUNCH: Provided by Starland County & Kneehill County

**SPEAKERS:**

Rob Harlan, Executive Director of the Solar Energy Society of Alberta

Dr. Tim Weis, Alberta Regional Director at the Canadian Wind Energy Association

**TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT**

Starland County—Dara Calon (403) 772-3793

Kneehill County—Fallon Sherlock (403) 443-5541

**\*\*SEATS ARE LIMITED TO 35, SO REGISTER SOON! Deadline is March 6th\*\***

It is profitable for Alberta farmers to generate their own electricity and sell it to the grid, utilizing the renewable energy sources that are available on their property. This one-day workshop will cover solar and wind system siting, installation, permitting process and economics. The solar portion will address small micro-generation options, whereas the wind section will cover agricultural opportunities for large wind projects.

