



 **WHEATLAND**  
COUNTY

# CONNECTOR

February 2024

# 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](mailto:info@wfcss.org), or [www.wfcss.org](http://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.

### 2024 order and delivery dates:

#### Order before 12:00 PM on:

#### Pickup between 2- 4PM on:

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 on-line at <https://www.wfcss.org/good-food-box.html>

**Payment options:** cash or cheque upon pick up, visa, mastercard, or e-transfer to [info@wfcss.org](mailto:info@wfcss.org)

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



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.

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](http://www.wfcss.org)

## NEW Order/Pick up Schedule 2024

### ORDER

### PICK UP

MARCH 4  
MARCH 18  
**MARCH 28**  
APRIL 15  
APRIL 29  
MAY 13  
MAY 27  
JUNE 10  
JUNE 24  
JULY 8  
JULY 22  
**AUGUST 2**  
AUGUST 19  
**AUGUST 30**  
SEPTEMBER 16  
SEPTEMBER 30  
**OCTOBER 11**  
OCTOBER 28  
**NOVEMBER 8**  
NOVEMBER 25

MARCH 12  
MARCH 26  
APRIL 9  
APRIL 23  
MAY 7  
MAY 21  
JUNE 4  
JUNE 18  
JULY 2  
JULY 16  
JULY 30  
AUGUST 13  
AUGUST 27  
SEPTEMBER 10  
SEPTEMBER 24  
OCTOBER 8  
OCTOBER 22  
NOVEMBER 5  
NOVEMBER 19  
DECEMBER 3  
(Subject to change)

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





# 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](mailto:info@wfcss.org)

To download a subsidy program application, please visit the  
WFCSS website at [www.wfcss.org](http://www.wfcss.org) or stop by the WFCSS office  
located inside the Wheatland County Municipal Building.



[wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca)



[wheatlandwind.com](http://wheatlandwind.com)



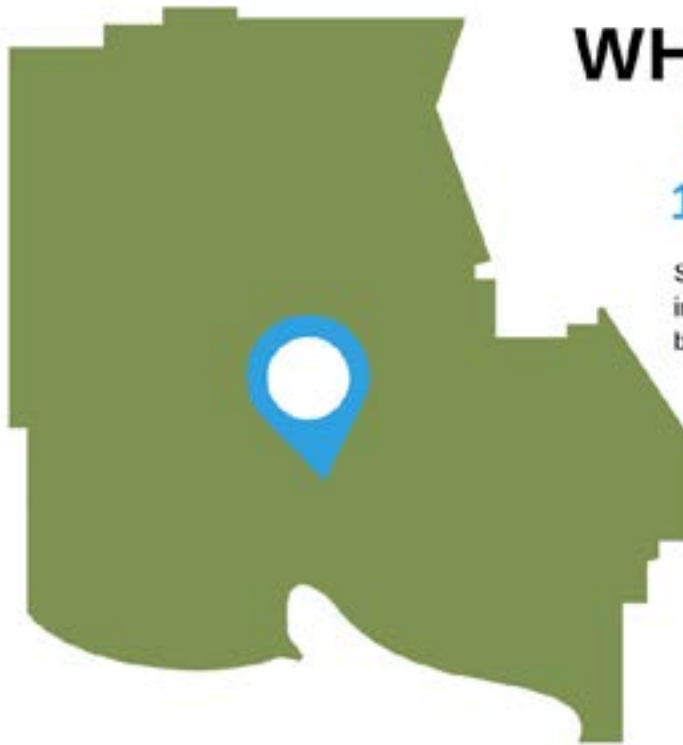
[elementalenergy.ca](http://elementalenergy.ca)



[wfcss.org](http://wfcss.org)



Since 1989, CFWR has invested over **36 Million Dollars** in loans supporting **1006 Businesses** within the Wild Rose region!



## WHEATLAND

**\$6,332,071.27**  
**149 Businesses**

Specifically, so far, CFWR has invested **\$6,332,071.27** into **149** businesses in Wheatland County!

*Empower your small business with Community Futures Wild Rose. Contact us today to see how we can help you make your dreams a reality!*



Growing communities one idea at a time



wildroseinfo@albertacf.com  
403-934-8888

wildrose.albertacf.com



Mobile Mammography Screening is coming to:

# Strathmore

April 8 to 20, 2024

Peavey Mart Parking Lot



**Appointments are required. Call to book:**

**1-800-667-0604** (toll free)

To learn more visit: [screeningforlife.ca](https://screeningforlife.ca)

*Thank you for supporting Screen Test for over 30 years.  
Together we are saving lives, one community at a time.*



**SCREENING  
FOR LIFE.CA**



Post until: Apr. 20, 2024





## **This year WFCSS will be providing FREE Tax Clinics for local residents.**

These are the following dates and locations we will be at:

<b>Gleichen St Andrew's Angelic Church</b>	March 18th	10am-4pm
	April 22nd	10am-4pm
<b>Standard Senior Centre</b>	March 19th	9am - 1pm
	April 26th	10am - 4pm
<b>Hussar Sundowners Room</b>	March 21st	10am - 2pm
	April 25th	10am- 4pm
<b>Rockyford Village office</b>	March 20th	10am - 4pm
	April 24th	10am - 4pm
<b>Carseland</b>	Dates and times to be announced	

### **You are eligible if:**

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



**For more information or to book an appointment please call 403-934-5335 or send an email to [info@wfcss.org](mailto:info@wfcss.org)**







# *Lunch and Learn*

• WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE •

**March 20 - Emergency Preparedness**

**April 17 - Photography Tips and Tricks**

**May 15 - Garden Container Arrangements and Tips**

Pre-registration required by 4pm the  
Friday prior to event date.

For more information or to register please call  
403-934-5335 or visit our website at [wfcss.org](http://wfcss.org)



Doors open at 11:45am  
242006 Rge Rd 243



# Wheatland County WEEDUCATION

## Hoary Cress

*Lepidium spp.*

### Alberta Weed Act Designation

#### Noxious Weed

Hoary Cress is a long-lived perennial of the Mustard family. It develops an extensive system of deep, vertical taproots and horizontal, rhizomatous roots. It reproduces both by seed and sprouting from lateral roots – one plant can produce a large colony. Mustards are also generally prolific seed producers – 1000 to over 4000 per plant – however the viability of hoary cress seeds is only about 3 years. Hoary cress requires direct sunlight and moderately moist to slightly dry soils. It will tolerate alkaline soils.

Native to Europe and Asia, it is believed that hoary cress was introduced to North America in the 1800's via seed contaminated ship ballast and/or contaminated crop seed. The seeds have been used to make pepper, hence the other common name of "pepper weed".

Early detection offers the best chance of eradication. Once established, hoary cress infestations will require a variety of control methods repeated through the season for several years.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>1. Leaves</b> | Gray - green or blue - green, arrowhead-shaped, 5 to 10 cm long, alternate and covered with soft, white hairs. Lower leaves are stalked and emerge from the root crown – upper leaves clasp the stem.  |
| <b>2. Flower</b> | White, about 3 to 4 mm wide, and have four petals. Numerous flowers are borne at the ends of stems in flat topped clusters. Flowering takes place early in summer, and they are pollinated by insects. |
| <b>3. Stem</b>   | Erect, slightly hairy and can grow up to 0.6 m tall. There may be several stems per plant.   |
| <b>4. Seed</b>   | Two per flower – contains 1 or 2 seeds each.   |



For more information  
Visit [www.abinvasives.ca](http://www.abinvasives.ca)

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





# ASB BURSARY PROGRAM

## Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board

Deadline: September 15, 2024

Submit application forms to [agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca)

**Are you a student studying Agricultural or Environmental studies and residing in Wheatland County?**

**Apply today for the ASB Bursary, offering support of up to \$2,500!**

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recognizes the importance of youth within the agricultural industry and rural communities in Wheatland County.

To aid students wishing to pursue a career in an agricultural or environmental related field, the ASB offers annual bursaries of up to \$10,000, with a minimum award of \$500 and a maximum award of \$2,500.

**Application packages are available from the County office or [www.wheatlandcounty.ca](http://www.wheatlandcounty.ca)**

For more information contact

Ph: 403-361-2000

[agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca)

**Submit completed applications and required supporting information to:**

[agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca) or in-person to  
Wheatland County, ASB Bursary

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

### Terms and Conditions

Please read the following information and instructions carefully before submitting an application.

1. Successful applicants will receive a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$2,500 depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria.
2. Bursaries are available to high school graduates (within 3 years) residing within the boundaries of Wheatland County.
3. Provide a copy of high school and post-secondary (if applicable) transcripts.
4. Provide a copy of your Letter of Acceptance stating the course of studies from the accredited post-secondary institute and that you are enrolled in an Program with a focus on agricultural and/or environmental studies.
5. Submit a brief essay (500 to 1000 words) that introduces yourself and highlights your involvement in volunteering or extracurricular activities within your local community or school. Additionally, outline your career aspirations and elaborate on the reasons behind your passion for agricultural and/or environmental fields.
6. Successful applicants will be selected on the grounds of academic merit, school and community activities, and a short essay.
7. Applications and required documentation will be reviewed by the ASB Bursary Committee who will make a recommendation to the Board regarding selections.
8. Funds awarded will be made payable to the student's accredited post-secondary institution with the condition that funds be used for tuition, learning resources, or accommodation. Should the student leave the institution prior to the funds being expended, the balance will be returned to Wheatland County.
9. Submit a head and shoulder photograph of yourself (digital or print) and photo consent form. Wallet sized graduation pictures are acceptable. If your application is successful the photo will be used in the ASB meeting package and County communications.
10. Paper documents and photographs will not be returned.
11. Funding is **not available** to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants, or previous bursary recipients.





# ASB Bursary Application

**Application Deadline: September 15, 2024**

**Applications must be post-marked on or before September 15, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.**

## Applicant Information

Applicant Name (s):

Address (including Postal Code):

Email:

Phone Number:

Post-Secondary Program:

Post-Secondary Institution:

## Essay

Submit a brief essay (500 to 1000 words) that introduces yourself and highlights your involvement in volunteering or extracurricular activities within your local community or school. Additionally, outline your career aspirations and elaborate on the reasons behind your passion for agricultural and/or environmental fields.

## Application Checklist

- ☐ Completed application form and essay.
- ☐ Copy of high school and/or post-secondary (if applicable) transcripts.
- ☐ Letter of Acceptance stating the course of studies from the post-secondary institute.
- ☐ Head and shoulders photograph of the applicant and photo consent form.

*Applicants will be notified of the results by November 1, 2024.*

## Personal Information and Confidentiality Statement

The personal information in this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) bursary application form is collected under the authority of s. 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Questions about collection of this information can be directed to the Wheatland County FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321 or admin@wheatlandcounty.ca.

In submitting this application, you authorize Wheatland County to disclose the information provided on this form and any supplementary information to the ASB for the purpose of determining award recipients, and for use in Wheatland County communications. Personal information such as phone number, address, and email address will not be made public.

## Declaration

I declare that the information provided is accurate or correct to the best of my knowledge, and if awarded a Bursary, I agree to comply with all Terms pertaining to this Application.

Date:

Name:

Signature:

*Persons who are under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign and print his/her name.*

Name:

Signature:

## Bursary Submission

**Send complete application with the required supporting information to:**

**Email:** agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

**Mail to:** Wheatland County, ASB Bursary

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



# Agriculture & Food Production in Wheatland County

Wheatland County, spanning 4,545 km<sup>2</sup> with 8,738 residents, thrives as an agricultural hub. Agriculture not only dominates its landscape but also serves as the cornerstone of its history, culture, and economy.

Wheatland County is the traditional homeland of the Plains Siksika–Blackfoot people, whose elders walked this land before us and with whom we respect and share this land and water today.

Proud of its farming and ranching heritage, Wheatland County showcases its legacy through century farms, agricultural events, and strong agricultural societies. The community's work ethic and devoted land stewardship fuel its strength for the future, with 825 farms producing food for local, Canadian, and global markets.

Twenty Hutterite colonies, constituting approximately 18% of the population, farm 14% of the County's land.

Wheatland County is situated in the dark brown and black Chernozemic soil zones, characteristic of the Mixedgrass (SE) and Foothills Fescue (W) subregions in the Grassland Natural Region. This landscape is abundant in natural resources, providing numerous ecosystem services.

The region ranges from 900m to 1000m in elevation and stands as the warmest and driest area in Alberta, experiencing warm summers and a longer growing season. Mild winters are a result of the warm Chinook winds. The majority of precipitation falls in June, with very little occurring in the latter part of the growing season.

The County hosts a variety of animal species, including hawks, owls, deer, moose, badgers, foxes, coyotes, and ground squirrels. Common plant species found here comprise plains rough fescue, needle-and-thread grass, various western wheat grasses, blue grama grass, buckbrush, wolf willow, wild rose, chokecherry, sandbar willow, and saskatoon.

Approximately half of the rare and endangered species are found in grasslands, while the other half inhabit various habitats, including wetlands, riparian areas, saline areas, sandy sites, and eroded slopes. Endangered and threatened species in the County include, but are not limited to, the swift fox, loggerhead shrike, piping plover, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, sprague's pipit, peregrine falcon, northern leopard frog, and prairie rattlesnake.

The County is intersected by the Red Deer River and Bow River watersheds, both of which converge into the South Saskatchewan River. The Serviceberry Creek and Rosebud River drain into the Red Deer River, while Crowfoot Creek

drains into the Bow River. Numerous pothole prairie wetlands in the County offer a range of ecological goods and services. Named bodies of water in the area include Severn Dam, Eagle, Deadhorse, Dalemead, Mattoywkiu, Seui, and Namaka Lakes. Other environmentally sensitive areas encompass native pastureland, riparian lands, solonchic and saline soils, as well as the Wintering Hills.

The Western Irrigation District, which originated before Alberta became a province, remains headquartered in Strathmore and provides irrigation water to 110,000 acres of land within Rocky View County and Wheatland County. Their network consists of 1200km of canals and pipelines that distribute water from the Bow River to over 500 farms for crop irrigation, stock watering, domestic use, and municipal supplies.

As of 2021, there are 911,364 acres of cropland within Wheatland County, indicating a 9.8% increase from 2016. Field crops cultivated in the County include wheat, barley, canola, field peas, flax, and oats.

Located within the County are three Cooperative Seed Cleaning Plants — Hussar, Rosebud, and Strathmore. Seed cleaning plants were first established in Alberta over 70 years ago to assist producers in planting optimal crops. Despite evolving changes, these facilities remain farmer-owned co-operatives, a rarity in the province.

Livestock production, including beef, dairy, hogs, sheep, and poultry, constitutes a major industry in the County. Diverse purebred cattle breeders, cow-calf operations, feedlots, and the Calgary Stockyards auction market all contribute to the local beef industry. With a cattle and calf population of 172,386 (2021), ranking 4th highest in the province, the County has witnessed a 14.8% increase over the past five years. Additionally, it boasts the largest pig population in the province at 208,307 (2021). Other livestock found in the County include horses, goats, llamas, and alpacas.

In Wheatland County, numerous farms specialize in producing and marketing niche products, offering diverse culinary experiences and agri-tourism opportunities. These products include, but are not limited to, berries, fruit wines, mushrooms, vegetables, organic crops, tree farms, and nurseries.

Lastly, the County hosts substantial oil and gas activities within its agricultural lands, alongside a growing presence of solar and wind energy operations.

# Wheatland County Agricultural Service



**MISSION** *The ASB develops and implements programs and policies that focus on the areas of weeds, pests, soil and water conservation, and environmental issues for the benefit of all residents, in partnership with other government agencies, the agriculture industry and residents on agricultural programs and issues.*

## Agricultural Service Board

Wheatland County's Agriculture and Environment department continues the legacy of the 78-year-old Agricultural Service Board (ASB). Established in 1946, the ASB has supported producers and spearheaded over 30 years of agricultural conservation efforts. The department's activities are guided by the directives of Alberta Agriculture, the Wheatland County ASB, and Wheatland County Council. It collaborates with other County staff to advance agricultural and environmental priorities and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Operating under the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act, the ASB directs the Agriculture and Environment department in weed control, pest management, soil conservation, and animal health as per provincial statutes. The department administers these services for the Board.

Aligned with federal and provincial priorities, Wheatland County has long championed agri-environmental initiatives supporting the agricultural industry, including soil and surface water management, on-farm environmental stewardship, and farm material recycling. The County has extended its support through workshops, public communications, one-on-one assistance, and funding programs, enhancing knowledge levels and encouraging the adoption of best practices among producers.

## Goals

1. To operate as an effective, viable, proactive Agricultural Service Board that fosters the growth and development of partnerships.
2. To promote agriculture and the rural way of life.
3. To be responsive to current issues and trends in agriculture and to incorporate them into ongoing programs.
4. To help prevent the spread of declared pests and assist with the control of nuisance pests as described in the Agricultural Pests Act.
5. To help prevent the establishment and spread of declared pests and to assist with the control of nuisance pests as described in the Agricultural Pests Act.
6. To maintain the integrity of agricultural soils through the delivery and support of the Soil Conservation Act.
7. To assist in the control of animal diseases under the Animal Health Act.
8. Increase awareness, understanding, and implementation of environmental and/or agricultural practices and programs, emphasizing support for the agricultural industry.

**VISION** *The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board is committed to strengthening; promoting and supporting agriculture and the environment within our municipality with a view to continually improve how we operate in future years.*

## Services

The Agriculture and Environment Department provides many services to residents and landowners in Wheatland County, as shown below:

Weed and pest inspections	Environmental Farm Plan delivery
Vegetation management (mowing and spraying roadsides and other County properties)	Financial support for agricultural organizations working in partnership with Wheatland County
Plant, weed, and pest identification support	Member of the Red Bow Agricultural Partnership (agricultural events)
Weed control program (weed control on private and public lands)	External grant programs (Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program)
Seed cleaning plant inspections and licensing	Technical assistance for producer grant applications (SCAP Programs)
Richardson's ground squirrel control on County land	ALUS Wheatland - agricultural ecosystem services payment program
Animal disease support, animal welfare inspection, and wildlife call response	Funding Programs (Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship Program, Safe Water Wells Action Program, Shelterbelt and Eco-buffer program)
Livestock predation response	ASB Bursary Program
Pest surveys (weeds, grasshopper, clubroot, fusarium, bertha army worm, etc.)	BMO Farm Family Award
Soil conservation inspection	External grant program coordination
Erosion control seeding and support	Agricultural extension event planning
Agricultural Plastic Recycling (chemical container collection)	Educational outreach
On-farm grain bag rolling and recycling program	Review of Planning & Development files
Rental equipment program and maintenance	Environmental Stewardship Award
Classroom Agricultural Program	BMP demonstration sites



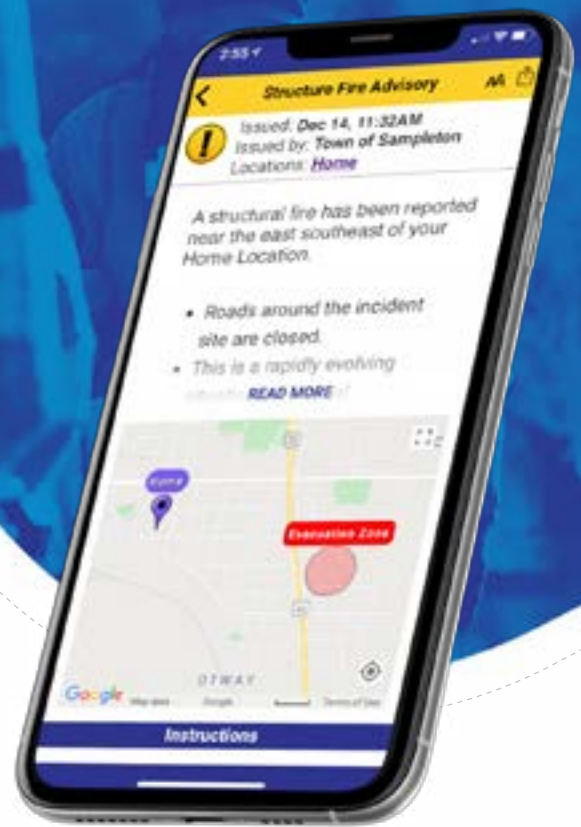


# REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY

## WHAT IS VOYENT ALERT!?

Voyent Alert! Is a multi-purpose communication service provided by Wheatland County to keep you informed of critical events like fires or floods etc.

**NOTIFICATION  
SERVICE**



## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

### PERSONALIZED COMMUNICATIONS

Voyent Alert! provides informative communications. Critical information such as the distance and direction from an incident, and preferred evacuation routes from your followed locations may be provided.

### FOLLOW MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Voyent Alert! allows you to create and follow multiple locations such as “Kids School” or “Mom’s House”. Any event or communication related to your followed locations will be forwarded to you along your preferred communication channel.

### COMMUNICATIONS YOUR WAY

Receive alerts over a wide variety of communication channels including mobile apps, text/SMS alerting, email or voice dial. You can register for one or more communication channels.

### NO MESSAGE FATIGUE

Smart alerting capabilities ensure that you will only get notified when a communication is relevant to your or one of the locations you are following.

### EASY REGISTRATION

Registration for the service is FREE, simple and anonymous.

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](https://register.voyent-alert.com)**

# 2024 Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course

## March 5th Wheatland County Administration Building

- ◀ **When:** March 5th, 2024
- ◀ **Where:** Wheatland County Administration Building
- ◀ **Cost:** \$100 + tax (lunch included)
- ◀ **Instructors:**  
Dr. Bill Hamman & Erin McIlwraith
- ◀ **Register at:**  
<https://2024pest.eventbrite.com>
- ◀ **For more information contact:**  
[agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca)

Note: Recertification is no longer an option.  
The course must be retaken every 5 years.

The Farmer Pesticide Certification Course is a tool intended to help farmers reduce risks associated with pesticide use. This course is recommended under the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan but is also mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require certification, such as aluminum phosphide.

Engaging in online home study for the course would be beneficial. The online training is available at the following link, or you can simply search for "Farmer Pesticide Training" on the Alberta Agriculture & Forestry website.  
[www.alberta.ca/farmer-pesticide-certificate.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/farmer-pesticide-certificate.aspx)

The Certificate will be sent to you by Alberta Agriculture after successfully passing a closed book exam at end of day.

Dr. Bill Hamman and Erin McIlwraith are certified trainers who have been teaching pesticide application legislation, applicator, and environmental safety for many years.







# WATER WELL MANAGEMENT FOR WELL OWNERS

**WORKING  
WELL**

Clean water.  
Well protected.

*Alberta*  
Government

[workingwell.alberta.ca](http://workingwell.alberta.ca)

Understand why it's important to care for and maintain your water well.

The key to a safe, secure water supply is proper well management. Learn how at this free in-person workshop.

HOSTED BY:



JOIN US. REGISTER ONLINE TODAY.

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE:

HOSTED BY: Wheatland County

DATE: March 13, 2024

START TIME: 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Wheatland County administration building

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://shorturl.at/npKOP>







# BUILDING AND SAFETY CODE INSPECTION AGENCY

As of January 1, 2024, The Inspections Group Inc. is the Building and Safety Code Inspection Agency for Wheatland County. The previous agency, Park Enterprises, will be completing any open permits submitted before that date.

More information regarding permit applications can be found on our website:

1. **Building Permits:** <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/building-permits/>
2. **Safety Code Permits:** <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/safety-code-permits/>

If you have any questions regarding Building and Safety Code Permits, please contact Wheatland County at [403-934-3321](tel:403-934-3321) or by email at [safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca).



the **inspectionsgroup** inc.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTIONS GROUP INC.

The Inspections Group Inc. is an accredited Safety Codes inspection agency, and we are excited for the opportunity to provide Safety Codes Services throughout Wheatland County. The services our team will be providing within Wheatland County include Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Gas, and Private Sewage. Our team is also accredited to provide additional services such as Fire inspections, Fee for Service inspections, and Special inspections. In partnership with Intertek Services, we are able to provide provincial, national, and international equipment certification services.

Our Agency was formed in 2001, and in that time, we have conducted over 1.5 million inspections! We operate province wide and most recently are thrilled to be operating out of our new Lethbridge office to better serve you. Our company is comprised of many long-term employees, and

several within our team are involved in various Provincial Associations and Committees and contribute to ongoing code development. We are invested in this industry and will ensure we are a positive contributor to the ongoing growth and development of it. We are proud of our hard-working team, and strive to apply the code consistently, operate with integrity, and prioritize the safety of your projects.

We welcome any questions or feedback you have and look forward to assisting and supporting you in your upcoming projects!

You can find us at 2825 18 Avenue North in Lethbridge or reach us by:

Email: [south@inspectionsgroup.com](mailto:south@inspectionsgroup.com)

Ph: [1-888-852-3558](tel:1-888-852-3558) | [587-787-4143](tel:587-787-4143)

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# Spring Tree Care



*By Toso Bozic*

As the long winter cold and frost retreats and the first signs of spring emerge, trees and shrubs awaken from their dormant state, ready to burst into vibrant life. Spring is a crucial season for tree care, offering a unique opportunity to support their growth, health, and resilience throughout the coming months. Below are some tips for landowners for spring tree and shrub care.

## Assess for Winter Damage

Before diving into the active care of your trees, it's essential to assess any potential winter damage to trees and other landscape plants. Inspect the branches, trunk, and roots for signs of stress, such as broken limbs, cracks, or lifting roots. Snow and ice can cause substantial harm, and addressing these issues early on can prevent further damage and promote a healthy recovery.

**Assess for Damage from Winter Burn and Dieback**  
Many coniferous tree varieties, including spruces and cedars, are displaying symptoms of winter burn, evident in the browning and bronzing of their needles. The combination of winter's intense cold and strong winds can lead to the desiccation of plant tissues, causing the shedding of needles in evergreen trees and the dieback of branches in deciduous trees. This dieback mechanism is a survival strategy employed by the trees, enabling them to sacrifice needles and twigs to ensure the overall survival of the tree.

## Inspect for Pests

Prior to leaf emergence is a great time to inspect trees and shrubs for pests. During your inspection, look for the following signs:

- Diseases such as cankers (dead sections of bark on branches or tree trunks), blackened and curled twigs, black knot, cytospora canker, and other fungal infestations and decay.
- Signs of insect infestation such as scales, mites, beetle, and borer infestation (exit holes, sawdust).
- Lastly, look up wildlife damage from porcupines, voles, deer, moose, and beaver etc.

## Pruning

Late winter and early spring are the best times to prune trees. Remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches to promote air circulation and reduce the risk of pest infestation. Additionally, shaping the tree by selectively pruning can enhance its structure and fruit production. However, be cautious not to over-prune, as this can stress the tree. Prune dead branches within shelterbelts as they pose fire risks.

## Soil Health Assessment

Healthy soil is the foundation of robust tree growth. Conduct a soil test to determine its pH and nutrient levels and possible needs to add nutrients. Fertilize only based on soil lab test results and do not fertilize

if your lawn is regularly fertilized, as your trees are probably receiving adequate nutrition for good health. Adjust ONLY pH if necessary and provide a balanced fertilizer to replenish essential nutrients. Slow-release fertilizers are often preferable, supplying a steady nutrient stream throughout the growing season. Avoid excessive fertilization, as it can lead to nutrient imbalances and harm the tree. Fertilizers injected into the soil and fertilizer spikes foster leaf growth in trees but force trees to neglect needed functions like root growth and pest resistance. Fertilizer spikes in particular burn roots, causing root dieback.

## Mulching

Re-mulching and adding wood chips up to a 4–6-inch-thick layer of organic mulch, such as shredded bark or wood chips, replicates what nature creates on the forest floor. Known as duff, this accumulation of twigs, leaves and other organic debris fosters rich microbial activity beneficial to tree roots. Mulching is a fundamental practice to shield roots. One of the primary advantages of tree mulching is its role in soil enrichment. Organic mulches gradually decompose, releasing essential nutrients into the soil. This process enhances soil fertility, promoting healthier tree growth. The decomposition of mulch also improves soil structure, aiding in water retention and drainage. Mulching inhibits weed growth, protects roots from extreme heat, and retains moisture. Establishing a donut-shaped wood chip cover around your tree is a simple yet efficient approach to conserve moisture and minimize soil freezing.

## Watering

Watering is crucial in early spring; it has been a dry fall and winter there is potentially very little moisture available to trees. Proper watering is critical in spring, especially during dry periods. Young trees require adequate moisture to establish strong root systems. Water deeply and consistently, ensuring the root zone is thoroughly saturated. However, be cautious not to overwater, as excessive moisture can lead to root rot. Mulching helps retain soil moisture, reducing the frequency of watering. Test your soil and water for sodium levels and avoid watering with high levels of sodium.

Spring tree care is a dynamic and rewarding undertaking that requires a combination of vigilance, knowledge, and proactive measures. By incorporating these tips into your tree care routine, you can create an environment where your trees not only survive but thrive, contributing to the beauty and sustainability of your landscape. Remember, each tree is unique, and understanding its specific needs is the key to successful spring tree care!





## 2024 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/](https://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 12th and 13th, 2024**

Goldsmith Pit (Cluny)  
Located at NE-8-22-21-W4M  
7/8" Crush & Pit Run

### **July 10th and 11th, 2024**

Christensen Pit (Carseland)  
Located at NE-03-22-25-W4M  
3/4" Crush & Pit Run

### **August 14th and 15th, 2024**

Fish Lake Pit (Dalum)  
Located at NE-28-26-18-W4M  
7/8" Crush & Pit Run

## Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

ALUS is excited to announce an expanded commitment to bolster agriculture and environmental resilience in Alberta. Alongside the existing ALUS program in 20 municipalities, ALUS will now assist farmers and ranchers seeking to apply for the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP) province-wide.

Like ALUS, RALP aims to empower producers to access resources and support for implementing beneficial management practices on their land and operations.

For one-on-one assistance, RALP's Program Access Liaisons are available at:

**Email:** [info@RALP.ca](mailto:info@RALP.ca)

**Toll-free Phone:** 1-866-310-RALP

To discover more about RALP,  
scan the QR code below or visit:

<https://www.alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program>



## Have you heard?

Wheatland County now  
has an expansive online  
business directory!

If your business, regardless of size, is based within Wheatland  
County, don't miss out - explore our new  
[investwc.ca](http://investwc.ca) website and join today!



# JOIN OUR TEAM!

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



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](mailto:Michael.bourgon@wheatlandcounty.ca)





**Trouble finding a job? We can help.**

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

- Reading
- Writing
- Numeracy
- Digital
- Problem-solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Adaptability
- Creativity
- 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](http://www.prospectnow.ca/skillsforsuccess)**

To learn more about other employment supports offered by Prospect, please call **1-877-483-2562** or visit **[prospectnow.ca](http://prospectnow.ca)**



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



# 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

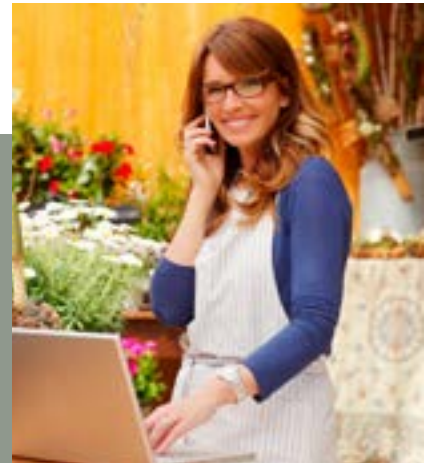
Whether you need help writing your business plan, securing financing, or exploring your online marketing opportunities, our business specialists can help.

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.

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