

# *County Connector*

FEBRUARY 2021





# GOOD FOOD BOX

## Fresh Produce at a fraction of the Cost!

The Good Food Box program was established to encourage healthy eating while making it affordable for individuals and families alike. The program has been in our area since the fall of 2014 and offers fresh fruits and vegetables to its clients.

The program is available to anyone who is interested in taking part; no restrictions to numbers of boxes purchased or eligibility of participants.

### Boxes can be purchased in three different sizes:

SMALL which offers 25-30 pounds of food= \$27  
MEDIUM which offers 35-40 pounds of food= \$32  
LARGE which offers 45-50 pounds of food= \$37

*\*There is a \$2 handling/shipping fee which is also added to the initial cost.*

Each box contains the basic produce staples: potatoes, carrots, onions, apples and oranges with additional seasonal fruits and vegetables rounding out the weight.

The program is made possible because the Community Kitchens Program of Calgary (with whom we partner) bypasses the retailers and goes directly to importers and produce handlers in the province.

Participants pre-order, pay and pick up their boxes at Wheatland FCSS, Wheatland Administrative Office at the corner of Range Road 243 and Highway 1.

Upcoming 2021 order and delivery dates:

#### Order before 3 p.m. on:

March 2

April 6

April 27

May 25

June 15

#### Pickup your box on:

March 12

April 16

May 7

June 4

June 25

*Summer Break*

September 21

October 19

November 23

October 1

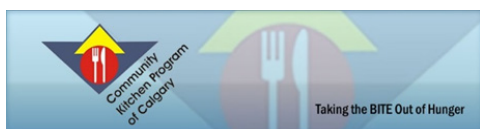
October 29

December 3

*Christmas Break*

**Note: payment must be received two days prior to delivery date.**

For additional information or to order your box, please call Wheatland FCSS at 403-934-5335 or visit [www.wfcss.org](http://www.wfcss.org)



# Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

This is FREE income tax preparation for Indigenous Peoples, those who are disabled, those with a modest income, newcomers, seniors, and students.

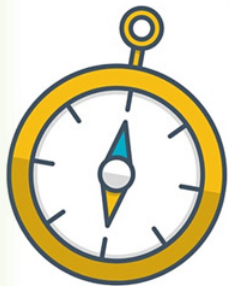
You are eligible if:

- You are not able to prepare tax return on your own.
- It is a simple tax situation.
- You meet the income threshold guidelines:
  - Individual - up to \$35,000
  - 2 persons - up to \$45,000
  - 3 persons - up to \$47,500
  - 4 persons - up to \$50,000
  - For each additional person in the family - add \$2,500 to the family income
  - Business income within box 048 on a T4A slip is less than \$1,000
  - Interest income less than \$1,000



Excludes: self-employed or have business expenses; rental income and expenses; mileage claims; have capital gains or losses; returns for those who are deceased.

**Call Wheatland Family and Community Support Services at 403-934-5335 to book an appointment!**



## COMPASS for the Caregiver

Online

Caregiving can be a stressful, isolating and overwhelming experience. And Covid-19 adds to the stress level and anxiety.

The COMPASS for the Caregiver program helps caregivers balance their own well-being with the challenges of caregiving. Join our trained facilitators as they walk us through a 4-week virtual course. Sessions will run:

- Monday, March 1, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m
- Monday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m
- Monday, March 15, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m

If you are a resident of Wheatland County / Strathmore please contact Joanne Simpson at 403-361-7277 or Lynn Walker at 403-934-5335 for more information and to register.

Wheatland FCSS will absorb the cost of registration for local residents.

Residents outside of Wheatland County will pay \$45 for registration fee and manual.

# Payment Options During COVID-19

While Wheatland County's office remains closed due to COVID-19, we encourage you to take advantage of our various alternate payment methods to pay for tax and utility bills, permits, and other services.



## Pay at your Financial Institution (Bank)

Pay your tax and utility bills in person at your financial institution. However, please be aware of modified hours and restrictions due to COVID-19.



## Online Banking

Tax and utility bill payments can be made online with your financial institution. Please allow 3-5 business days for processing. Visit our website for more information.



## By Mail

Cheques or money orders, including remittance slips, can be mailed to: Wheatland County  
242006 Rge Rd 243, Hwy 1 RR 1  
Strathmore, AB, T1P 1J6



## Debit or Cash

Residents can visit the Administration Office to pay for bills and services with cash and debit. Front office staff must limit visitors within the lobby and wait times may vary.



## By Credit Card

Visit us in person or complete the online credit card authorization form to pay for services. Refer to the [PaySimply.ca](https://www.paymentsimply.ca) method for utility or tax bill payments.



## By Drop Box

An overnight drop box is located to the left of the main doors of the administration office. Please deposit cheques or money orders, do not leave cash.



## \*NEW\* PaySimply.ca

PaySimply is an approved payment method for the Canada Revenue Agency. Please note, that the user pays a 2.5% convenience fee at the time of transaction. Please allow 3 business days for payment processing.



## TIPP or Autopay

The Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) is a popular program that allows you to pay your property taxes by monthly installment. An auto-payment program is also available for utility bill payments.





# WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow



# Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program

## Wheatland County's Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program is Now Open!

The Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program offers support to landowners interested in planting young trees and shrubs throughout the municipality. Wheatland County residents can access the following funds:

**75% up to \$2.50/plant**

**Total of \$1000**

For Purchase of Tree and Shrub Seedlings

**25% up to \$500**

For Drip Irrigation and Wood or Plastic Mulch

### Planting Provides Value

Shelterbelts and Ecobuffers serve important purposes on our prairie landscape. They can:

- Improve energy efficiency in homes and farm buildings by buffering the impacts of weather
- Provide wildlife habitat and support pollinators, which in turn support crops and forage vegetation for livestock use
- Decrease soil erosion and crop damage by reducing the severity of wind
- Reduce standing water through plant root use
- Capture snow, preventing drifting and improving moisture retention
- Add aesthetic value in our community and contribute to beautification of our prairie landscape

### Tree and Shrub Selection

Careful selection of tree or shrub species for a shelterbelt or ecobuffer project will improve chances for planting success. Key considerations when choosing trees and shrubs include:

- Reason for Planting: Do you want a windbreak or a privacy barrier? Do you want to maximize pollinator habitat, or provide edible fruits and nuts for wildlife? Are you hoping that your plants grow quickly? You can fulfill any of these needs by choosing the correct species.
- Soil Characteristics: Different species prefer different soil characteristics, such as high clay vs. high sand content. Some species can tolerate salinity or compaction of the soil while others cannot.
- Availability of Water: Are you planting in a wet or dry area, or will you be providing a watering regime to help your plants survive? Different species thrive in different moisture environments.
- Exposure to Wind: Some trees are better suited to withstand the forces of our prairie winds.

- Exposure to Sun: Will the planting site be exposed to full sun, partial sun, or full shade? Different plants are adapted to different sunlight conditions.
- Plant Hardiness Zone and Natural Region: Plant Hardiness Zones refer to climatic conditions and help us to know what can grow where. Our Plant Hardiness Zone in Wheatland County is 3b – 4a. As a general rule, that means you can safely plant species with a value less than or equal to 4. Our general natural region is Grassland, but plants may also be planted in Riparian natural regions in Wheatland County, meaning areas adjacent to waterbodies.

### More Selection Tips:

Take a look at your neighbour's properties and see what has grown well; this will indicate which species might work on your property also. Ask others in your area about the success they've had when planting different species. Make sure to go online and look at pictures of what trees and shrubs will look like when full grown to determine what appeals most to you.

### There are resources available to support you in choosing the right tree and shrub species to plant:

- The Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) has a new Native Species Database to help you select trees and shrubs that are naturally found in Alberta. Users can input desired plant characteristics and site parameters into the tool, and it will provide suitable species options for specific projects. Find it at [awes-ab.ca/species/](http://awes-ab.ca/species/).
- Staff at nurseries selling seedlings should be able to assist you in choosing plants that meet your needs. Use the list of considerations above to prepare information to give the nursery so that they can help.
- Online order options may include some of the above information about each species in product descriptions on their website, helping you to make the best selection.
- There are factsheets and guides available through multiple sources to help you choose the best plants for your project. Contact our Agriculture and Environment department at [agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca) or 403-361-2166 for our assistance in finding the best resources.

**Conditions apply.** Please see the application form available on our website at <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/fundingopportunities/>

**Program Contact: Gay Mowat**  
HWY 1 RR 1, Strathmore AB, T1P 1J6  
[agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca)  
403-361-2166

# WHEATLAND



## AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### ALUS Wheatland

*Creating healthy landscapes that sustain agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for all Canadians.*

ALUS Canada is a national non-profit program that encourages and supports sustainable agriculture by promoting beneficial management practices and the implementation of on-the-ground projects which protect and restore natural areas such as wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas and treed areas. The results of these project may include (but are not limited to): habitat for fish and wildlife, species at risk, and native pollinator insects; cleaner air and water; and sustainable food production on working landscapes.

ALUS Wheatland is a community-led, farmer-delivered program for producers that pays for management and maintenance of ecosystem services on marginal farmland in Wheatland County. Annual, market value, per/acre funding for conservation projects is available.

To apply please contact the program coordinator.

Land Use Type	Annual Payment
Irrigated Cropland	\$75.00/Acre
Cropland (including hayland)	\$65.00/ Acre
Permanent Wetland	\$20.00/Acre
Pasture	\$40.00 Acre
High Value Project < 3 acres (i.e. Ecobuffer)	\$300/Acre
Note: When land continues in production (i.e. grazing, haying) the payment is reduced by 50%	

*\*rates subject to change*

## 50% up to \$5000

Note: This program is not retroactive

### Project Examples

The following are project examples only, the program is not limited to the list below.

- Riparian Streambank Fencing
- Offsite Watering Systems
- Wetland Restoration, Enhancement and Creation
- Riparian Streambank Buffers
- Native Prairie Establishment
- Pollinator Habitat Projects
- Riparian Streambank Enhancements
- Field Shelterbelts
- Wildlife Friendly Fencing
- Nesting Structures
- Modified Agricultural Activities to promote Wildlife Habitat
- Tree and Shrub Planting and Ecobuffers
- Other projects which provide ecosystem services and are approved by either the Wheatland County Agriculture and Environment Department or ALUS Wheatland Partnership Advisory Committee.

### Program Contact

**Sarah Schumacher**, Wheatland County  
Agricultural Conservation Coordinator

Ph: 403-333-6943

Email: Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca

Please return completed forms to Wheatland County C/O: Sarah Schumacher by email, mail (Wheatland County, HWY 1, RR 1, Strathmore, AB, T1P 1J6), Fax (403-934-4889) or in person at the County administration building.



# Coyote Predation

The coyote is an important and valuable wildlife species and an ally of agriculture, eating many species of rodents and insects harmful to agriculture. The coyote is also a valuable furbearer bringing thousands of dollars annually to the fur industry.

Unfortunately, the coyote occasionally causes problems by preying on domestic poultry and livestock. Today, predation by coyotes is recognized by the livestock industry and Alberta Agriculture & Forestry as a potential, but manageable risk to livestock production. Recognizing the risk of predation, livestock producers should follow acceptable and appropriate management practices, and procedures aimed at reducing or preventing coyote damage.

Coyotes are often monogamous for life and breed in February, subject to local conditions (January in warmer locales to March in cooler locales) and give birth 63 days later. Coyotes are sexually mature at one year of age but often do not reproduce until their second year. They readily cross with domestic canines when breeding season arrives, but the resulting coy-dogs are infertile.

Litter size averages about five, with up to 17 pups that are born sightless and brown in color. The pups stay inside the den for the first two weeks of life, and then start to venture out further each day.

Both parents care for the young. The male is capable of feeding the pups as soon as milk is not a necessity. Rodents make up a large percentage of their diet, but any small animal, dead or alive is fed during pup rearing.

Maternal dens are often the old dens of other animals or coyotes. Coyotes seldom dig new dens. Dens are often concealed using topographical relief, like brush cover, fence lines, rock piles, and other geographical features to hide their location. The den site is kept very clean of food and feces. The only signs of habitation are packed-down earth and grass, with the occasional stick or bone used to chew on.

The young remain in the maternal den for up to two months then are moved to other holes, brush piles, culverts, rock piles, or other places of refuge for the little coyotes. The adults only frequent dens for the first 2-4 weeks after whelping, and then

nursing and feeding takes place outside the den entrance. An extraordinary amount of food is required, due to the large amount of energy used to raise the young during whelping.

It is at this time that predation pressure on domestic stock is greatest. Pups start eating solid food from regurgitated female carrion at about three weeks of age or small mammals are brought back to the den site by the male. Pups learn to catch and eat insects early in life and grasshoppers can constitute a significant part of their diet.

The reproductive potential of the coyote is extremely high and can compensate for 75% yearly reduction in population by producing high litter numbers and a great number of first year breeders. Conversely a low food supply with a high population causes the coyotes to produce low litter size and few pregnant females.

There have been many detailed studies on coyote predation of domestic stock and wildlife. There is no doubt that coyotes are capable of, and often attack lambs, kids, calves, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry. They also take the young of wild ungulates, mostly deer and antelope. Their greatest impact traditionally has been on the sheep industry.

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry advocates the use of pro-active measures to prevent or reduce coyote predation. This includes close supervision of stock, proper carrion disposal, use of guardian animals, predator-proof barrier of electric fences, scare devices, shooting and other lawful means of protecting livestock from coyote predation. Alberta Agriculture also supports selective removal of coyotes with appropriate use of specific predator pesticides (called predacides) and neck snares as a last line of defense.

If you require assistance with livestock predation problems or would like more information please email the Agriculture & Environment Department at [agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca)

Credit: Alberta Agriculture & Forestry October (2017) *Coyote Predation Control Manual*



# Permits

## NOT SURE WHICH PERMIT YOU NEED?

Call us at 403-934-3321 or send an email anytime to [safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca).

The Safety Codes Technician is available to assist with questions or application submissions on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Completed Safety Code Permit applications can be submitted anytime by email to [safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca).

## WHEN DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

Generally speaking, whenever building a structure, you will require a building permit.

## WHAT OTHER PERMITS DO I REQUIRE?

Depending on the nature and scope of your project, you may also require electrical, gas, plumbing, and sewage permits.

## DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR MOVING A MOBILE OR MODULAR HOME?

Yes. Your home was built off-site, however, the on-site work such as foundation/or blocking still requires a permit.

## WHERE CAN I FIND THE PERMITS I NEED?

All of the Safety Code application forms and development permit applications can be found on the Wheatland County website at: <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/document-category/forms/>

## INSPECTIONS

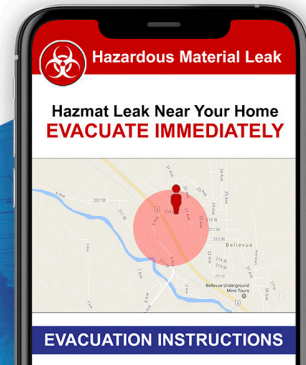
Park Enterprises Ltd. is Wheatland County's Safety Codes Inspection Agency.

They complete inspections for building, gas, electrical, plumbing, and private sewage permits. If you require an inspection, please contact Park at 1-800-621-5440 or send them an email [contact@parkinspections.com](mailto:contact@parkinspections.com).

**For more information please contact  
Development Officer Suzanne Hayes or  
Safety Codes Technician Cindy Ramsay**



## REGISTER NOW!



## Is a permit required to change the use of a building?

A change in a building from one approved use to a different use may trigger the need for a building permit, if the occupancy under the Alberta Building Code changes. The change in classification is determined by a Safety Codes Officer in accordance with the National Building Code, Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)) 2019

For example, a home does not have the same code requirements or restrictions as a gas station



Let us know if you have any questions!



# FARM Transition Webinar

with Merle Good, Farm Tax Specialist



**March 4th, 2021 - 7:00pm**

## **Farm Business Succession Planning – Simplifying a Complex Puzzle**

*In order to complete a puzzle, you need to have the right pieces in the right place at the right time. If not, you will become frustrated and quit. Sounds familiar. To tackle this family farm succession puzzle, this seminar will focus on NOT describing the challenges but actually SOLVING them. Strategies and options will be presented to provide clarity of operating ownership, to create tax free retirement income and address the elephant in the room; being explosive land values.*

Merle worked for over 30 years as the Alberta Provincial Farm Tax Specialist and continues to work with top accountants and lawyers throughout Canada and on a yearly basis speaks at over 25 public seminars and assists over two hundred farm clients per year.

This expertise, combined with years of client consultations, plus his practical experience of owning and operating a multi-generational farm; has created a unique combination of skills and insights to enable clients to meet their business and personal goals.

**Register at**

**[www.rockyview.ca/agricultural-events](http://www.rockyview.ca/agricultural-events)**

For information contact Ph:403-333-6943 or

[Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca)



**ROCKY VIEW COUNTY**  
Cultivating Communities







# Convert Drained Wetlands to Cash

## Ducks Unlimited Wetland Restoration Lease Program

A pool of money is created as wetlands throughout the province are impacted by development and infrastructure projects, due to the Alberta Wetland Policy. Dollars collected by the province are turned around and put into wetland replacement projects on the landscape. Wheatland County is a high priority area for wetland replacement due to the many activities occurring in our Bow and Red Deer river watersheds, giving our landowners a unique opportunity to convert previously drained wetland areas to cash if they choose.

Rather than choosing to pursue wetland replacement activities through our own operations, Wheatland County recognizes the existing work of Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and has chosen to instead promote the opportunities they offer in our region. Please read on for information about DUC's wetland restoration program, and other opportunities available to our landowners.

### **What is DUC's Wetland Restoration Lease Program?**

- Wetland restoration re-establishes small ponds and sloughs by plugging ditches with earthen or engineered dams – lands must have been drained or partially drained to qualify.
- Landowners are compensated based on fair-market value for the area of wetlands restored under a 10-year lease. There is an upfront payment followed by 10 annual payments.
- DUC completes all work at no cost to the landowner.
- Restored areas stay under the management of the landowner and may be hayed or grazed.
- This program offers a significant financial opportunity, especially where drained sloughs are only capable of producing marginal crops or are on grazing lands.

### **Other DUC Programs**

- Landowners in areas with good habitat potential for waterfowl that are qualified through DUC can access \$100 per 50lb bag of grass seed plus per acre payments through DUC's Forage Program.
- DUC is a registered land trust, meaning they can register conservation easements to help protect the natural features of land while still allowing haying and grazing. Conservation easements are a voluntary option for interested landowners to get financial benefit to continue managing land in the same way.

Derek Hallgrimson is DUC's representative for the Wheatland County area. Please contact him with any questions that you have about DUC's programs at [d\\_hallgrimson@ducks.ca](mailto:d_hallgrimson@ducks.ca) or 403-361-0280.



# Pollinator Projects

## Putting the Buzz in Pasture Management

### Webinar

**March 31st 10:00am**

**Learn more about**

The value of pollinators and the benefits of establishing pollinator projects

Identifying locations for pollinator projects on marginal lands

Forage species selection, establishment, management & longevity

Funding options for pollinator projects

*With speakers*

*Grant Lastiwka, Forage Specialist &*

*Luke Wonneck, Agroforestry Project Specialist*

**Register at**

**<http://bit.ly/3tkvALE>**

For information contact Ph:403-333-6943 or  
[Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca)





## Agronomic Species

*These nitrogen fixing plant species have potential for managed grazing and also benefit pollinators*



Species	Characteristics	Grazing Management
Sainfoin <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Good establishment, early bloomer and good for late season grazing because of leaf retention. Not tolerant of salinity or saturated soils, shorter lived than alfalfa.	Excellent high quality and high yielding forage (28% protein), non-bloating, can reduce bloat when grown with alfalfa. Requires longer for re-growth after grazing.
Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i> Purple Yellow siberian	Long lived, deep taproots, tolerant of drought and wide variety of moisture conditions.	Excellent forage value. <b>Requires careful management to reduce the risk of bloat.</b>
Alsike Clover <i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Short lived, not tolerant of dry conditions.	<b>Can cause bloat and photosensitization in horses.</b>
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Good establishment, short lived (1-3 years), good tolerance of drought and salinity.	Good for grazing, palatable, fair for haying, 20-25% protein, low production compared with other agronomic species. Potential to become invasive.
Red Clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Hardy, short lived, poor tolerance to salinity and low moisture,	Good protein and palatability, good for hay, grazing and silage. <b>Requires careful management to reduce the risk of bloat.</b>
Cicer milkvetch <i>Astragalus cicer</i>	Tolerant of a wide range of conditions, long lived, but can be difficult to established (may take 2 growing seasons).	Non-bloating, requires careful management, overgrazing will cause this species to decrease. Late season grazing because of good leaf retention. Potential to become invasive.

**Grass Species:** bunch grasses, non-aggressive grasses

## Native Plant Species

*Native plant species that benefit pollinators and have potential for managed grazing*

Species	Characteristics	Grazing Management
Milk Vetch <i>Astragalus canadensis</i> , <i>Astragalus americanas</i>	May do better in moist soils, <i>canadensis</i> has good, but slow establishment. Nitrogen fixing.	Good grazing potential. <b>Some sources say that these milk vetch species may be toxic to livestock.</b> Short lived, overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Vetch <i>Vicia americana</i>	This is an early successional species, better establishment with moisture, tolerates medium to coarse soils. Nitrogen fixing. Used for soil stabilization and erosion control.	Good to excellent grazing potential, palatable with 20% protein. Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease. 2 year establishment
Hedysarum spp. <i>Hedysarum americanum</i> , <i>alpinum</i> , <i>boreal</i>	Tolerant of poor soil and wide variety of conditions. Nitrogen fixing.	Fair to excellent grazing potential, overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Sticky Purple Geranium <i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Good to excellent, palatable, easily established. May do better with moisture. Actively mycorrhizal.	Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Fireweed <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Tolerant of a wide range of soil and moisture conditions (including alkaline)	Fair to good grazing potential. Nutritious, palatable from summer to fall (more palatable earlier in the season). Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Purple Peavine, <i>Lathyrus venosus</i> Cream Colored Peavine, <i>Lathyrus ochroleucus</i>	Not considered prairie plants, creeping rhizomes, establishment can be difficult.	Excellent grazing potential, very palatable, 30% protein, summer grazing. Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease
Tufted White Prairie Aster <i>Aster</i> Showy Aster, <i>Aster conspicuous</i>	Grows well in moist open prairie. Actively mycorrhizal.	Good grazing potential. Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease
Northern Bedstraw <i>Gallium boreale</i>	Grows well in moist open prairie. Actively mycorrhizal.	Excellent grazing potential. May increase with overgrazing.

**Grass Species:** bunch grasses, non-aggressive grasses

**Note:** these species may be difficult to source, there are many other native species that benefit pollinators, we have only included the species that have potential for grazing

**References:** Alberta Agriculture (2009) Alberta Beef Forage Manual, Alberta Agriculture (1996) A guide to using Native Plants on Disturbed Lands, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (2018) Sainfoin for Western Canada, Alberta Agriculture (2016) Alberta Range Plants and Their Classification, Majak, W. (2008) Stock-poisoning Plants of Western Canada





## ROSEBUD WATERSHED FUNDING PROGRAM

# 100% Funding for Livestock Producers for off-site watering systems and streambank fencing

Ranchers play an important role in protecting riparian streambanks and improving water quality in the Rosebud Watershed. These projects also benefit livestock health and flood and drought resiliency on a farm.

The Rocky View County and Wheatland County agricultural departments are excited to work with producers in our region over the next few years on streambank projects.

Applicants to this program may also be eligible for ALUS funding which pays landowners annual per acre payments for conservation projects.

### Program Contacts



#### Wheatland County

Sarah Schumacher  
PH: 403-333-6943  
[Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca)



#### Rocky View County

Matthew Chilakos  
PH: 403-478-8277  
Email: [MChilakos@rockyview.ca](mailto:MChilakos@rockyview.ca)



**ROCKY VIEW COUNTY**  
Cultivating Communities

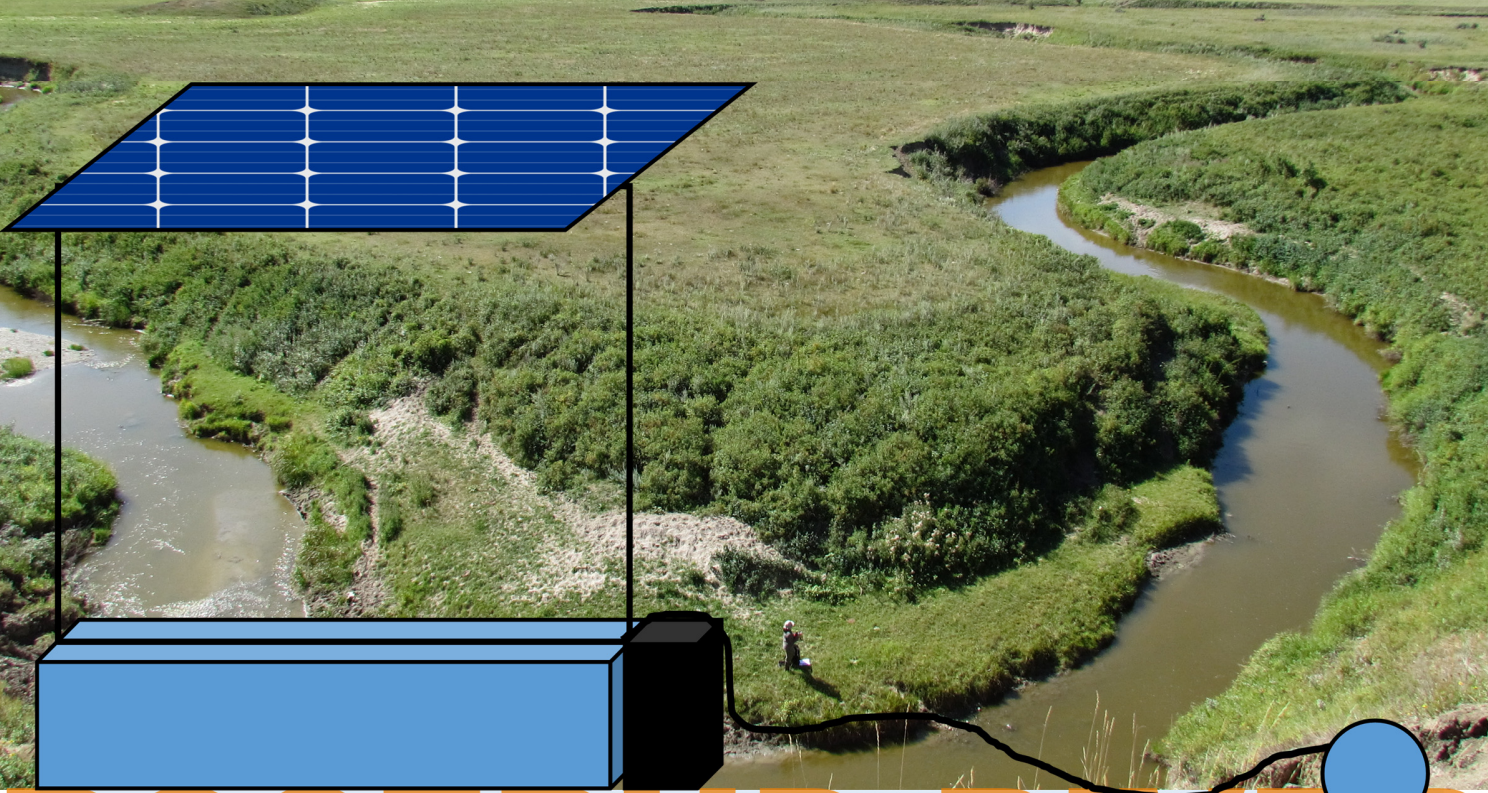


**WHEATLAND  
COUNTY**

Where There's Room to Grow







# ROSEBUD RIVER

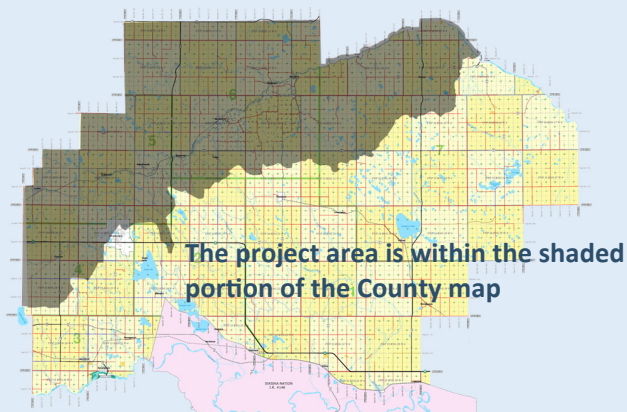
**Water quality monitoring conducted in the Rosebud River has identified very high levels of fecal coliforms, sediments and nutrients. This can negatively impact human health, livestock health, irrigation water quality and aquatic life forms.**

Studies in Alberta have demonstrated that fencing projects along the Rosebud River and its tributaries (ie. Serviceberry Creek, Severn Creek etc.) and the use of alternate livestock watering systems can help to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and improve streambank resiliency against erosion by flood events. These projects help to ensure that future generations of Wheatland County residents can live and farm in a healthy landscape.

A **solar-powered off-site watering system** is a simple system to set up and operate and can be used in remote locations. A typical system includes a water pump, solar panel, battery, controllers, electrical components and trough. These systems can also be designed to be portable for use in multiple pastures or to be stored during winter. Depending on your water source winterized

systems are a viable option (although more expensive). It is recommended that a trough be setback around 30m (100f) from the edge of the water.

**Streambank fencing** is not always required as the alternative livestock watering system can be an adequate tool for keeping animals further away from a waterbody. Permanent electric fencing, single strand fence or creating a large riparian pasture for improved rest and rotation are also be good options to be used in conjunction with a watering system.





# WEEDUCATION

## Black Henbane



The flower is large and bell shaped with 5 lobes, the petals are yellowish with many purple veins, a purple centre, and multiple flowers per stem.

The leaves are alternate, large (up to 45cm long and 15cm wide), hairy, slightly sticky, leaf margins are variably lobed, stalkless and the plant has a slightly offensive odor. Basal rosette leaves occur in the first stage of growth and flowers in the second. Black Henbane has a large taproot and can grow up to 1m tall, the stem has a branched robust form and is very hairy.

Black Henbane reproduces by prolific seed production, seeds are viable for 5 years and are also toxic. The seeds are small and form in a hairy capsule.

For effective control; spray, cultivate, mow, hand pull, or cut the stem at the base of the plant before flowering in the first years growth.

### Black Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)

Alberta Weed Act Designation: Noxious

Black Henbane is a member of the Solanaceae (Nightshade) family and was introduced from the Mediterranean. It is commonly a weed of disturbed areas such as roadside ditches, new developments, field edges and pastureland in Wheatland County.

It is a weed of concern and has been designated as a Noxious Weed because most parts of this plant are poisonous to livestock and humans. It is also able to outcompete other plants because of its large growth form.

Black Henbane can have a biennial (flowers in the 2 year of growth) or annual (flowers in the 1st year of growth) life cycle depending on local conditions.

1. Flower	Showy, large, bell-shaped, purple veins
2. Mature Plant	Up to 1m tall, leaves are alternately arranged on the stem
3. Seed Capsule	Large, hairy, bell shaped
4. Rosette	Large rosette, large leaves, slightly sticky, lobed margin



Find factsheets on all Alberta Noxious & Prohibited Noxious weeds at  
[www.abinvasives.ca](http://www.abinvasives.ca)



Contact George Bloom, Agricultural Services Officer for information about invasive species management in Wheatland County at Ph: 403-934-4949 or [George.Bloom@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:George.Bloom@wheatlandcounty.ca)





Wheatland County  
#242006 Range Road 243  
Highway 1 RR 1, Strathmore, AB T1P 1J6  
T: 403-934-3321 F: 403-934-4889  
[wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca)  
[@wheatlandcounty](https://www.instagram.com/wheatlandcounty)