



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.





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.

For additional information or to order your box, please call Wheatland FCSS at Ph: 403-934-5335 or email: info@wfcss.org 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 2022 order and delivery dates:



Order before 3:00 PM on:	Pickup by 4:00PM	on:
January 11	January 21	

January 11	January 21		
February 1	February 1		
March 1	March 11		
March 29	April 8		
April 26	May 6		
May 24	June 3		
June 14	June 24		
July 12	July 22		

Summer Break

September 20 September 30 October 18 October 28 November 22 December 2

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

Ben Armstrong U.

Ben Armstrong's nearly three decades of service to Wheatland County will reverberate for years to come. Councillor Armstrong distinguished himself as an exemplary resident of Wheatland County, including a storied career and list of accolades involving eight years elected as Reeve, and six years as Deputy Reeve.

Ben's passion for service had a resounding impact throughout the region as well. His passion for developing sustainable solutions and viable alternatives for waste is seen in the earliest years of the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association (SAEWA), through its inception. Ben was founding member since 2012 and served as Chair from 2016-2018, and subsequently Past Chair for three years. Ben applied his passion for waste management at the Drumheller and District Solid Waste Association, where he was appointed as Chair in 2014,

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and served as a Board Member since 2004. Ben was also appointed as the County's representative on Alberta C.A.R.E in 2013 (the Association of Alberta Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises).

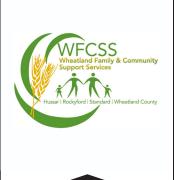
Councillor Armstrong was very passionate about the work County staff and community organizations would initiate. Always one to provide support for these projects, especially within the realm of waste management, he coupled his passion and threw full support behind the County's Agriculture department driven Plastic Grain Bag Program; whereby the County rolls plastic grain bags for producers and haul them to the Green Acres Colony south of the Village of Hussar for recycling. After this program was initiated, CleanFarms continued it across Alberta.

Ben had an undoubted belief for, and in, the staff at Wheatland County over the years. His support, guidance, and unwavering desire to share the wisdom and knowledge he had for the County was appreciated and will be missed. In Council chamber, Ben had a zeal for assisting fellow Councillor's in making difficult decisions. Councillor Armstrong's experience with intergovernmental processes and collaborative efforts through numerous institutions made him an invaluable resource and a strong mentor for his fellow Councilors.

Wheatland County is a better place to live, work, and play, because of Councillor Armstrong's tireless work and advocacy. The organization, projects, and initiatives all have been graced with Ben's wisdom and guidance over the last three decades. Wheatland County thanks Councillor Armstrong for his three decades of service!

Page 3

County Coats Exchange Program October 2021 to March 2022



We are accepting donations of gently used coats!

Looking for a gently used coat? check out our website for current inventory www.wfcss.org

Men's Women's Children

All Sizes!



Donate or Trade-in

Coats Accessories Boots

> Gently Used

Call us to arrange a drop off or pick up time
Ph: 403-934-5335
www.wfcss.org



Landon Hebbes

Agricultural Management Production



Reid Regehr

Animal Science Technology: Beef Science



Layne Neal

Diesel Equipment Technician



Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board recognizes the importance of education and the contributions of our youth to rural communities and the County.

The Agricultural Service Board would like to congratulate the 2021 Agricultural Service Board Bursary Recipients!

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) invites students furthering their studies in an agriculture or environmental science related field to apply for local financial assistance.

The ASB will provide up to \$6000 in bursaries annually with a minimum award of \$500 and a maximum award of \$1500 depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria.

Bursaries are available to students who reside within the boundaries of Wheatland County including recent graduates (within 3 years). Funding is not available to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants or previous bursary recipients.

For more information

Contact the Agriculture and Environment Department

Ph: 403-361-2166

Email: AgandEnv@wheatlandcounty.ca



Tips & Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

Our furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)	
Our chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)	
Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood .	
Our fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass , in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.	
We have a covered metal container ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)	
Our children know to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.	
Our portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off .	
Our portable space heaters will be plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)	
We have tested our smoke alarms and made sure they are working. (You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)	
We have tested our carbon monoxide alarms and made sure they are working. (Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)	





How do you Keep in Touch?

Have you heard the news?

Wheatland FCSS has partnered with Strathmore FCSS to bring you a new program designed to combat isolation and connect local residents with each other. Keep In Touch (KIT) is a program developed by Volunteer Lethbridge to connect participants and volunteers on a regular basis.

KIT is more than just a phone call or conversation. It is confirmation that there is someone who cares, that someone is willing to provide support, take the time, and simply listen. The program is open to all residents in need of support and friendly conversation.

Wheatland FCSS	Strathmore FCSS
Ph: 403-934-5335	Ph: 403-934-9090
www.wfcss.org	www.strathmore.ca





Wheatland FCSS Lunch & Learn

2022 Schedule

Pre-registration is required. Please call Ph: 403-934-5335 or visit our website at:

www.wfcss.org/lunch-n-learn.html

Cost is a free-will donation, suggested \$2. Sessions start promptly at noon and are located at the Wheatland County Municipal building (242006, Range Road 243).

Jan 19, 2022

Now I know my CBD's – A local pharmacist will join to talk about Cannabis and its effects on older adults.

Feb 16, 2022

I C U...U C Me – A local optometrist discusses eye health and care as we age.

Mar 16, 2022

Get your plant on! – Tips to prepare your beds and flowers for spring.

Apr 20, 2022

The Sky's the Limit - Brandon Hauck joins us to talk about cloud formations, weather patterns and what to watch for in the sky.





Coming soon!

Drone Course for Agricultural Producers with LandView Drones

March 28th & 29th Standard Community Hall

To register contact:

Sarah Schumacher Ph: 403-333-6943

email: Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

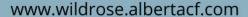
Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169





Here to help you start and grow your business

Business Counselling & Training

Business Development Loans (\$150,000)

Community Economic Development Initiatives for 2021/22:

- Mastering Your Recovery Program
- Succession Planning Program
- Digital Economy Program
- Entrepreneurs With Disabilities

Contact us today!

403.934.8888

wildroseinfo@albertacf.com

With the support of: Prairies Economic Development Canada







COMPASS for The Caregiver



Online

Care giving can be a stressful, isolating, and overwhelming experience. 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 care giving. Join our trained facilitators as they walk us through a 4-week virtual course. Sessions will run:

Monday, January 10th	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Monday, January 17th	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Monday, January 24th	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Monday, January 31st	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

If you are a resident of Wheatland County, Hussar, Rockyford or Standard please contact Joanne Simpson at Ph: 403-361-7277 or Lynn Walker Ph: 403-934-5335 for more information and to register. Wheatland FCSS will absorb the cost of registration for local residents.

Residents living outside of the above municipalities will pay \$55 for registration fee and manual.





Connecting the Agribusiness Value Chain

All Wheatland County agribusinesses should be aware of the WC Mercantile initiative to connect the agricultural value chain – the interconnected web of farm to table that includes input suppliers, producers, processors, and retailers. Already many businesses have got in on the ground floor and registered.

As investors become aware of the advantages of setting up shop in Wheatland County, it will become ever more critical to know who is in our backyard and what they can offer. For example, an organic food processor setting up shop in the county may be able to purchase locally grown vegetables or mushrooms for use in a soup mix. At the same time, our tourism trade may also be able to utilize local products in their restaurants and B&B operations; thereby, promoting local and showcasing Wheatland's excellence. Perhaps you deal with suppliers that are outside the county that could find a home here?

The opportunities to connect businesses locally and regionally are unlimited

In the WC Mercantile we have categories for producers; processors, manufacturing and packaging; distribution, service providers; retail; and restaurants, caterers and chefs. If you are a Wheatland company that fits in somewhere on this value chain, register your business with WC Mercantile infinitewc.ca/wc-mercantile today. It is a free service that provides you with publicity and makes good business sense!

On the provincial side, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry maintains a directory of agri-food exporters used to showcase our industry when they attend international events. If you are an exporter, be sure to check out the directory and have your business added at

www.alberta.ca/directories-of-agri-foodexporters-and-contacts.aspx



ON-FARM SLAUGHTER OPERATION LICENCE

Albertans can apply for a licence to operate as an On-Farm Slaughter Operation under the Meat Inspection Act and Meat Inspection Regulation.

An uninspected slaughter operation, licensed as an On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO), enables an individual to conduct on-farm slaughter and processing activities on their property.

This licence allows for the uninspected slaughter and processing of animals purchased by individual customers on the licensee's land for consumption by the individual customers and their households only. The land under the OFSO licence is defined as land that is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the OFSO licensee. The OFSO licence requires that animals are humanely and safely slaughtered and that carcasses are stored and processed in a safe and clean manner.

An individual and up to three other individuals (co-owners) may purchase a large animal exceeding 500 pounds (227 kg) such as bison, elk and cattle for slaughter at an OFSO.

Small live animals under 500 pounds (227 kg) may only be sold to an individual customer for consumption by their household only. Two or more people cannot buy a single small animal and split the meat.

The meat from animals slaughtered at an OFSO are uninspected, and is not for sale or for further distribution beyond the immediate individual or co-owner's household(s). The meat is only for the consumption by the persons who form part of the co-owners households. This limits the risk of a foodborne illness outbreak since the uninspected meat cannot be further sold, bartered, gifted or distributed. This licence also enables an individual to provide a location for others to conduct on-farm slaughter and processing activities such as for 4-H slaughters and for religious celebrations.

Slaughter at an OFSO is to be conducted outside on the licensed plot of land. The slaughter process is not permitted to be conducted in a building.

This licence requires that slaughter waste be disposed of according the requirements for meat facilities in the Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation including the additional options of disposal by on-farm burial, composting, or burning. Uninspected slaughter operations are also allowed to gift or sell uninspected slaughter waste consisting of butcher scraps and by-products for use as bait in hunting or trapping.

For additional information, review the On-Farm Slaughter Operation Technical Guide.

Licensee responsibilities

for a ful list visit www.alberta.ca/on-farm-slaughter-operation-licence.aspx

- Licence holders are responsible for reviewing and following applicable legislation and other licensing requirements as identified on the application form.
- Licence holders are responsible for adequately labeling uninspected meat with: Uninspected – Not for sale, the name of the slaughter operation, the slaughter date (including day, month and year).
- Licence holders are responsible for providing potable water.
- The licence holder shall ensure that the animal(s) are slaughtered humanely and safely. Every carcass must be kept in a safe and sanitary manner and at a temperature that ensures that meat will be free of spoilage and contamination.
- The licence holder is responsible for ensuring compliance with bylaws in their county or municipality.
- Licence holders transporting and disposing of cattle tissue with specified risk material (SRM) require a permit.

Licence

- Cost: 5-year licence fee: \$100, Licences are valid 5 years from the date of issue.
- Apply online or by mail, forms are avaliable on the website
- Licence holders must submit a report within 2 weeks of the end of each quarter

Limits

Animal slaughter limits per customer per calendar year:

- Six (6) large red meat animals (for example: beef, bison, elk, yak, ostrich) and
- Twelve (12) hogs and
- Twelve (12) sheep and
- Twelve (12) goat and
- 150 poultry or other small animals (for example: quail, rabbit)

For questions about the OFSO Licence, contact af.foodsafety@gov.ab.ca



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
- Rocky View County

 Matthew Chilakos PH: 403-478-8277

 Email: MChilakos@rockyview.ca
- Western Irrigation District
 Brian Sanders PH:403 934-3542 ext.239
 Email: bsander@wid.net



Wild Boar at Large

one of the most damaging invasive species in North America!



Feral pigs, also known as wild boar at large, are one of the most damaging invasive species in North America. They have escaped their enclosures and cause damage to cropland, properties, and ecosystems. They can predate on livestock and have the potential to transfer disease to hog, cattle, wildlife, and humans. Hunting is not an effective control option.

SOUEAL on PIGS!

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of wild boar at large:

- **1. Squeal!** If you see wild boar at large or signs of their activity, report it to **310-FARM**, **AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca**, your local municipality, or use the EDDMapS smartphone app.
- **2. DO NOT hunt wild boar at large!** This is NOT an effective control option. Although hunting may seem helpful, it has the opposite effect and allows populations to expand and exacerbate impacts. These animals are smart and quickly learn to avoidance techniques, such as becoming nocturnal, that they pass on to their young.
- **So Know the law!** Wild boar at large are listed as an agricultural pest under the Agricultural Pests Act. Landowners are required to control or destroy pests and prevent them from becoming established on their land. Penalties can be up to \$5,000 or 60 days in prison. Existing wild boar farms must comply with the Wild Boar Containment Standards, which provide enhanced fencing requirements to prevent escape.









Wild boar at large quick facts:

- Wild boar at large are native to Europe and Asia and were introduced to North America as livestock; however, some have escaped and established wild populations.
- Wild boar at large weigh between 45-150 kg and have coarse gray to brown hair, sometimes with a tufted ridge along their backs. Tails are straight with a bushy tip. They have thick necks, wedgeshaped heads, snouts with a cartilaginous disc, and large canine teeth or tusks visible when their mouth is closed.
- They are able to reproduce at young ages (between 5-12 months old) and can have six piglets at a time, sometimes twice a year. Lifespan is up to 9 years.
- Common signs of wild boar at large include: trampled or destroyed crops, boar droppings, hair on barbwire, digging (rooting) or rolling around (wallowing), and tracks and trails from groups (sounders). Boar tracks are rounder than deer tracks.
- Wild boar at large can host 89 different diseases that can be transmitted to livestock, wildlife and humans. For example, an outbreak of foot and mouth disease would shut down all Alberta pork and beef exports and cost \$65 billion nationwide.
- Wild boar at large infestations can devastate crops, alter ecosystems and predate on livestock. Damage caused by wild boar at large is estimated to cost over \$1.5 billion US annually.
- Control of wild boar at large can be difficult. Methods by trained personnel include eliminating an entire sounder simultaneously. Hunting is NOT recommended and can intensify the issue as these animals quickly learn to disperse, change movement patterns, become nocturnal, and pass these tricks onto their young.

Wild boar at large are widespread in Alberta

Wheatland County WEEDUCATION

CLEMATIS
Clematis tangutica

Alberta Weed Act Designation: Noxious

Noxious weeds have the ability to spread rapidly, cause severe crop losses and economic hardship. Under the Act the responsibility of a landowner is to control and to prevent further establishment and spread of these weeds.

Yellow Clematis is perennial plant (grows back every year) and a member of the Ranunculaceae (Buttercup/Crowfoot) family. It was introduced from Asia as an ornamental, other names include Golden Clematis, Virgins Bower or Helios. This plant is a highly productive seed producer and can spread by creeping roots.

This weed can be very aggressive and is tolerant of a wide range of conditions and can be a potential fire hazard. Buyer be aware - this plant may available in stores as an ornamental plant. It is often found in urban areas growing on fences, parks, railway lines, and roadside ditches.

1. Leaf

- opposite on the stem
- finely toothed margin
- 5-7 leaflets, may be lobed
- leaf tips are pointed and edges are coarsely toothed
- slightly hairy on the underside

2. Mature Plant

- branched
- up to 3 to 4 m long
- leaves will grow on new and old woody stems

3. Root

creeping perennial root

4. Flower

- yellow, 4 petals
- nodding, bell shaped
- flowers occur at the ends of stems or in leaf axils

Control

repeated hand pulling, or herbicide before flowering









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



Farmers Wanted! Are you planning a project that benefits marginal lands or sensitive areas?

ALUS helps you to establish and maintain projects such as stream bank protection, pollinator habitat establishment, restoration of marginal lands (ie saline seeps), ecobuffers and farm shelterbelts, AMP grazing management and many more...

For more information about this program contact:

Sarah Schumacher, Wheatland County Agricultural Conservation Coordinator Ph: 403-333-6943 Email: sarah.schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca



ALUS.ca



Article 2

Written for Wheatland County by Grant Lastiwka Alberta Forage Specialist

"Dr. Llewellyn Manske, a grassland researcher from North Dakota State University is a mentor of mine. I have learned from him through reading his articles, discussing them with him, and traveling to spent time with him in Dickenson, North Dakota. I have quite a lot of confidence in his teachings. And, feel he addresses biologically effective grazing of grasses in-depth and almost better than anyone I have come to know in my grazing learning journey." Grant Lastiwka

Dr. Manske says that pasture recovery following a drought depends on previous management. In "Managing Pastures During a Drought", article 1 in this series, we talked about pasture grasses and legume responses in a drought, and with varying grazing management within their ecosystems. This was meant to provide a better understanding about has happened to your own pasture plants this dry year. By knowing more about what plant responses are in these conditions, helps grazing managers plan and address plant needs for better recovery in this coming grazing year. It also helps to consider and address needs for high pasture yields in any "managed grazing year". So..... now that last year happened, what should be done this year for plant/pasture/grassland recovery. By building on key plant and ecosystem influencers

we will now address methods of restoring pastures following a drought.

Hugo Gross, a forage researcher with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Brandon was the originator of the saying "Grazing 1 day too early in spring comes at a cost of losing 3 days of grazing in fall". In a similar way, this was again said by Dr. Llewellyn Manske when he says that for grass plants to recover lost nutrients from surviving winter and dormancy, each of their tillers need to regrow at least 3 (in tame grasses) -3.5 (in native grasses) new green leaves. If grazed before this sign of plant grazing readiness in spring, you will reduce plant growth significantly throughout the grazing season. If grazed after that 3-3.5 green leaf stage (In a January 2019 Farm and Ranch Guide article by Sue Roesler) Manske is quoted as saying "Livestock can remove 25 - 33 percent of the grass tiller's leaf area...(after 3-3.5 leaves of green growth) without detriment during the first (short time controlled in spring) grazing period. Manske said the "whole secret" is to feed the soil organisms and convert unusable organic matter to mineralization." In other articles Manske writes he explains how this grazing management used with some key other concepts is a way to restore degraded grasslands. I'll share more of this drought and grazing management series as a future article on drought proofing.

By spring plants are at a nutrient low from using their stored nutrients through winter and early dormancy in the 2020-2021 drought. It is important to encourage tillering density with an early light grazing after reaching 3-3.5 leaf stage of tillers with new spring growth. This removal of a small portion of new growth, leaves behind 67-75% of the plant tillers for sunlight capture potential. This is a key to restoration following a drought or at any time in spring. All grazers want this big "green solar panel" for photosynthesis to occur through capturing sunlight energy and converting them into sugars for plant continued fast and high growth into the rest of the growing and grazing season. Leaf area left behind keeps feeding plant tillers carbohydrates. These sugars are needed for potential growth to be at a high rate.

Spring is a time of lowest nutrient stores. The dormant period during drought and through winter has used up reserves of carbohydrates and other nutrients used for a plant life cycle. Previous grazing management can add to or reduce nutrient stores to the point of slowing new tillers emerging and even plants dying. Spring brings warmth and sunlight for rebirth of new plant growth. This growth will come faster or slower based on previous plant stresses.

Refer to Managing Pastures in a Drought (article 1). If 2-4 (to be precise 2.5-4 leaves Dr. Manske says are needed) leaves were left on tillers as residual from grazing this fall, some of these leaves that have plant cells intact may have an ability to start this year's life cycle by regreening. This is where the fastest spring growth will come from. Expect normal growth timing if moisture is adequate previous grazing management gave plants vigor, and 2.5 leaves or more were left on each existing growth tiller to enter winter dormancy.

Lead tillers that survived the winter as buds on existing plants are next to grow. Spring growth comes from nutrient stores and recycling of nutrients held



in crowns, stem bases, and in plants lowest leaves, little or less from roots. Those tillers protected by adequate nutrient stores will start activating their growth systems.

Manske says that if fall tillers had 1.5 leaves only as residual, they will produce less than normal yield the following year. Growth may come 2-4 weeks later this spring in those pasture stands in the year following a drought. Tillers with only one leaf or less growth left as residual do not survive the winter.

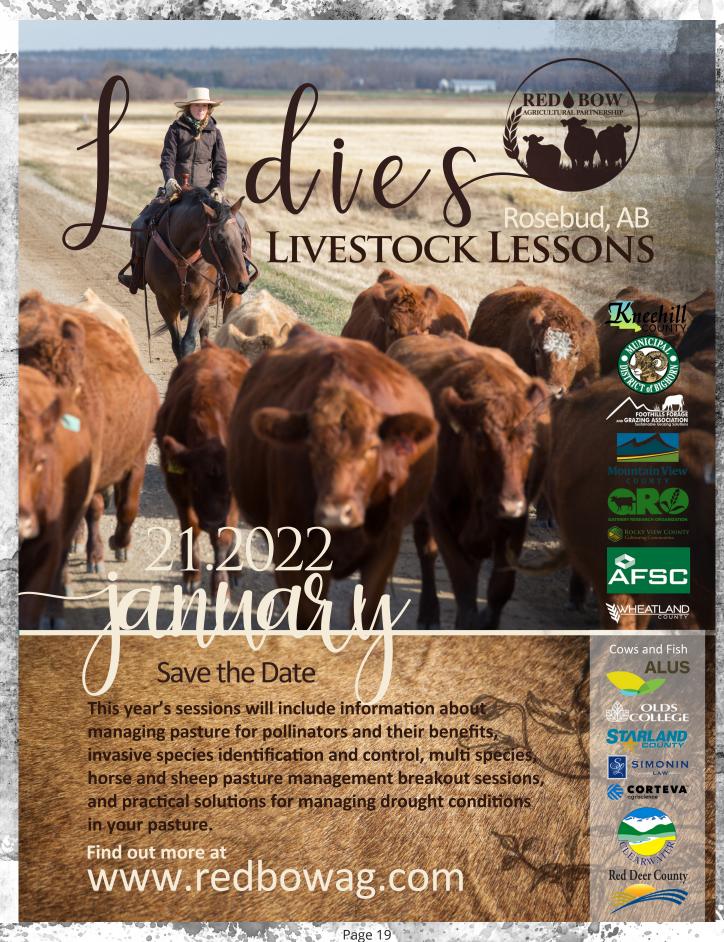
In conclusion, for pasture recovery and restoring after drought, plan to watch plants for growth and start grazing only after the 3-3.5 leaf stage of new growth. How early or late this occurs will be a function of leaving or not leaving 2.5 leaves of leaf residual per tiller last year, plus previous other grazing management factors, with existing spring environmental and ecosystem conditions in combination. Graze then with a short grazing period taking only 25-33% of plant growth leaving behind 67-75% of new green tillers for further fast growth. These are the most crucial pasture recovery/restoring step to take.

Grant Laswika and his wife run a small grazing/cowcalf operation where Grant tests what he learns from producers, scientists and extensionists.

Grant has worked in Central Alberta with Alberta Agriculture in varying roles: Forages/Grazing/Livestock/Economics Extension for over 30 years. Those efforts are almost always related to trying to realize the value from seizing the opportunity of managing forages and grasslands to be a highly productive crop. His forage management thought is from the plant, to the soil, to the livestock, to the people, and to the consumer.

The systems he works towards are managed in ways that consider finances, the environment, the people, and the community. This Holistic Management decision making approach is done simultaneously and strives to be regenerative.

Grant is now works as a consultant, part-time with Union Forages and director of the Alberta Forage Industry Network.





If your interested in completing your EFP or removing your well pit contact Sarah Schumacher at 403-333-6943 or Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca or register on line at albertaefp.com

A farm risk that often is identified during an Environmental Farm Plan is the presence of a well pit.

How best to manage well pits

Filling in well pits or using pitless adapters

Because of the safety and contamination risks well pits can present, it has been illegal to develop new well pits in Alberta since the 1970s. Although producers who have bought or inherited farms with existing pits are under no legal obligation to fill them in or replace them with a pitless adapter, it is highly recommended that producers do so in order to avoid these risks.

What is the risk?

The risks of well pits are twofold, says Joe Harrington, water specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Food (AF). First, well pits are often home to gases such as carbon dioxide as well as explosive gases such as methane and hydrogen sulphide. "Because of this, there have been well-documented instances of death or injury related to well pits," says Harrington.

Secondly, well pits have a tendency to collect seepage and overflow, presenting the risk of contaminated water entering water wells and other interconnected water sources. Although some practices, such as putting a sump pump in a well pit, can help producers manage this risk, Harrington says it's better to fill in the pit and use a pitless adapter.

Two key options

There are two key options involved in managing well pits. If the well is no longer used, the best option is to decommission both the well and the well pit, first by removing the well casing, if possible, and then filling the well bore from bottom to top with an impervious material such as bentonite. The well pit can then be filled in with a clay type material.

If the well is to be retained, the best option is to extend the well casing above the surface and install a pitless adapter, a device which allows the pump to be removed from the well for servicing but will keep the piping below the frost line to prevent freezing. The well pit should then be filled in with clay type material. Contact your local certified well driller to learn more about removing a well pit on your property.

Wheatland Safe Water Wells Action Program

Funding is available for the abandonment of un-used wells and for the removal of well pits. This program is not retroactive and projects are approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

This program covers a portion of the cost of contracted services (i.e. certified well driller) and required materials for the following projects.

Funding is available for:

Pitless Adapter Well Pit Conversion

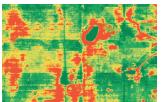
75% up to \$3500 per well

Decommissioning of unused wells 75% up to \$2500 per well











The Farm Technology Program

The Farm Technology Program supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency, and encourages the adoption of best management practices in farm security.

Innovative data systems are transforming modern agriculture. Technology and connectivity are advancing risk management, optimizing efficiencies, and securing property. As farms progress from sensors that collect digital information through software that processes vast amounts of data to automated tasks, producers save time and money, and gain a competitive advantage.

This program provides financial incentives on new technologies that are commercially available and already demonstrated under Alberta conditions. To be eligible for funding, the program targets technology that is proven, but not yet widely adopted within an applicant's farm type.

Applications will be divided into two streams:

- the Farm Technology stream supports adoption of innovative technology that minimize agricultural waste and optimize farm efficiency, eligible items include electronic soil sensors, livestock ID readers, yield sensors, optical sensors for vegetative index data.
- the Farm Security stream supports producers in their efforts to secure business assets. Eligible items include GPS equipment tracking devices, remote fuel tank monitors, remote moniroting cameras, wireless base stations, motion detectors etc.

Funding

- Eligible expenses will be costs shared at 50% grant and 50% applicant up to the following maximums:
- The maximum grant for the Farm Technology Stream for the Program Term is \$48,000 per Applicant; and
- The maximum grant for the Farm Security Stream for the Program Term is \$2,000 per Applicant.
- The maximum grant an applicant can receive from the program is \$50,000 over the Program Term

You must have a valid **Environmental Farm Plan** to receive funding from the Farm Technology Program.

The Water Program

The Water Program assists producers in enhancing agricultural water management for continued growth and long-term success of the agriculture industry.

There are two streams under the Water Program:

- On-farm irrigation projects
- On-farm water supply projects

On-Farm Irrigation Projects

- Low-Pressure Center Pivot System
- Drip Irrigation System
- Low-Pressure Center Pivot System
- Drip Irrigation System
- Sprinkler Nozzles
- Pump Modifications
- Control Panel Upgrade
- Variable Rate Irrigation Equipment

On-Farm Water Supply Projects

- New wells
- New dugouts
- Spring Developments
- Tie-In to a Multi-User Water Supply Pipeline
- Water Source for Crop Irrigation
- Unshared Water Pipelines
- Cistern
- Well Decommissioning (special incentive)
- Well Pit Conversions (special incentive)
- Wetland Assessments (special incentive)

Funding

Eligible expenses will be cost-shared at 25% grant and 75% applicant, except for special incentives at 50% grant and 50% applicant. The maximum funding an applicant can receive from the on-farm irrigation stream is \$25,000 per fiscal year of the program.

On-Farm Irrigation Projects:

AF.IrrigationEfficiency@gov.ab.ca Ph:403-381-5532

On-Farm Water Supply Projects:

FarmWaterSupply@gov.ab.ca Ph: 403-381-5846

cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/



When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

HEATER CHECKLIST

- Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic.
 Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet.
 Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

Types of electric space heaters

Oil or water-filled radiator Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

Fan-forced heater

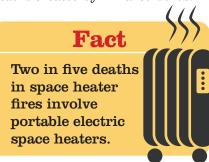
A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

Ceramic heater

Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

Infrared heaters

Heat is created by infrared bulbs.



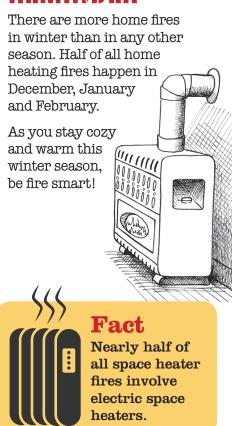




Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency.
 Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

IMPORTANT REWINDER







Wheatland County 242006 Range Road 243 Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

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Holiday Closures

The Wheatland County Administration Office will be CLOSED December 25th to January 3rd. Normal operating hours will resume on January 4, 2022.