

The logo for Wheatland County, featuring a stylized yellow and blue graphic of wheat stalks or a similar agricultural symbol.

WHEATLAND
COUNTY

CONNECTOR

April 2023

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.

Wheatland FCSS in partnership with Calgary Foundation is **now offering** subsidy for Good Food Boxes to low-income residents of Wheatland County. A one time application completion and proof of income is required. If eligible you will be qualified for one Good Food Box per month until Dec 2023.

For additional information, to apply for subsidy, or to order your box, contact WFCSS at: 403-934-5335, info@wfcss.org, or www.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.

NEW 2023 order and delivery dates:

Order before 3:00 PM on:

Pickup between 2- 4PM on:

May 9

May 19

June 6

June 16

Summer Break

August 8

August 18

September 5

September 15

September 26

October 6

October 24

November 3

November 21

December 1

Orders can be placed by calling or emailing WFCSS or on-line at <https://www.wfcss.org/good-food-box.html>

Note: e-transfer must be received two days prior to delivery date. Payment options: cash or cheque upon pick up, visa, mastercard, or e-transfer to info@wfcss.org





Wheatland

MEALS ON WHEELS

Frozen Program

Wheatland FCSS has partnered with Calgary Meals on Wheels Frozen Program to provide Wheatland County residents with nutritious and affordable meals. The program is available to anyone in Wheatland County regardless of age, finances or status.

All items are prepared by a Blue Ribbon chef in the most up-to-date facility for safe food production. Recipes are reviewed by a registered dietitian prior to production to ensure meals are balanced and meet dietary standards.

Frozen meal orders are placed bi-weekly. The following week orders are retrieved, sorted and stored at our office until delivery or pick up arrangements have been made.

The menu is extensive and offers a variety of entrees, soups and baked goods for individuals and families. Renal and gluten-free options are also available and we would be glad to give further information should you be interested. E-transfer payments are accepted.

Cost varies by product. Payment is by cheque or cash and is due on pick-up/delivery day.

For more information or to place an order, visit <https://www.wfcss.org/meals-on-wheels.html> or contact Wheatland FCSS at 403-934-5335. Order forms can be found online.

WFCSS is pleased to announce the subsidy program is **now available** for the Meals On Wheels for low-income residents in Rockyford, Hussar, Standard and Wheatland County. Contact WFCSS for more information.

* Please note that group sized options are exempt from the subsidy program. A one time application completion and proof of income is required.

NEW Order/Pick up Schedule 2023

| ORDER | PICK UP |
|---------------------|--------------|
| MAY 1 | MAY 9 |
| MAY 15 | MAY 23 |
| MAY 29 | JUNE 6 |
| JUNE 12 | JUNE 20 |
| JUNE 26 | JULY 4 |
| JULY 10 | JULY 18 |
| JULY 24 | AUGUST 2 |
| AUGUST 4 | AUGUST 15 |
| AUGUST 21 | AUGUST 29 |
| SEPTEMBER 1 | SEPTEMBER 12 |
| SEPTEMBER 18 | SEPTEMBER 26 |
| SEPTEMBER 29 | OCTOBER 10 |
| OCTOBER 16 | OCTOBER 24 |
| OCTOBER 30 | NOVEMBER 7 |
| NOVEMBER 13 | NOVEMBER 21 |
| NOVEMBER 27 | DECEMBER 5 |
| DECEMBER 11 | DECEMBER 19 |

* Please note that dates highlighted are alternate order days due to statutory holidays. Please have your order in by 3PM.



Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Free Tax Clinic

Need a hand to prepare your tax return?

Free Tax Preparation for upcoming 2022 Tax Year (and prior years as well).

- We are able to complete returns from previous years.
- Volunteers can help you prepare your income tax and benefit return if you have a low to modest income and a simple tax situation.
- Volunteers are not employees of the Canada Revenue Agency.
- Remember to bring all your tax slips and forms with you.

Eligible individuals

- individuals not able to prepare their income tax return on their own
- it is a simple tax situation
- meets our income threshold guidelines
- business income within box 048 on a T4A slip less than \$1,000 with no related expenses
- interest income less than \$1,000

The following tax situations would not be eligible for this service:

- are self-employed or have business expenses
- have rental income & expenses
- have capital gains or losses
- file for bankruptcy
- are deceased


| Family Size (includes an individual or a couple & their dependents) | Total Family Income |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 person | \$35,000 |
| 2 persons | \$45,000 |
| 3 persons | \$47,500 |
| 4 persons | \$50,000 |
| 5 persons | \$52,500 |
| For each additional person in the family | + \$2,500 to the family income |


** Your total (family) income should be less than the amount shown in the chart above.*



**Drop off only, for more
information Call Wheatland
FCSS
Ph: 403-934-5335**

HOW WE'RE IMPROVING
INCOME TAX FILING

FILING BY PHONE

File a return by answering a series of short questions over the phone

FILING BY MAIL

Paper filers from past years will now receive their tax package in the mail directly

1-800-959-8281


www.canada.ca/taxes-help



2023 Property Assessment Re-Inspection Cycle

Property re-inspection is a provincial policy requiring municipalities to perform ongoing re-inspections and complete overall inspections of all properties over a five-year cycle. Wheatland County assesses residential and non-residential properties to determine their estimated market value annually, which is the basis for your property taxes.

Wheatland County Assessment Services will be performing property assessment re-inspections of improved parcels located in Range 23 and 24, including Eagle Lake, Namaka and Nightingale. The purpose of these re-inspections is to update property assessment information.

For the fourth year, the County is utilizing Residential Request for Information forms to streamline the re-inspection process for property owners and County Assessors. In April, a letter was sent to all residential property owners who are due for a re-inspection, requesting self-reporting of changes to their property. If we received a response, the Assessor will only take digital photos of the buildings during the site inspection.

If no response was received, then a re-inspection will require taking photographs, asking questions to confirm building information and may require the buildings to be measured. All Assessors carry personal

identification and wear a high visibility vest. The vehicle entering the yard site will be clearly marked with the Wheatland County logo and "Assessment Department" signage. Assessors will also adhere to all safety procedures.

The inspections will occur during the months of June, July, August and possibly September. If required, a call back card may be placed on the main entrance door of the residence or another conspicuous location, to request and gather assessment information.

The Assessment Department strives to prepare and maintain a fair and equitable property assessment base and would like to thank residents in advance for their cooperation during the 2023 assessment re-inspections.

Should concerns arise during these inspections, please contact:

Dennis Klem

Manager of Assessment Services

Ph: 403-361-2009

Email: dennis.klem@wheatlandcounty.ca



2023 Tax Notice

Notices were sent April 21, 2023

Property taxes are due June 30, 2023.

If you are paying through your bank, please select 'Wheatland County—Taxes' and use your roll number as the account number. If you own more than one property, you will need to pay for each property separately, using the roll number for each individual property.

Detailed information about payment options is online at

www.wheatlandcounty.ca/taxes/.

Please note, a penalty of 5% will be applied to unpaid balances after June 30, 2023, and again on November 30, 2023.

If you are on a Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP), no action is required, and your payments will be automatically adjusted for the new tax year.

If you have questions about your taxes, please contact the Wheatland County Corporate and Financial Services Department at tax@wheatlandcounty.ca, or call 403-934-3321.

DID YOUR ADDRESS CHANGE THIS YEAR?

If Canada Post changed your mailing address, please contact us to ensure your tax account is up to date.

Wheatland County sources property ownership and mailing address information from Alberta Land Titles Office and the Certificate of Title. It is the property owners' responsibility to ensure their Land Title record is accurate and up to date.

To update your address, please complete a Change of Address Form and mail the original signed copy to the Land Titles Office.

Land Titles Office Mailing Address:
Calgary Alberta Land Titles Office
Box 7575
Calgary, AB, T2P 2R4

Street Address: 710 4th Ave. S.W., Calgary
Phone: (403) 297-6511
Fax: (403) 297-8641
Email: lto@gov.ab.ca

Due to the delay in processing at the Land Titles Office, Wheatland County will accept a copy of the Change of Address Form directly from ratepayers. Wheatland County will update the property owner's address in anticipation of receiving the finalized registration from the Land Titles Office.

If you do not receive your tax notice by mid-May, please contact the Wheatland County Administration Office.

- Taxes are due June 30th and late penalties are applied July 1st.
- Non-receipt of your property tax bill does not exempt you from late payment penalties.
- Under the Municipal Government Act, Section 337, a tax notice is deemed to have been received seven days after it is sent.

To obtain a Change of Address Form:

- **Online:** Visit wheatlandcounty.ca/taxes/, click on 'Taxes' and select the 'Change of Mailing Address Form'. Please complete the form and email it to tax@wheatlandcounty.ca.
- **Visit** the County Office to complete the form in person.





2023

Gravel Sales Dates

Building a road approach or upgrading your driveway? Did you know, Wheatland County residents are able to purchase crushed gravel and pitrun at a reduced cost?

Gravel tickets can be purchased at the Wheatland County Administration office from Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Applications are available on the Wheatland County website at wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/gravel-sales/.

Residents will be able to redeem their gravel tickets between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the set days and locations as outlined below:

June 14th and 15th, 2023

Goldsmith Pit (Cluny)
Located at NE-8-22-21-W4
7/8" Crush & Pit Run

July 5th and 6th, 2023

Christensen Pit (Carseland)
Located at NE-03-22-25-W4
3/4" Crush & Pit Run

August 9th and 10th, 2023

Fish Lake Pit (Dalum)
Located at NE-28-26-18-W4
7/8" Crush & Pit Run

Dust Control

Wheatland County is now accepting applications for Dust Control. Prices and deadlines are as follows.

| Calcium Chloride | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| First application order deadline | May 19, 2023 |
| Second application order deadline | June 9, 2023 |
| Price | County Roads: \$5.33/meter plus GST |

| Oiling | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Application order deadline | July 7, 2023 |

- » Payment must be received with completed application(s).
- » Dust Control will only proceed if there is sufficient interest.
- » Minimum order 122 meters (400 ft.).
- » Wheatland County applies a one-time double spray application of calcium chloride for all purchased calcium dust controls.
- » Applications are available at the County office or on the County website www.wheatlandcounty.ca





Environmental Stewardship

AWARDS

Do you know someone who cares about their environmental footprint, or goes above and beyond to benefit our Wheatland County landscape in some way?

Nominate them for an Award!

Community Stewardship Award

This award recognizes a Wheatland County community member or group that has made an outstanding contribution to environmental sustainability in the municipality. All Wheatland County residents or community groups are eligible for this award.

Youth Stewardship Award

This award will be given to an individual or group of individuals under the age of eighteen who have shown leadership or strong interest in environmental stewardship. Wheatland County residents, community groups, and school groups are eligible for this award.

J. Laslo Legacy Award

This award will be given to an agricultural producer in Wheatland County who has shown leadership in the implementation of beneficial management practices. The winner is dedicated to reducing the environmental impacts of their operation, and has an interest in promoting positive efforts to others in the industry.

Award recipients will be recognized by Council at Wheatland County's Annual General Meeting, their name will be added to a plaque displayed at the County office, and they will receive a \$250 cash prize!

Nomination Information

Contact the Agriculture and Environment Department:

Ph: 403-361-2000

Email: AgandEnv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Submit nominations by **January 1st, 2024**

For more information, visit:

wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/environmentalstewardshipawards

2023 Roadside Mowing & Weed Spraying Schedule

County staff will begin mowing vegetation and spot spraying weeds of all municipal roadsides in mid-June. Weeds will be sprayed with Clearview herbicide (PCP #29752). The following schedule gives you an approximate date of when the mower/sprayers will be in the listed Grader Division (GD).

| Grader Division | Start Date: First Cut | Completion Date |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| West Rotation | | |
| GD 04 | Mid June | Late June |
| GD 08 | Early July | Mid July |
| GD 07 | Mid July | Late July |
| GD 01 | Early August | Mid August |
| GD 05 | Mid August | Late August |
| East Rotation | | |
| GD 03 | Mid June | Late June |
| GD 10 | Early July | Mid July |
| GD 06 | Mid July | Late July |
| GD 02 | Early August | Mid August |
| GD 09 | Mid August | Late August |
| Grader Division | Start Date: Second Cut | Completion Date |
| West Rotation | | |
| GD 04 | Early Sept | Mid Sept |
| GD 08 | Mid Sept | Early Oct |
| GD 07 | Early Oct | Mid Oct |
| GD 01 | Mid Oct | Early Nov |
| GD 05 | Early Nov | Mid Nov |
| East Rotation | | |
| GD 03 | Early Sept | Mid Sept |
| GD 10 | Mid Sept | Early Oct |
| GD 06 | Early Oct | Mid Oct |
| GD 02 | Mid Oct | Early Nov |
| GD 09 | Early Nov | Mid Nov |
| Please note that the 2023 Roadside Mowing & Weed Spraying Schedule is weather and equipment permitting. The schedule may be subject to change. | | |



Agriculture & Environment Department

ASB Bursary

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

Application packages are available from the Wheatland County Administration Office or on the Wheatland County website www.wheatlandcounty.ca

Application Deadline: September 15, 2023

Roadside Haying Applications

Landowners wishing to hay municipal Right-Of-Ways must submit an application and complete an Access and Work Agreement by **June 30, 2023**

For more information, visit the County website or contact the Agriculture and Environment Department.



**For more information contact the
Agriculture & Environment Department
Phone: 403-934-3321
Email: agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca**

WFCSS Transportation Assistance



We know that the costs of getting to and from medical appointments can cause people to choose between getting the proper medical care they need or saving money. WFCSS can now offer assistance with transportation costs to medical appointments.

For more information about eligibility, please call WFCSS at 403-934-5335.



Your clocks have sprung forward...
Now it's time to check your water
fixtures for any sprung leaks!



Spring is here!

Be sure to check for signs of water leaks, both indoors and outdoors, while you launch into Spring cleaning mode.

Why?

Water expands when it freezes. This means that areas holding water might be forced to expand beyond size limits; therefore, causing cracks and leaks.

Spring Leak Prevention Checklist:

- ☐ Complete a leaky toilet test using food colouring
- ☐ Check water drains for clogs
- ☐ Replace the filter in your refrigerator should you have a water/ice dispenser and inspect lines (twice yearly)
- ☐ Ensure your dishwasher is draining fully after a completed cycle
- ☐ Inspect water hoses on home appliances for external damage or wear
- ☐ Inspect garden hoses for external damage or wear
- ☐ Inspect all faucets and spigots on the inside and outside your home for drips
- ☐ Inspect outdoor water sprinkler systems for damage or wear

This is not an exhaustive list. If you suspect there may be major plumbing leaks, please consult with a plumbing professional.

CAN YOU HANDLE THE HEAT?

Are you wanting to give back or become more involved in your community? Wheatland County Fire Services is recruiting volunteer firefighters!

Minimum requirements:

- 18 years of age
- Valid class 5 drivers licence
- No criminal record
- Good physical health

All new volunteer firefighters are put through our recruit training program.



If you're interested or have questions, please call or email Michael Bourgon, Manager of Emergency and Fire Services at 403-361-2003 or Michael.bourgon@wheatlandcounty.ca

wheatlandcounty.ca



Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERSHIP FEES

**Solo Enterprise and/or
Community Member**

\$76.95/ YEAR

6-10 Employees

\$234.45/ YEAR

11+ Employees

\$286.95/ YEAR

THESWCC.CA

SWCC Benefit Plans

Did you know that Strathmore Wheatland Chamber Of Commerce (SWCC) has benefit plans available for their members?

Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce is a vital part of the ongoing growth that is taking part in our community. The SWCC provides access to networking and education opportunities that lead to support for businesses, and the acquisition of new insights, resources, and economic growth for all member. Additionally, members can take advantage of the Chambers group insurance plan. It is the simple, stable, smart choice for businesses; combining accessibility, flexibility, and stability of pooled benefits.

For more information and to get a free quote, visit their website <https://www.theswcc.ca/>

WHAT DO YOU NEED HELP WITH?

Whether you're just starting out, trying to expand your business, or looking for some guidance on how to sell your company, Community Futures is here for you every step of the way.



Starting a Business

Let our team of experienced advisors help you get started.



Growing a Business
Our team is here to ensure you have the resources & financing you need to succeed.



Buying a Business

We can help with business planning, strategy, or securing financing.



Digital Economy Program

The Digital Economy Program (DEP) is designed to help entrepreneurs take their businesses online.

Our Digital Service Squads will guide businesses through:

- digital transformation and/or
- launching and managing their online stores.

Small business can apply to participate in one or both programs, free of charge.



Building our region, One Idea at a Time

Whether you need help writing your business plan, securing financing, or exploring your online marketing opportunities, our business specialists can help.

We've been helping small business owners in the Wild Rose region for over 30 years. We're business owners too - and we know what it takes - so call and book an appointment today!

Get one-on-one support with our experienced local business specialists

OUR SERVICES

1. Small business support and guidance.
2. Flexible financial support to start and grow your business.
3. Small business skills and training for rural entrepreneurs.



ABOUT US

Staffed by seasoned business professionals, and guided by a volunteer Board of Directors, we're more than just a business lender.

With over 30 years of experience helping rural entrepreneurs grow and thrive as small business owners, we understand where you are now, and where you want to go in the future.



Ready for the next steps? Let's chat.

Phone
403.934.8888

Website
www.wildrose.albertacf.com

Email
wildroseinfo@albertacf.com

Office
101, 331 3rd Ave.
Strathmore, Alberta



www.wildrose.albertacf.com



Principes Économiques
Développement Canada

Développement économique
Canada pour les Prairies

WHEATLAND

Safe Water Wells Action Program

Enabling landowners to protect groundwater quality in Wheatland County

UP TO \$6000 IN FUNDING

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 Adaptor Well Pit Conversion**
75% up to \$3500 per well
- **Decommissioning of Unused Wells**
75% up to \$2500 per well

Program Guidelines

- Landowners may receive a maximum of \$6000 over a three-year period on a combination of projects. Project category maximums also apply on a three-year basis
- GST is not eligible for funding.
- Applications will be approved by the Agriculture and Environment Department on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding is limited to an annual budget which is subject to change without notice.
- **This program is not retroactive.** Applications must be approved prior to purchase of materials or services.
- The landowner is responsible for obtaining all required permits and approvals prior to initiating a project.
- The landowner is responsible for labour and equipment costs associated with projects over and above the funding maximums, as well as for ongoing project maintenance.
- Work on groundwater wells must be completed by a certified well driller
- Wheatland County staff may include information about funded projects in advertisements or publications associated with Wheatland County.
- Approved projects that are completed by **October 15th** will be prioritized, funding will not be guaranteed after this date.
- Applicants will be reimbursed following the completion of the project and submission of invoices.
- *The personal information in this form is collected under the authority of s. 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and is used solely for collecting information regarding your Safe Water Wells Action Program application at Wheatland County. Questions about collection of this information can be directed to the FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321 OR admin@wheatlandcounty.ca.*

LANDOWNER DETAILS

Landowner Name(s):

Address (including Postal Code):

Email Address:

Phone Number(s):

PROJECT DETAILS

Rural Address or Legal Description(s):

Owned or Rented Land?

Project Type (check all that apply):

☐ **Decommissioning of Unused Wells**

Number wells to be decommissioned:

☐ **Pitless Adaptor Well Pit Conversion Project**

Number of well pits to be converted:

Please describe your project:

This program is not retroactive

Applications must be approved prior to purchase of materials or services

PROJECT BUDGET

| Project Type | Description of Expense <i>i.e. Contracted Services, Supplies, Labour (\$25 hour)</i> | Estimate of Expenses | Actual Cost (Office Only) |
|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Well Decommissioning 75% up to \$2500 per well | | | |
| Pitless Adaptor Conversion 75% up to \$3500 per well | | | |
| Total Project Cost: | | | |
| Total Amount Covered (Office Only) | | | |

PROJECT AGREEMENT

- ☐ I am the registered landowner
- ☐ I am not the registered landowner; however, I have discussed the project with the person who owns the land, and have gotten permission to complete this project.

In signing this contract, I agree to acquire all permits, approvals, or permissions required for this project. I understand that I am responsible for all costs associated with the project, except for those cost-shared with Wheatland County under this agreement, at the rates applicable to each project type. I accept responsibility for constructing and maintaining the project, and for ongoing project maintenance costs. I will submit receipts to Wheatland County by December 15th of this calendar year, or I understand that my project will no longer be eligible for funding. I agree to inclusion of information about my project in advertisements or publications about the program, and will submit photos of the completed project, if requested, before funding is dispersed to me.

I, _____, hereby certify that the information given on this form is full and complete and is, to the best of my knowledge, a true statement of facts relating to this application.

The applicant hereby waives and releases Wheatland County and its employees, agents, and representatives, and indemnifies and holds harmless the County from any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, actions or proceedings related to or arising from this agreement and project.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

PROJECT APPROVAL

FOR WHEATLAND COUNTY USE ONLY:

| |
|--|
| Prior to Project Initiation: |
| Project Approval (A&E Staff): |
| Date of Project Approval: |
| Has landowner received funding in the last three years? |
| YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximum amount of eligible funding: |
| Project Completion: |
| Date on invoices provided is after project approval date above? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Amount of funding to be dispensed: \$ |
| Project Completion (A&E Staff): |
| Date: |
| |

Program Contact

Please return completed forms to Wheatland County
Attn: Sarah Schumacher
Email: Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca or by
Fax: 403-934-4889 or in person at the county
administration building
If you have questions regarding the program or application
contact Sarah Schumacher Ph: 403-361-2027

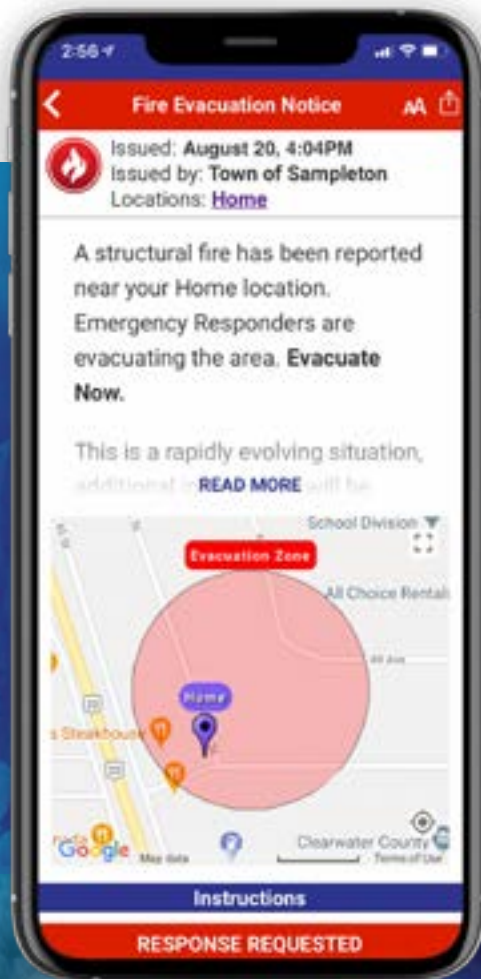
WHEATLAND COUNTY **NOTIFICATION SERVICE**



CRITICAL INCIDENT
NOTIFICATIONS



EVERYDAY
COMMUNICATIONS



REGISTER **NOW!**



MOBILE APP USERS

Download and install the Voyent Alert! app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.



Register online to receive email, voice or text-based alerts at:
register.voyent-alert.com

Shelterbelt & Ecobuffer Seedling Program

Up to \$2000 in funding!

Wheatland County Agriculture & Environment Department agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca Ph: 403-361-2000

This program supports landowners planting trees and shrubs throughout the County. There are many benefits of planting trees and shrubs which include:

- Improved building energy efficiency
- Adds aesthetic value to yard and landscape
- Provides wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Decreases soil erosion and crop damage
- Reduces standing water
- Snow capture for drift management and improved moisture retention.

What is a shelterbelt?

Means a row or rows of plantings made up of trees and/or shrubs that are positioned in such a manner as to provide shelter from the wind, snow, and to protect soil from erosion.

What is an Ecobuffer

Eco-Buffers are plantings of perennial species (i.e. trees, shrubs, and/or herbaceous plants) designed to mimic a natural forest habitat that provides specific ecosystem services.

Planting & Maintenance

Mulching and watering (for a minimum of 3 years), planting as early as possible in the spring or late fall, and excluding livestock from the area are essential factors for successful establishment of trees and shrubs.

Additional Funding & Support

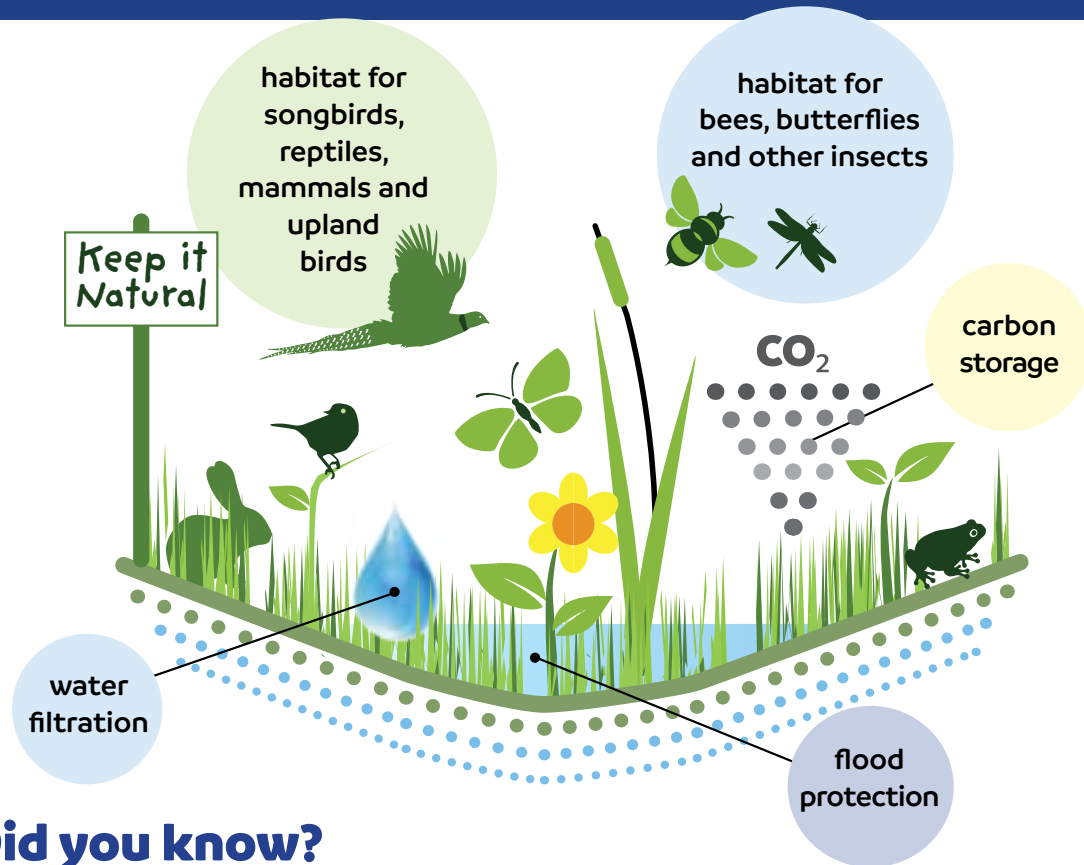
- Additional funding may be available through the Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship and ALUS program for projects on agricultural land. For more information about these programs and support for ecobuffer design contact Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca or Ph:403-333-6943
- Visit the Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society awes-ab.ca for factsheets on tree planting in Alberta
- Wheatland County has a tree planter available to rent for \$50/day. Contact agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Program Guidelines

- THIS PROGRAM IS NOT RETROACTIVE Applications must be approved prior to purchase of all project components. Program opens **November 1st**.
- Applicants may receive up to **\$2000** per year for the following
 - **\$2.50 per Seedling (1-2yr old) to a maximum of \$1000**
 - **\$500 for Drip Irrigation supplies**
 - **\$500 Mulch (fibre, wood, plastic etc.)**
- GST and shipping costs are not eligible
- Planting must occur on land within Wheatland County.
- Wheatland County ratepayers are eligible for funding for personal, residential or farm use. Commercial or industrial businesses are not eligible. **Plants or materials purchased through the program may not be used for commercial resale.**
- Applications will be approved by the Agriculture and Environment Department on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Applicant is responsible for all costs associated with projects over and above the funding maximum, as well as for ongoing project maintenance.
- **Planting projects must be compliant with the Wheatland County Land Use Bylaw setbacks. "no shrub, tree, shelterbelt or any other obstruction shall be erected or placed within:**
 - *i. 15.24 m (50.0 ft) from the nearest limit of a public road rights-of-way.*
 - *ii. 22.86 m (75.0 ft) from an intersection of two or more road rights-of-way."*
- The applicant will be reimbursed when the project is complete.
- Receipts are due by **June 30th**
- Applicants must submit photos of the finished project by **July 31st**
- Non-eligible species include; Autumn and Russian Olive, Common Barberry, Common Buckthorn, and Saltcedar.
- Not recommended: Caragana

Save the Edges!

The natural benefits of leaving public roadside ditches and right-of-ways intact.



Did you know?

Naturally-vegetated public roadside ditches and right-of-ways:

- Filter excess nutrients including phosphorous and nitrogen, preventing them from entering our rivers, lakes and groundwater systems.
- Minimize overland flooding by storing, slowing and absorbing excess water, helping to protect roads, culverts and agricultural fields.
- Store thousands of tons of carbon, preventing it from entering the atmosphere.
- Provide homes for pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths and beetles.
- Sustain species that prey on agricultural pests.
- Provide thousands of acres of habitat for grassland-dependent mammals and birds, including pheasants and grey partridge.



Keep public roadside ditches and right-of-ways natural.

pheasantsforever.ca/save-the-edges

Funding for Save the Edges provided by
Alberta Environment and Parks.

FIRE SAFETY



Emergency Preparedness Week: May 7 to 13, 2023
Build Preparedness Habits.

Fire Permits

A fire which is contained in an incinerator, barbeque or residential fire pit does not require a Fire Permit under **Bylaw 2019-06**. In Wheatland County a fire permit is required for any other type of controlled fire. There is no charge for a fire or fireworks permit. If conditions are breached or the weather deteriorates, permits may be cancelled at any time. Upon suspension or cancellation of any notification; which will include immediately extinguishing any fire set according to their permit.

Our Fire Bans are applicable to only our County. Other jurisdictions and Provincial Parks will have their own regulations. Refer to albertafirebans.ca

Fire Permit applications can be found on the County website www.wheatlandcounty.ca/firepermits or email fireservices@wheatlandcounty.ca for more information.

Sky Lanterns & Fire Crackers

Wheatland County Fire Services would like to remind residents that:

- Fire Crackers and Flying Lanterns (also known as a sky lantern) are prohibited in Alberta. If you see them being used, call 911 and report it to the Fire Department immediately.
- Fireworks are regulated under Section 5.7 of the National Fire Code – Alberta Edition and a permit is required to launch fireworks.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property — and their neighborhood — much safer from wildfire.

Action Items to Improve Your Home's Survivability:

- **REMOVE** leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **SCREEN** areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
- **COVER** exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves to help prevent ember entry.
- **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. **REPLACE** missing shingles or tiles. **COVER** ends of tiles with bird stops or cement to help prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

Tips for Landscaping Around Your Home

- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to help reduce fire intensity.
- **PRUNE** tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the crowns of the trees.
- **MOVE** construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
- **DISPOSE** of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Increase your wildfire safety. Make simple low-cost changes to your home and landscape starting today!

Visit **www.firewise.org** for more information.

Driveway Etiquette

Ensure emergency access to your property

Driveways require a minimum of four metres (12 feet) vertical clearance and a minimum of four metres (12 feet) width to provide safety access for firefighting and other emergency vehicles.

Any driveway longer than 90 metres (300 feet) should have a turn-out space to allow fire trucks or other firefighting equipment to pass or to turn around.

Do not block your access route with gates, archways or other things that will impede the entrance of emergency vehicles.

Park your vehicles off to the side and keep clutter from blocking the driveway.

If you have a dugout or other water source like a lake or river, ensure that there is access to allow trucks to fill with water.



IT'S A BIG WORLD.
LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER!

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

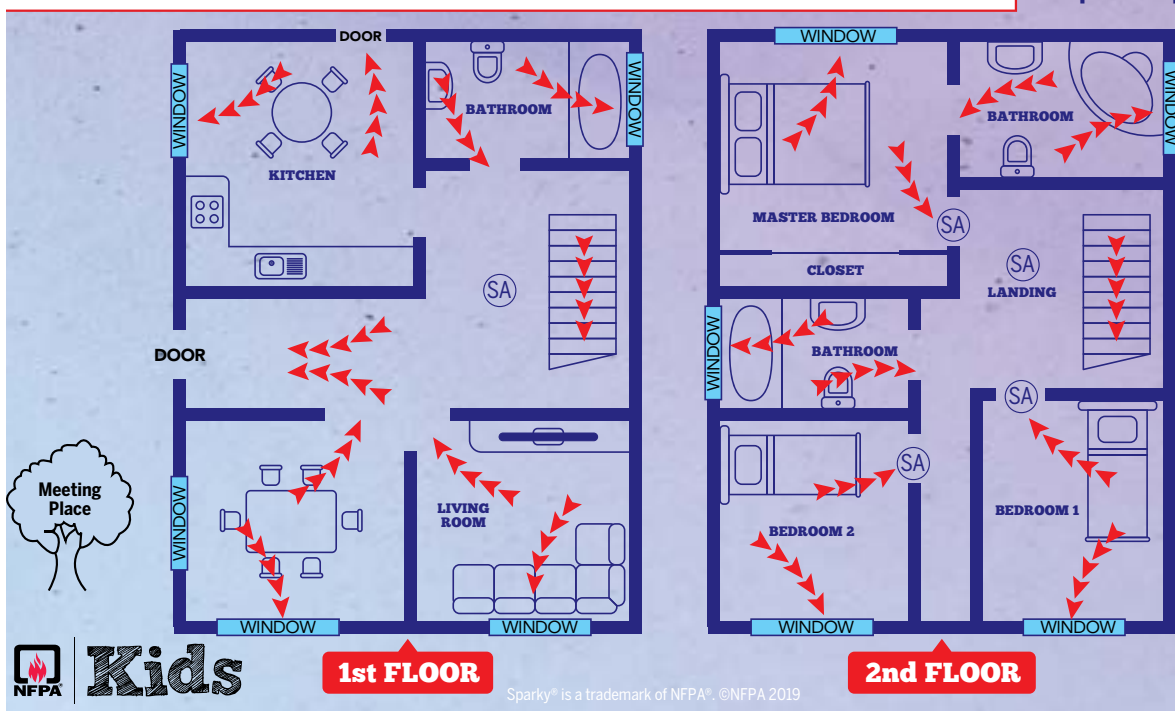
NFPA® — The Official Sponsor of Fire Prevention Week Since 1922



Visit Sparky.org
for more activities!

- ☐ Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- ☐ Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- ☐ All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- ☐ Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- ☐ Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- ☐ Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- ☐ Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- ☐ Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- ☐ Practice your home fire drill!
- ☐ Make your own home fire escape plan

Sample Escape Plan



Kids

1st FLOOR

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2nd FLOOR

Wheatland County **WEEDUCATION** **DOWNY Brome**

Bromus tectorum

Alberta Weed Act Designation **Noxious**

Noxious Weeds have the ability to spread rapidly, cause severe crop losses and economic hardship. These weeds must be controlled to prevent further establishment and spread. It is a landowners duty to control this plant if it occurs on their property

Native to the Mediterranean, downy brome (cheatgrass, downy chess) is a winter annual in the Poaceae (Grass) family. Prefers cool, semi-arid environments with coarse sandy or loamy soils on sunny, south/west facing slopes. Reproduces by seed (up to 5,000 seeds per plant). Hand-pulling, grazing or herbicide.

Similar Species

Non-Native: Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*), field brome (*Bromus squarrosus*)

Native: May resemble native brome grasses before seed-set, which are perennial rather than annual.

Leaf

Leaf blades are long, 2-4 mm wide and covered with soft hairs; ligule is 1-3 mm long and toothed.

1. Mature Plant/ Infestation

Stems are covered in soft hairs and up to 5-60 cm tall dependent on moisture availability.

2. Flower

Flowering spike droops to one side, reddish-purple at maturity, 7-20 cm long; awns are reddish, twisted, long and covered with soft hairs.

Root

Fibrous roots up to 1.5 m deep.



For more information
Visit www.abinvasives.ca



Contact the Agricultural Services Officer for information about invasive species management in Wheatland County at Ph: 403-934-4949 or Email: agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca



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