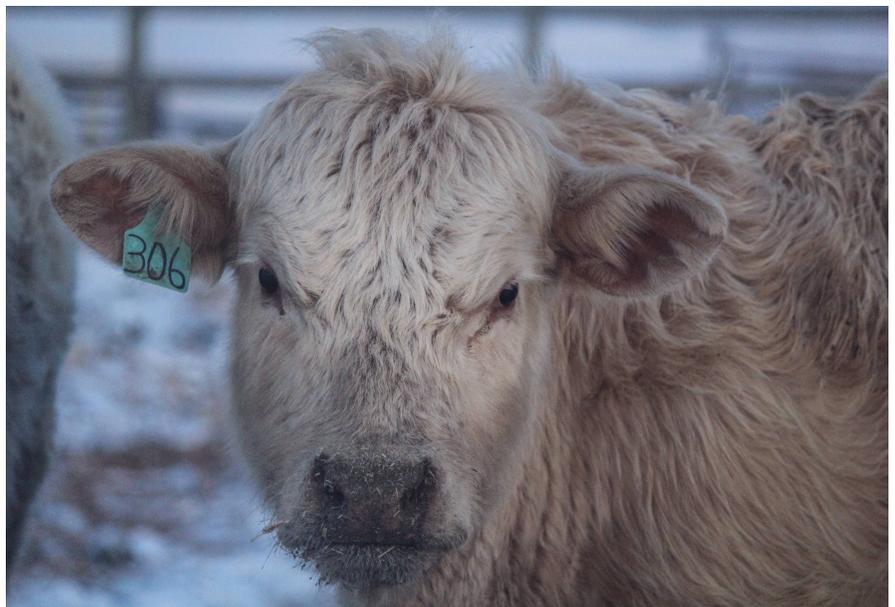




AG TALK NEWSLETTER



Starland County ASB Members

Chariman: Murray Marshall
Council Member: John Rew
Council Member: Jackie Watts
Council Member: Bob Sargent
Council Member: Steven Wannstrom
Farm Member: Brian Heck

Farm Member: Kerry Sharpe
Agricultural Fieldman: Alan Hampton
Assistant Ag Fieldman: Dara Kudras
Recording Secretary: Shirley Bremer
Key Contact: Neil Whatley

NOTICE TO FARMERS

2% Liquid Strychnine

Starland County is participating in this program and will have 2% LSC available for purchase to qualifying farmers by the end of March. More information to follow.

Upcoming Events

Munson Ladies Night
March 16th

Precious Cargo
Munson Hall
April 14th

Ag in Motion Bus Tour
Hosted by Starland County
July 17-19th

Farmers Information Day
Tuesday February 13th
Morrin Arena

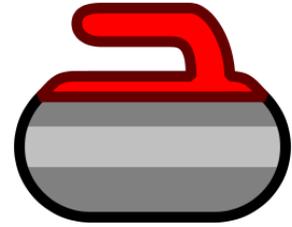
C-2000 Workshop & Tradeshow
February 15th 4-8PM
Delia Community Hall

Co-op's Agronomy Day
February 15th 10-3
BCF, Drumheller

Morrin Ag Society Duelling Piano's
March 24th

Rumsey Spring Fling & Pie Auction
April 21st
Rumsey Hall

Curling Schedules



Rumsey Curling

Ladies Bonspiel
February 7th-10th

Mix Doubles
February 22nd-24th

Mixed
March 4th-10th

Delia Curling

Sweethearts Bonspiel
February 9th – 10th
Doubles format, any combination of 2 people with doubles curling rules. There will also be a Cupid Shoot!

GOVERNMENT FUNDING UPDATE

GF2 will be replaced by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership effective April 1, 2018. Some programs will require an up to date Environmental Farm Plan (less than 10 years old) Check the GF2 website for more information growingforward.alberta.ca To register to renew, or complete a new EFP please visit albertaefp.com or call Dara at the County Office (403) 772-3793

ATTENTION FARMERS FARMER PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Starland County is hosting a Farmer Pesticide Certification course on **Friday February 16th** from **8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. at the County Council Chambers in Morrin.**

This course is provided at no cost and is for Starland County Farmers who want to demonstrate environmental awareness, and use & apply pesticides safely. You will also take advanced training which allows you to purchase and use the restricted product Aluminum phosphide to control pests in stored grain.

Home study is required to properly prepare for this training so it is imperative that you register prior to February 2nd, so we can get you the course materials. If you have taken a Farmer Pesticide Certification prior to 2013, and would like to renew your certificate you may also attend this course. You are required to produce your existing certificate, but will only write the Pests of Stored Grain quiz.

Due to the requirements of the training we are limited to 15 registrants, but will offer another course in March if necessary.

The agenda is as follows:

8:15 Registration

8:30 - 10:30 Farmer Pesticide Core Module Review

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45- 12:00 Farmer Pesticide Core Module Review

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 – 2:00 Pest Control in Stored Grain Tutorial

2:00 – 4:00 Farmer Pesticide Certificate Exam

4:00 – 4:30 Pests of Stored Grain Quiz

Please pre-register by contacting the Starland County office at 403-772-3793
When Registering please provide your name, phone number, and current pesticide certificate number if applicable.

For further information please contact Alan Hampton at 403-772-3793

Testing For Fusarium

Fusarium graminearum infected grain has been identified at trace levels in Starland County. *F. graminearum* is a seed-borne pathogen, and infected seed or feed, along with infected crop residues like 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.

Test your seed for the presence of *F. graminearum* prior to planting and do not use this seed if *F. graminearum* is present.

You can bring your samples into the County Office, or the Delia Seed Cleaning Plant. For more information contact Al Hampton at the County office at 403-772-3793.

VIGOUR TESTING

Radicle Emergence

Cereals - **\$45**

Lentils, Beans, Flax, Canola - **\$52**

Conductivity (EC) Vigour

Peas (includes 1000 Sd. Wt.) - **\$55**

Cool Stress Vigour - **\$52**

Controlled Deterioration - **\$66**

Accelerated Ageing - **\$55**

SEED HEALTH TESTING

Fusarium Graminearum

Cereal - **\$45** Peas/Nodes - **\$50**

Ascochyta on Peas/Lentils - **\$59**

Ascochyta on Chickpeas - **\$70**

Disease Package

on Peas/Lentils*** - **\$100**

All Fusarium ID / Seed Health** - **\$88**

Blackleg Seed Screen, Virulence,
Alternaria - **\$44 each**

Smut - **\$62**

Dome(Blight) - **\$110**

PACKAGES

Fusarium Graminearum + Germination
package on Cereal - **\$60**

Fusarium Graminearum, Germination,
Radicle Emergence package
on Cereals - **\$100**



SHELTERBELT TREE OPTIONS

TreeTime.ca

Trees can 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.



Linden Tree Farm

(403) 888-9178
Lindentreefarm.ca

Mattson Tree Farm

(587) 877-8733
mattsonreefarm.com

Sherwood's Forest

(780)-848-2548
sherwoods-forest.com

Prairie Shelterbelt Program

The Prairie Shelterbelt Program is currently accepting orders for the 2018 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.

PRAIRIESHELTERBELTPROGRAM.CA

Starland County 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

I Have Grain Bugs, Now What?

There have been several calls from producers in the area about rusty grain beetles in their stored grain. While there are a few options at or prior to harvest to reduce the possibility of an infestation this is generally of little consolation at this point. **So what do I do when I discover that I have an infestation and what options do I have available?**

The first thing is to determine the extent of the infestation. Hopefully it is only in one bin, but if it is more widespread we might as well know so we can get to work on resolving the issue.

The next thing is to decide what the best mechanism is for controlling the pest. If the infestation is light and you have aeration bins available it might be as simple as pulling a couple of loads from the bin, turning on the fans and lowering the grain temperature below freezing. The chart below illustrates the amount of time it takes to kill the rusty grain beetle at varying temperatures below freezing.

Grain Temperature in Celsius	Time required to kill insects
-5 C	12 weeks
-10 C	8 weeks
-15 C	4 weeks
-20 C	1 week

If you don't have aeration bins you can also move the grain around a few times when it is cold and achieve the same effect, but obviously it is much more time

consuming. The key here though is if we can lower the grain temperature below freezing we have a legitimate shot at controlling the beetles with cold; it just takes some time.

What about diatomaceous earth?

This product will work but it is very dependent upon insect activity. If your grain temperature is below 10 C the grain beetles are dormant and you will not achieve control. If your grain temperature remains above this threshold it would undoubtedly work, but what are the odds of the temperature remaining high while moving and treating your grain in the winter? This treatment was likely the best option while you were harvesting as a preventive measure.

My neighbors use a grain vac and swear that it works.

This is possibly true but it really depends on the amount of grain beetles you are dealing with and the volume of grain you are moving through the vac. The ideal situation is low levels of beetles and a high capacity vac with a dust removal system built in. Unfortunately I have heard the opposite from some producers so I might caution that it is completely effective.

Selling the grain to a feedlot? I suspect there are operations that will purchase your grain if the infestation levels are low and they are using the product immediately. This is certainly an option, but possibly not preferred if you have malt barley or high protein wheat.

What about fumigants? These are products containing aluminum phosphide, such as Phostoxin, which are applied to infested grain as pellets or tablets and react with moisture in the air to produce phosphine gas. These fumigants cannot be used when the grain temperature is below 5C as the phosphine is generated too slowly to be effective. Also the use and sale of aluminum phosphide in Alberta is restricted to licensed pesticide applicators and farmers with a valid Farmer Pesticide Certificate with the pests of stored grain certification. The use of Phostoxin is effective when used properly and under the right conditions, but I would personally explore all of my other options prior to selecting this product. Phosphine gas is extremely toxic to humans and therefore must be used with extreme care.

So now that I have gathered some more life experience what do I do to prevent an infestation next season?

1) Clean in and around storage facilities. Grain storage facilities, and the area around storage facilities, should be cleaned thoroughly prior to storing grain.
2) Clean equipment used to move grain. Grain left in equipment throughout the summer months can result in new grain being placed into storage becoming infested. Combines, truck beds, grain wagons, augers and other equipment used to move grain should be clean before moving grain.

3) Inspect grain storage facilities for signs of deterioration, especially for leaks or holes through which insects or rodents can gain access to the stored grain.

4) Treat your storage facilities. Depending on the commodity to be stored, storage facilities may additionally be sprayed or dusted, if needed, with a recommended insecticide before storing grain in the bin (e.g. malathion, or diatomaceous earth). Note – some commodities, such as canola, and flax should not be stored in facilities recently treated with malathion as we have export issues with residues in these seeds.

5) Dry and Cool Grain. If possible, grain should be dry before being put into storage, and cooled as quickly as possible. For long-term storage, lower the grain temperature below 15°C as soon as possible after the grain is placed in storage. At 15°C the stored grain insects stop laying eggs and development stops. Aeration systems used during the night immediately after harvest should have the grain below 15°C in about 2 weeks.

Getting that call from the elevator that your load of wheat has to head home is definitely not the news you want to hear. However once we have bugs we must deal with them and prevention is obviously the best option. For further details or inquiries into farmer pesticide certification please contact me at **403-772-3793 - Alan Hampton, Ag Fieldman**



C-2000 Workshop & Tradeshow

FEBRUARY 15th 2018
Delia Community Hall
4PM-8PM Evening Workshop

Speakers:
Dr. Abedel Elhadrami, OMEX
Pathology, Agronomy & Micronutrients

Understanding Farm Taxes
Gavin Friedley, BDO

Greg Church, CPS
CPS in Delia

Cost: \$20.00

Pre Registration Required
CASH BAR & DOOR PRIZES
SUPPER SPONSORED BY CPS

To Register Call
Barry Mason (403) 364-2129
masonfarms@netago.ca

Starland County (403) 772-3793
dara@starlandcounty.com

MUNSON & AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

** Munson Ladies *
* Night **

MUNSON COMMUNITY HALL

DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

FASHION SHOW 7:30 PM

HOME PARTY TABLES

SILENT AUCTION

50/50

REFRESHMENTS (\$4)

APPETIZERS

DOOR PRIZES

FRIDAY | MARCH 16 | 6:00PM

TICKETS \$25

TERRA (403) 820-9902

BECKY (403) 820-6202

DARA (403) 820-4563

AGRONOMY UPDATE..... UPDATE!

The 2018 Agronomy Update Conference was held January 9th & 10th at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer. This event is hosted by AB Agriculture every year, and the location cycles between Lethbridge and Red Deer. This year's event was well attended with 440 registrants attending the 2 day workshop. The intent of this conference is to update participants on research pertaining to issues and solutions facing agricultural production in Alberta and western Canada. There is also industry representation to detail new chemistry and products that are available or soon to be brought to the market. Starland County has participated in the past 3 events held in Red Deer assisting with the agenda as well as some minor sponsorship. We have a number of producers from Starland who attend this conference annually and encourage those who haven't to take a look when it comes back to Red Deer in 2020. If you missed this year's event, here is the link to the presentations : [https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop16553](https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop16553)

FREE FARMERS INFORMATION DAY TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13 MORRIN SPORTSPLEX/ARENA

FEATURING

SOIL FERTILITY AND CROP NUTRIENT
REQUIREMENTS BY RAY DOWBENKO-SR AGRONOMY
SPECIALIST AGRIUM

GRAIN MARKET OUTLOOK 2018
REIDE FENTON & JAMES HOLM - BLB GRAIN
GROUP

RSVP to Gary Chambers by February 9, 2018
TXT 403 820.2121 or Email gary@2121.ca



FARM FORUM

Badlands Community Facility in Drumheller, Alberta

Thursday, February 15th from 9am to 3pm

Climate FieldView – If Your Fields Could Talk, What Would They Say?

Sara Tang, Climate Business Manager (Monsanto)

Seed Treatment – Make Every Dollar Count

Beth Markert, Seed Growth Specialist (Bayer CropScience)

STORM Seed Treater – Take the Mess and Guesswork Out of Treating Seed

Blake Taylor, Ag Growth International

Clubroot – Coming to a Farm Near You...

Dan Orchard, Agronomist, Canola Council of Canada

Herbicide Resistance – A Growing Threat

Valerie Wilton, Gowan Canada

Please Register by calling 403-823-9225 or email cropinputs@drumco-op.com

no later than February 9th

Includes: Industry Tradeshow, Networking Breaks, Swag and Lunch!



CO-OP AGRO IT'S HERE.





STARLAND COUNTY HOSTS

2nd Annual Gardening Workshop & Tradeshow

DELIA COMMUNITY HALL
SATURDAY APRIL 14TH 9:00-4:00PM
REGISTRATION 8:30 AM

Benefits of Permaculture
Connie Tremblay, WhiteStar Permaculture

Native Pollinators in Your Garden
Alberta Native Bee Council

Building Effective Shelterbelts
Tree Time

TWO HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES INCLUDED!

- *Microbe Energized Transplant*
- *Build your own mason bee house*

**LUNCH, DOOR PRIZES, TRADESHOW &
ACTIVITIES INCLUDED FOR \$30/PERSON
REGISTRATION MANDATORY
CALL DARA AT (403) 772-3793**