

STARLAND COUNTY

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

Upcoming Events

Munson

Fireman's Breakfast
October 13th

Fall Turkey Supper
October 17th

Game Day Grey Cup Party
November 24th

Rumsey

Fall Supper
November 2nd

Delia

Christmas Bazaar
November 9th

Santa Day & Village Light Up
December 7

Countdown to 2020
New Years Eve

Morrin

Morrin Multi 4-H Club Meeting
(Drama, sports, canine, equine, beef, sheep,
welding, small engines, aquaponics, foods)
October 7, Morrin School

Fall Supper
October 23rd, Morrin Hall

Lions Breakfast
October 27, Morrin Hall

Munson & Area Community Association Present

SWASHBUCKLER'S SOIREE

WITH LIVE BAND HIGH 5

COME AND ENJOY A NIGHT OF PIRATE THEMED
DEBAUCHERY WITH DANCING, DRINKS, FOOD &
PRIZES. DRESS TO IMPRESS!

OCTOBER 26, 2019 | 18 +
DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM BAND @ 8 PM

Munson Community Hall
Cash Bar
Tickets \$35 - Includes appetizers, dance
and prizes

FOR TICKETS CALL

DARA (403) 820-4563 KRYSTAL (403) 820-4214
TERRA (403) 820-9902 REGAN (403) 436-0298
BECKY (403) 823-0433

*TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM
WATER PURE & SIMPLE*



Grain Bag Recycling Program

Starland County's Agricultural Service Board has received confirmation that both Drumheller and Hanna will be collection sites for ag waste plastic, grain bags and twine. Shake and remove debris from the plastic, roll grain bags and bag or bale silage wrap and twine. The anticipated start date for collection is October 1st. For more information you can call Tammy Nygaard at (403) 823-1343.

Michichi Creek Boardwalk Grand Opening well Attended

The grand opening of the Michichi Creek Boardwalk was held on June 20th, 2019 with over 120 people in attendance. The Michichi Creek Boardwalk is an interpretive trail consisting of raised decking, shale path and grassed walkway maintained by Starland County. This project was paid for in part with grant funding from the Alberta Government. This trail highlights the importance of the Red Deer River Watershed, as well as the importance of co-existing with the beavers present at the site. The presence of a beaver dam creates a year round wetland area which provides habitat for many birds, fish and mammals. This 1 km boardwalk has 11 educational signs which provide information on the history of the dam, flora, fauna, soils, geology, invasive species and beaver co-existence. The trail begins at the parking lot right when

you enter the Michichi Dam Campground recreation area. A shale path along the top of the reservoir leads you to the first look out deck. Along the path enjoy taking in the scenery and watch for birds and mammals. The boardwalk ends at a beautiful gazebo complete with bench seating. Pack a small picnic for the trek and enjoy your time in nature!



Annual Clubroot Survey Protocol and 2019 Results

Since its inception Starland County has participated in the annual clubroot survey which is conducted for AB Agriculture to track the spread of this pathogen. Starland County's Agricultural Service Board is prescribed a minimum number of fields to survey yearly which is based on the number of canola fields in the municipality and our theoretical risk. As few as two fields were surveyed when this process began, and this year the assigned number was seven. With the announcement that clubroot had been found in Kneehill County this spring, surveillance was increased to 11 fields so far.

The survey is conducted via AB Ag protocol which is to select an area 20-30 m² in size around the main field entrance and examine the roots of multiple (up to 100) plants within this area for the presence/absence of clubroot galls. To prevent spread of unwanted pests, diseases or weeds (i.e. resting spores of the clubroot pathogen), appropriate sanitization protocols are followed at each location that is entered. If suspicious plants (ones with galls) are found, a sample is taken and then sent to an accredited lab for testing. This year, plants were discovered in a field in Starland County and had what appeared to be galls. AB Ag was contacted for advice and advised that plant samples be sent to two independent labs for

testing. If the results are the same from separate lab tests, the possibility of a false positive can be ruled out.

The plant samples were sent to 20/20 Seed Labs in Nisku and the AB Plant Health Lab in Fort Saskatchewan. Both labs tested using their selective DNA protocol and both confirmed that clubroot was present in each of these samples.

Now that clubroot is confirmed and is present in the County some assumptions can be made. There is a high risk that clubroot is or will potentially be present in fields in this geographic area. Soil borne resting spores are microscopic and move readily through farm equipment, wind and water erosion. Since the first reported case of clubroot in 2003 NW of Edmonton it has spread at a rate of approximately 20kms per year, making it just a matter of time before it showed up in Starland County.

It is manageable if you find it early and follow the advice in the canola management plan. Practicing a minimum 1 in 4 rotation, using clubroot resistant varieties, scouting fields when spraying or during harvest and following equipment sanitation guidelines are all best management practices to implement.

The intention is to manage this pest before it manages us, so all residents of Starland County are encouraged to take notice that this pest is present and needs to be managed accordingly.



CLUBROOT INFORMATION SESSION



CLUBROOT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED
IN STARLAND COUNTY. AN
INFORMATION SESSION WILL BE
HELD TO REVIEW OUR CLUBROOT
POLICY, HOW IT EFFECTS YOUR
FARM AND GENERAL
INFORMATION ON CLUBROOT.
ALBERTA AG & STARLAND
COUNTY STAFF WILL BE PRESENT
TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

DATE & TIME TBA

MORRIN COMMUNITY HALL

TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN A DATE IS SELECTED
CALL DARA OR AL AT (403) 772-3793

Farm to Fork Country Supper & Tour



Starland County ASB (in partnership with Community Futures Big Country and Flag Hill Ranch) hosted a Farm to Fork Country Supper & Tour on August 15th. It was very well attended, with 40 on the tour and over 70 people at the gourmet supper, which was hosted in the 18-2 Barn west of Delia. The Willow Creek Band kept us all entertained throughout the evening, and White Knight Liquor and Valley Brewing made sure our cups were never empty. This event showcased some of our local farms, including Morrin Corner Bison, Primrose Dairy, MDM Aqua Farms and the Meijer Honey Farm. The day ended with a fabulous supper served family style, showcasing our local foods and producers. These events are a great way to showcase our local farms, and educate consumers on where their food comes from. If you have something that you produce that you would like showcased for next years event call Dara Kudras at (403) 772-3793.



Stored Grain Insects, Mites and Molds FAQ*What can I do to prevent my crop from infestation by stored grain insects?*

The best time to minimize the potential for stored grain insects is before the grain is in the bin. A cleaning of the bin prior to filling is the best method to reduce any small populations of stored grain insects that may become a problem later in the year. Storage bins, especially if there's a history of infestation, can be sprayed or dusted with a recommended insecticide before grain storage. Producers can help prevent problems by cleaning up any spilled grain around the bin. Spilt grain, exposed to moisture, can easily build up populations of insects that could migrate into the bin later in the year. Cleaning up and removing any outside grain can minimize future problems.

What conditions make stored product more susceptible to stored grain damage?

Warm, moist or weedy crops are most susceptible to damage. Warm/moist grain will contribute to moisture migration within a bin. These conditions can cause locations within the bin where grain will spoil and result in insect infestation, mite and mold development. In fall the outside of the bin cools quickly. The cool air settles, while the warmer interior air, rises, causing a circular flow within the bin. This air pattern deposits moisture, through condensation, at the top center of the bin. In spring the reverse occurs, where warming from the sun warms the outside layer, causing a circular air movement depositing moisture at the bottom of the bin. Molds that develop give off additional heat and moisture, resulting in a microclimate more favorable for stored grain insect populations. Mold by-products can be toxic if fed to farm animals. The more moisture in the grain, the more like-

ly it is to have a zone with enough moisture to start a stored grain insect problem if the pests are present. Weed seeds, which often have higher moisture content than the harvested crop, can be concentrated in the central core as the grain when binned. This situation can cause more moisture to buildup in this area. If the stored grain is particularly weedy and/or moist, cleaning or drying the grain may reduce insect problems in storage at a later date.

How do I identify the pest?

The most common insect pest is the Rusty Grain Beetle. Large populations can cause grain to heat and spoil. Look for a distinct emergence hole in the germ area of the seed. The Red Flour beetle is another common pest, but it can't feed on undamaged dry seed with less than 12% moisture. Saw-toothed grain beetles occur most commonly in oats. These beetles can be confused with other beetles that feed on fungus, including the foreign grain beetle. Grain mites are whitish and very small (.2-.5 mm).

What if stored grain insect problems develop?

Moving the grain at minus 20 C cools and dries the grain and insects, reducing populations and dispersing any warm or moist grain pockets. Pneumatic conveyors (grain vacs) will kill most free-living insects, especially fungus feeding insects and mites. Incorporating diatomaceous earth products while re-binning can also help minimize stored grain pest buildup. Fumigation with a chemical such as Phostoxin® is also possible at this stage. This is a Restricted product and use can only be performed by a licensed applicator.

If interested in Farmer Pesticide training, call Al Hampton at (403) 772-3793

GLYPHOSATE MANAGEMENT ALONG STARLAND COUNTY RIGHT OF WAYS



The picture above depicts a scene that we are seeing with more frequency in our county, which is farmers spraying glyphosate to the edge of the road to manage weeds along their headlands. This photo is extreme as there is no vegetation left to the road shoulder, and it almost looks like a newly constructed road. Glyphosate use pre-seed, pre-harvest and post-harvest is a very common practice in our area and has done a fantastic job of cleaning up annual and perennial weeds in our fields. However if we are not careful or deliberately spray to the shoulder we are removing any protective cover on our roadsides and leaving an opportunity for less desirable species to replace the existing grass. Other potential issues include erosion, softer road shoulders, and extra maintenance costs such as extra grading, roadside weed management and grass re-seeding. We ask that when you are spraying, slow down on the headlands, lower your spray pressures and do not spray when conditions are unfavourable. Please spray responsibly so we can eliminate the scenes that we see above, as well as the costs associated with them. These continued actions may result in costs to the farmer to condition and re-seed affected ditches.

Please also be considerate of neighbouring residences. Tress, shrubs and garden plants are very sensitive to spray drift. Always check wind direction and speed before deciding to spray.

- Starland County Ag Service Board