



CONNEC

December 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= **\$32**MEDIUM which offers 35-40 pounds of food= **\$37**LARGE which offers 45-50 pounds of food= **\$42**

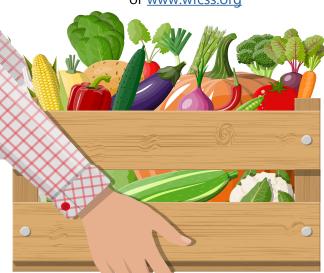
Each box contains the basic produce staples: potatoes, carrots, onions, apples and oranges with additional seasonal fruits and vegetables rounding out the weight.

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 2024.

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



Payment options: cash or cheque upon pick up, visa, mastercard, or e-transfer to info@wfcss.org

Note: e-transfer must be received two days prior to delivery date.

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.

2024 order and delivery dates:

The state of the s	
rder before 12:00 PM on:	Pickup between 2-4PM on:
January 9	January 19
January 30	February 9
February 27	March 8
April 23	May 3
May 21	May 31
June 11	June 21
Summer Break	
August 13	August 23
September 10	September 20
October 1	October 11
October 29	November 8
November 26	December 6

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

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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.

MARCH 4

MARCH 18

MARCH 28

APRIL 15

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.

Meals On Wheels is available 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.

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.

Check out the new and updated menu options

available at www.wfcss.org

NEW Order/Pick up Schedule 2024 ORDER PICK UP

JANUARY 8 JANUARY 16 **JANUARY 22 JANUARY 30 FEBRUARY 5** FEBRUARY 13 FEBRUARY 16 FEBRUARY 27 MARCH 12 MARCH 4 MARCH 18 MARCH 26 APRIL 9 APRIL 15 APRIL 23 APRIL 29 MAY 7 MAY 13 MAY 21 **MAY 27 JUNE 4** JUNE 10 JUNE 18 JUNE 24 JULY 2 JULY 8 **JULY 16** JULY 22 IULY 30 **AUGUST 2 AUGUST 13 AUGUST 19 AUGUST 27 AUGUST 30** SEPTEMBER 10 SEPTEMBER 16 SEPTEMBER 24 SEPTEMBER 30 **OCTOBER 8** OCTOBER 11 OCTOBER 22 OCTOBER 28 NOVEMBER 5 NOVEMBER 8 **NOVEMBER 19 NOVEMBER 25** DECEMBER 3

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



COMMUNITY FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WFCSS is pleased to announce a new subsidy program available to residents of Hussar, Rockyford, Standard and Wheatland County.

Wheatland County in partnership with Wheatland Wind Project LP and East Strathmore Solar Project/Elemental Energy have created the Community Fee Assistance Program to give families and individuals an affordable option to participate in recreation, arts, libraries, culture programs and activities such as exercise or sports (drop-in or formal). This program will also assist in the cost of travelling to these activities.

For more information on this program please contact WFCSS directly at: 403-934-5335 - or - info@wfcss.org

To download a subsidy program application, please visit the WFCSS website at www.wfcss.org or stop by the WFCSS office located inside the Wheatland County Municipal Building.





wheatlandwind.com





elementalenergy.ca





Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- (!) More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- (!) More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.









Community Enhancement Regional Board

WHEATLAND COUNTY INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

Wheatland County recognizes that its residents utilize various recreational, cultural, and other community enhancement facilities and resources. Therefore, the County has established the Community Enhancement Fund to provide financial support for such venues and activities.

The Community Enhancement Fund provides grant funding from Wheatland County to enhance, promote, and support groups and organizations that bring a broad spectrum of enjoyment, benefits, beautification, recreation, entertainment, participation, and enhancement projects to Wheatland County. The program aims to annually invest taxpayer dollars in supporting recreational, cultural, and other community activities, facilities, and resources utilized by Wheatland County residents.

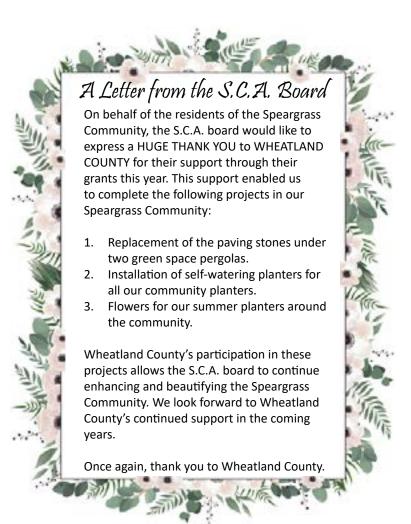
How to Apply:

Applications and Guidelines for the Community Enhancement Fund are available at the Wheatland County Office and on the County website. To view the applications and guidelines, visit www.wheatlandcounty.ca/cerb

Deadline:

Applications must be post marked on or before **January 31, 2024.**

For more information please contact Jessica Salmon at 403-361-2021 or jessica.salmon@wheatlandcounty.ca







NOTE: This program is not retroactive, an application must be submitted and approved before starting your project.

Program Contact

Please contact Sarah Schumacher to submit an application form or for questions regarding the program.

Ph: 403-361-2027

Email: Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca

What is a riparian area?

Riparian areas are moist areas of water loving vegetation that border a stream, river, lake or wetland. They are very important ecologically, socially and economically. A healthy riparian area helps reduce streambank erosion, traps sediments, filters pollutants, provides fish and wildlife habitat, improves water quality and provides livestock forage.

Riparian Pasture Management tips:

Managing livestock access to riparian areas can help to improve vegetation health and riparian function.

- Avoid direct access by livestock to a creek or wetland by fencing or providing an alternative water source (i.e. off site watering system, groundwater well, dugout etc.).
- Delayed use, grazing riparian pasture in late summer or early fall instead of spring.
- Allow for rest periods after a grazing period during the growing season or full season rest periods.
- Balance animal demand with available forage, and avoid repeated overgrazing.
- Distribute livestock evenly in pasture (i.e. by using cross fencing, water and minerals).
- Create a grazeable riparian corridor which allows for better management of riparian pastures.
- Not all riparian areas are suitable for grazing and should be excluded (i.e. eroded banks, low areas.)

Program Details

The purpose of this program is to improve and restore the riparian function and watershed resiliency of the watersheds in Wheatland County by assisting producers with the costs associated riparian management.

Eligible Items

Riparian Streambank Fencing

for greater control and management of riparian areas and water sources and to manage livestock access to riparian areas.

- ▶ 80% of eligible expenses will be reimbursed
- Applicants are eligible for a maximum \$15,000 at a rate \$12/m

Livestock Off-Site Watering Systems

to limit or eliminate direct access by livestock to riparian areas and water source.

- ▶ Up to 80% of eligible expenses will be reimbursed
- Applicants are eligible for a maximum \$10,000 per system and \$30,000 total.

Livestock Creek Crossing Projects

to maintain or improve water quality, bank stability and reduce the amount of time cattle spend in a waterbody and riparian areas.

- ▶ Up to 100% of eligible expenses will be reimbursed
- Applicants are eligible for a maximum \$30,000

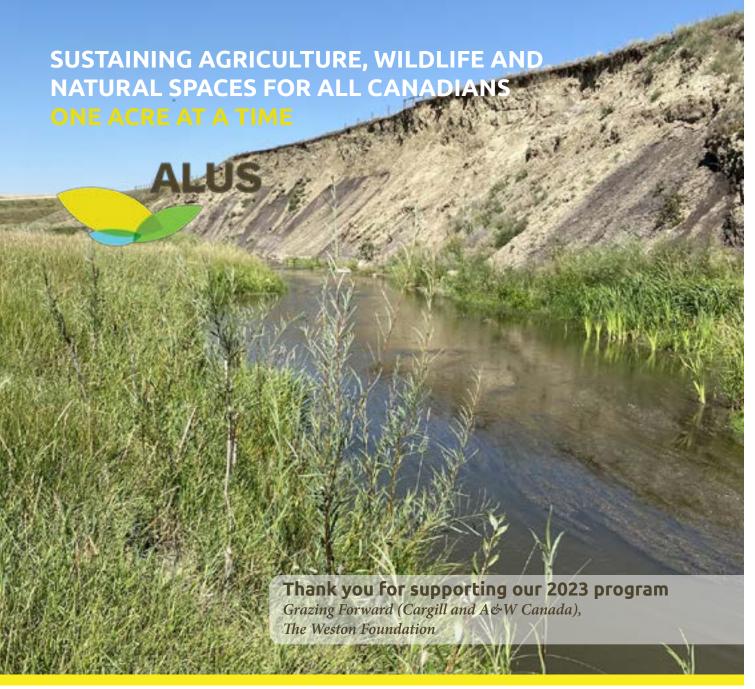
Ineligible Items

- Replacement of existing fence, cross fencing or perimeter fencing.
- Costs associated with drilling a well or constructing a new dugout.
- Off-site watering systems for use on irrigation canals and dugouts

RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 8, 2024 - OLDS COLLEGE





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



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.









Wheatland County's New Investment Hub and Business Resource Platform

Wheatland County is thrilled to announce that the Infinite WC website has officially been retired to make way for the grand debut of 'Invest in Wheatland'!

This dynamic website is tailored specifically to cater to investors, spotlighting Wheatland County's unique value propositions, providing comprehensive insights into prime site selections, and offering extensive information about key industries.

'Invest in Wheatland' stands as the ultimate destination, serving as a convenient onestop hub for potential investors and anyone intrigued by the county's offerings and opportunities.

Additionally, 'Invest in Wheatland' hosts an expansive County business directory! If your business operates within Wheatland County and you're looking to boost visibility, check it out today!



Explore 'Invest in Wheatland' at INVESTWC.CA



When you visit 'Invest in Wheatland', you will also see that Wheatland County has a new Business and Community Profile, featuring comprehensive information about local businesses, the economy, hamlets, events, and much more. Explore our vibrant community today!

We extend a special thanks to Steve Jeffrey, a local photographer, for providing the captivating cover images.

INVEST IN

WHEATLAND



Max Phillips
University of
Saskatchewan for a
Degree in
Agribusiness



Keegan Watt
University of
Victoria for
Environmental
Restoration Major



Gracie Piper
Olds College
Diploma in
Agriculture
Management Major
in Agricommerce



Griffin Koester (no photo available) Laramie College Trades majoring in Welding

2023 BURSARY WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS!



Landon Schelske
Olds College for
Agriculture and Heavy
Equipment Certificate



Lexi Kathol
Olds College for
Land Reclamation and
Remediation



Marshall Sims
Olds College for
Precision
Agriculture
Techgronomy



JAY ANDERSON

Jay Anderson is a leading-edge agricultural producer in Wheatland County. He has always been an early adopter of environmentally sustainable practices, including chem fallow, conversion to minimum-till one-pass seeding and min-till one-pass continuous cropping, to ensure the health and productivity of his land. He recognized early-on the superiority of chem fallow over cultivating when he saw that less disturbance and retention of stubble retained more moisture and protected the land from erosion. His increased yields proved that the additional costs of chem fallow were offset by better productivity.

His farm has used nutrient management practices to ensure that the correct rate of fertilizer is placed in the optimum spot using the best source. He was also one of the first producers to apply fertilizer with his irrigation pivots. This has a benefit of reduced volatilization and run-off losses and provides for better timing of fertilizer delivery when the crop needs it most.

His farm was also one of the first adopters of data collection from harvested production, leading to satellite-guided and prescription variable-rate fertilization. Recently he has adopted a sectional control system to reduce fertilizer overlap. While many farmers collect data to show where land can produce higher and lower yields, Jay actually uses the data to apply the science. All of these practices not only are economically advantageous, but they also serve to improve and sustain the soil health.



COLE HINTZ

Cole is a dedicated advocate and a leading force behind sustainable initiatives at Strathmore High School. The learning opportunities available to students are exceptional, molding them into future environmental stewards for the wider community. Notable achievements include the off-grid hydroponics wall, which supplies lettuce to the local overnight shelter. Additionally, a student-designed and built climate battery system is responsible for regulating temperature in the innovative geodesic greenhouse. This greenhouse serves as a hub for sustainable food production, vermicomposting, and education.









WHEATLAND COUNTY 2023 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS





WHEATLAND CROSSING SCHOOL

At Wheatland Crossing School, we are actively involved in numerous environmental and agriculture initiatives. Our students are enthusiastic participants in these projects. Schoolwide, they are responsible for planting and nurturing both edible and ornamental plants. From lettuce and tomatoes to peppers, they cultivate and harvest a variety of edible produce. Additionally, we are excited to announce the recent addition of a greenhouse to our school property, which will be put to use in the upcoming spring season.

















ASB 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 have their name added to a plaque displayed at the County office, and they will receive a \$250 cash prize!

Nomination Information

Submit nominations by January 1st, 2024

Contact the Wheatland Agriculture & Environment Department:

Ph: 403-361-2000

Email: AgandEnv@wheatlandcounty.ca

For more information

wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/ environmentalstewardshipawards.ca



Wheatland County
WEEDU ATION Kochia

1. Leaves

Kochia scoparia

Alberta Weed Act Designation

Not regulated

Kochia is an annual, native to central and eastern Europe and Asia. It can be found in a very wide range of temperatures and climatic regions but is particularly well adapted to drought conditions.

Just because Kochia has not been provincially regulated under the Weed Control Act, does not mean we shouldn't take this plant seriously.

Why are we seeing in increase in Kochia?

Kochia has the ability to start growing in the spring before **2. Flower** most other species so gets a head start, but it also thrives in hot, dry weather that often reduces growth in other plants, increasing its competitive advantage even more. kochia roots can penetrate to a depth of 3m or more in the soil reaching moisture that other plants cant. It can tolerate saline, drought, flood, and as the number of growing days increases so does the spread of this weed. The hairs on the leaf help to protect it from herbicide damage, and it

has a growing resistance to glyphosate.

Fear not, there are still ways to manage this weed. Early detection and quick control, using clean seed sources, early season chemical control, or mowing before seed has set, crop rotations, herbicide rotations and cultivation.



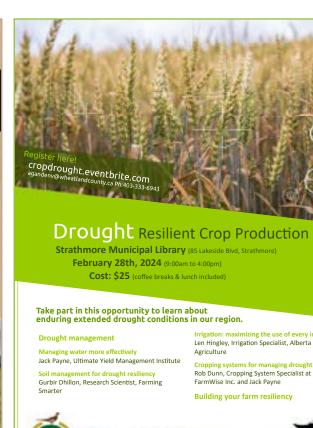
alternately arranged, 2.5cm

to 6cm long, narrow to lance



















Skills for Success - Strathmore



The Skills for Success Program will help unemployed or underemployed Albertans from the greater Strathmore area improve their skills in the following areas:

- Reading
- Communication

Writing

- Collaboration
- Numeracy
- Adaptability

Digital

- Creativity
- Problem-solving
- Innovation

Using art-based learning, participants will engage in structured lessons to learn the Skills for Success and to move closer to the work force.

The program will include 5 weeks of skill-building in the classroom, followed by 7 weeks of applying the new skills to develop public art projects in the Strathmore community. Working on a public art project will allow participants to build their community networks and further their employability skills while receiving career advising and employment support from Prospect.

A new group of participants will begin every 12 weeks. Scheduling will be flexible and modified to meet the needs of participants within each group.

What Does Prospect Do?

Prospect is an employment organization that focuses on people. Recognized as one of Alberta's most innovative not-for-profits, Prospect has decades of experience in creating employment services for unemployed and underemployed Albertans through skill development, guided supports, and career, employment and information services.

Interested?

For more information, please contact the Skills for Success Team Lead, Shantelle Vermeylen directly at **587-600-7863** or visit **www.prospectnow.ca/skillsforsuccess**

To learn more about other employment supports offered by Prospect, please call **1-877-483-2562** or visit **prospectnow.ca**





The Province of Alberta is working in partnership with the Government of Canada to provide employment support programs and services.

Save the Edges!

What is Save the Edges!

Save the Edges is an awareness campaign highlighting the impact of trespass farming on public roadside ditches and undeveloped right-of-ways. The campaign promotes enhanced protection of these important public lands in southern Alberta, and is made possible by a grant to **Pheasants Forever Canada** from Alberta Environment and Parks.

When is this happening?

This is a two-year project beginning in March of 2022.

Where will Save the Edges! be focused?

The focus is on southern Alberta municipalities that have had the greatest loss of public roadside ditch and right-of-way habitat including the MD of Acadia, Cypress County, County of Forty Mile, County of Warner, MD of Taber, Lethbridge County, Cardston County, Vulcan County, County of Newell, Wheatland County, MD of Willow Creek, Kneehill County, Starland County and Special Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Why it's Important to Save the Edges!

- Wildlife Habitat Many songbirds, small mammals, reptiles and upland birds, including pheasants and grey partridges, live on the edges. These species are heavily dependent on the abundance and availability of food resources and breeding habitat provided by natural roadside ditches and right-of-ways. In some areas, these edges provide the only available habitat.
- *Pollinator Habitat and Pest Control* These linear strips of habitat serve as important reservoirs for pollinators, including bees and butterflies. They are also home to many species that play an important role in suppressing populations of agricultural pests.
- *Flood Protection* Naturally-vegetated roadside ditches play a critical role in slowing, storing and absorbing excess water moving across the landscape. Minimizing the speed and amount of overland flooding protects municipal roads and culverts, and reduces the erosion of agricultural soils.
- *Filtering Excess Nutrients* Naturally-vegetated roadside ditches and right-of-ways are important buffers that filter excess nutrients, including phosphorous, nitrogen and other chemical products. Without these buffers, these nutrients would run unabated into our lakes and rivers, leading to deteriorated water quality.
- **Storing Carbon** The vegetation and soils in natural roadside ditches and right-of-ways store carbon, providing a much-needed public service in the fight against climate change.

What will Save the Edges! Accomplish?

It is the goal of this project to provide information that influences landowners and municipalities to reverse the trend of trespass farming, resulting in increased retention of roadside ditches and right-of-ways in their natural state, and the restoration of those previously impacted.



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

For more information: Call 1 (403) 995-9960 ext. 102 Email perry@pfcalgary.ca Visit pheasantsforever.ca

Funding provided by Alberta Environment and Parks

WHAT DO YOU **NEED HELP** WITH?

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



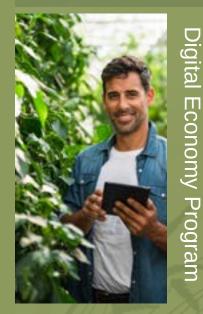




Buying a Business

Digita

Economy



The Digital Economy Program (DEP) is

- launching and managing their

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



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

Building our region, One Idea at a Time

Whether you need help writing your business plan, securing financing, or exploring your online marketing opportunities husiness 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!



OUR SERVICES



ABOUT US

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

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.

Prairies Economic Développement économique Development Genada Canada pour les Prairies





www.wildrose.albertacf.com

As winter sets in, it's important to remind everyone about the importance of clearing snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways.

In our Hamlets, residents must clear their sidewalks within 48 hours after snowfall stops. Failure to do so can result in fines and expenses for sidewalk clearing, as outlined in Wheatland County's Nuisance and Unsightly Property Bylaw.

For rural residents, it's crucial not to push snow across the roadway into the opposite ditch while clearing driveways. This action can cause problems for our graders and snow equipment that clear County Roads. Wheatland County's Traffic Bylaw prohibits depositing anything on a highway, including the ditch, leading to potential fines and clearing costs in certain situations.







The Administration Office, Agricultural Service Board Shop, and Public Works shop will be closed December 25 to January 1, with regular hours resuming on January 2, 2024.

Waste Transfer Sites:

All Wheatland County Waste Transfer Sites will be closed on December 25, December 26, January 1.

Other than the closure dates listed above, Waste Transfer Sites will be open and operate as per usual.

Visit our website to view the standard schedule at each of our sites.

Wheatland County would like to wish everyone a warm and safe Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Wheatland County 242006 Range Road 243 Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4 T: 403-934-3321 F: 403-934-4889 wheatlandcounty.ca @wheatlandcounty