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THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

Upcoming Events

Farmer Pesticide Certificate Training

M.D. Admin Office (717 14Ave Wainwright, AB)
Tuesday November 3rd 8:15am-4:00pm $150/participant
Join the M.D. of Wainwright along with Lisa Rybchuk from Woodchuck Enterprises Ltd.to participate in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Training course.

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

M.D. Admin Office (717 14Ave Wainwright, AB)
Wednesday November 18th 1:30pm-3:30pm
EFP techicians will teach you how to navigate your workbook and share tips for efficient completion. This event is offered at no cost.

To register or for more information please contact Kaitlin at khirsekorn@mdwainwright.ca or call 780-842-4454.

Shelterbelt Establishment Program

Applications open November 1st for spring 2027 seedling delivery! This program is available to M.D. of Wainwright ratepayers to help establish and maintain healthy shelterbelts on our local landscape. The Shelterbelt Establishment Program is delivered through an application process under a 50/50 cost share model. Applicants can utilize this program for up to 1,000 seedlings per applicant per year. The program runs on a first-come, first-served basis and intake will close once the budget cap is reached. Applications will be accepted from November 1st until January 31st annually. For full program details and the application package visit mdwainwright.ca or contact Shelby or Kaitlin at asbprograms@mdwainwright.ca.

Tax Deadline

The Municipal Tax Deadline is Monday November 30th. A penalty of 12% will be added to all outstanding taxes effective Tuesday, December 1st. Taxes may be paid in person by cash, cheque, or debit at the M.D. Admin Office. Payments may also be made online via online banking and Interac, or by credit card at paysimply.ca. Post dated cheques are accepted. The drop off box is located in the M.D. Admin Office main entrance. Call 780-842-4454 with any questions regarding tax payment.

Launch of New M.D. Website

Stay tuned for the launch of our new website! We are creating a space with up-to-date information displayed in a clean, beautiful, and easy-to-use format. We can't wait to share it with you soon!

Fire Permits

To obtain a fire permit, visit the M.D. Admin Office, call 780-842-4454, or speak to your local fire chief or Councillor. Fire permits ensure safe burning practices and allow emergency services to know where burning is approved.

Harvest

With harvest in full swing we would like to remind everyone to be mindful of moving equipment, provide extra space, and slow down.
Wishing everyone a safe, and successful harvest season!



2027 Calendars

The 2027 Calendars are expected to arrive early October. An announcement will be posted on social media upon arrival. Stop by the M.D. Admin Office to pick one up.

Municipal Bursary Recipients

Congratulations to the 2026 M.D. Bursary recipients! Everett Campbell, recipient of the Education Bursary, is pursing a Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences with a long-term goal of becoming a doctor. Ryan Trefiak, recipient of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Bursary, is pursing a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Systems Technology.

NE Region AAAF Bursary

Congratulations to Teylor Longmuir recipient of the 2026 NE Region Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman (AAAF) Bursary! Teylor is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Majoring in Animal Science with the long-term goal of becoming a large animal vet.

Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman (AAAF)

Agricultural Fieldmen have always been central to the success of Agricultural Service Boards (ASB). They develop, implement, and manage programs designed to carry out priorities and policies set by their ASB. While education and awareness are key tools Fieldmen use in their work, they are also appointed as inspectors or regulatory officers enforcing these Alberta statutes: Agricultural Service Board Act, Weed Control Act, Soil Conservation Act, and Agricultural Pests Act. All AAAF members have an agricultural or environmental science background. The full AAAF membership meets annually in December to obtain updated technical training, discuss relevant issues, and conduct Association business. There are five regions within the AAAF: Peace, Northwest, Northeast, Central, and South. Wainwright resides in the Northeast Region, both Agricultural Fieldman, Shelby Oracheski and Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Kaitlin Hirsekorn are active members of the Association.

Tree Care: Tips on How to Successfully Winter Your Seedlings

Prepare your trees for the winter months ahead and encourage healthy growth for next spring.

Clean up dropped leaves: remove any dropped leaves from around the base of your plant, this ensures any potential leaf-borne diseases or pests are removed.

Water: water once quite well, fully saturating the soil before tree goes into dormancy.

Mulch: acts as an insulating blanket that protects against extreme winter temperatures which can result in moisture loss and root damage. 3-4" around the base helps to moderate soil temperature, and in springtime will deter the growth of weeds that can compete with your seedlings for water and nutrients.

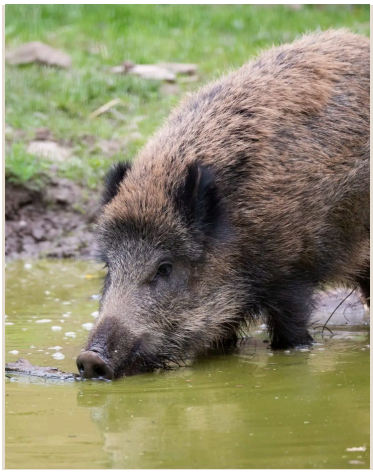
Add plant-wrap and a wind barrier: this protects the crown of your plants from things like tip-damage, and sun-scorch



Fall Thistle Control

Fall thistle control can be quite effective because the perennial plant is moving nutrients into its root system. Treatment is most effective when applied approximately two weeks prior to frost, allowing adequate time for the herbicide to translocate into the root system. Do not spray immediately after mowing or harvest. Allow sufficient time for regrowth to develop so there is adequate leaf area for herbicide absorption. Control can be reduced when thistles are under drought or cold stress, active growth and adequate soil moisture improve control results. Canada thistle is a rhizomatous perennial, so killing the above ground portion does not necessarily eliminate the root system. Repeated mowing can help suppress the weed, but proper timing and repeated treatments are important because the underground root system allows the plant to recover.

Happy Thanksgiving



Wild Boar

Wild boar at large are on of the most damaging invasive species in North America. They not only cause damage to crops, pasture, property, and the environment but pose a serious risk to the domestic hog and beef industry because of potential for disease transmission. In Alberta, wild boar are regulated under the Agricultural Pests Act and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation. Hunting is NOT an effective control option for this species, and it is illegal to hunt or trap wild boar in Alberta, with the exception of owners and occupants of land, those assisting them, and commercial operators with a valid permit. Sign's of wild boar include digging/rooting, wallowing/rolling, hair on barbed wire, trampled crops, tracks, and trails. Report all sightings and signs of wild boar by contacting the M.D. Admin Office at 780-842-4454 or by calling 310-3276 (FARM).

Spotlight Species at Risk

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*



The piping plover is a small, sandy-coloured shorebird that nests on gravelly lakeshores thoughout east-central Alberta. Alkali lakes are their preferred habitat, though plovers have also been found at reservoirs and freshwater lakes.

They have yellowish orange legs in all seasons. In the breeding season, they have an orange bill with a black tip, a black collar, and a black line on the forehead. In nonbreeding season, the bill is black and collar fades to gray.

They are masters of camouflage, often hiding in soft sandy areas away from the water's edge, sometimes crouching down in tire tracks or footprints.

During breeding season, male plovers employ a distinct high-pitched piping call during flight to assert ownership and attract potential mates.

This species is migratory, and spends the winter along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Coast in the United States and Mexico. Approximately 8,000 individuals reside within the North American range, with approximately 30% breeding in Canada.

Piping plovers are listed as Endangered under the Federal Species at Risk Act and the Provincial Wildlife Regulation. Annual monitoring of the species occurs through cooperation between Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and the Alberta Conservation Association, with a province-wide census occurring approximately every five years. The most recent province wide census took place in 2024, surveying 54 lakes and finding 75 adults. The populations reached a maximum of 295 individuals in 2008 and has declined since. The majority of the Alberta piping plover population occurs on fewer than 15 lakes in any one year. Several of the most important breeding sites for piping plover occur in the M.D. of Wainwright. These include Killarney Lake and Reflex (Salt) Lake, which are two key strongholds for the species in Alberta.

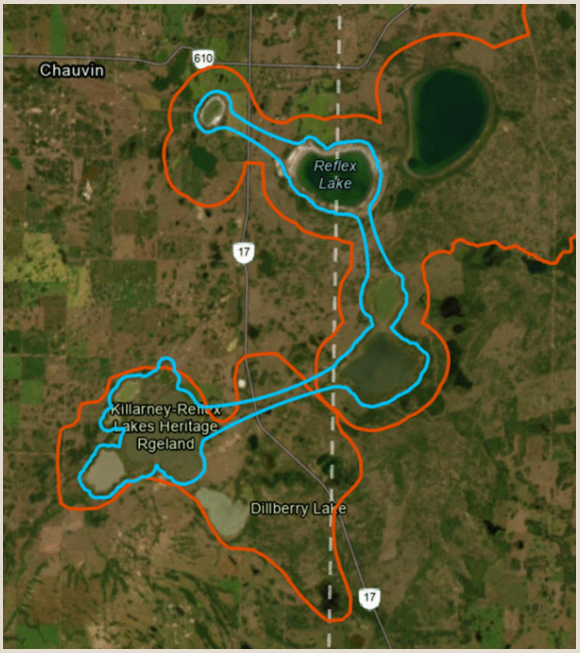
The major threats to the piping plover population include habitat loss, predation, and human disturbance. Predation threats are often against eggs and chicks; common predators include foxes, skunks, coyotes, gulls, and crows. Human disturbances can be direct such as driving ATVs over nests or indirect by means of distracting birds from nesting. Weather events can also impact plovers by changing water levels and shoreline vegetation.

Albertans can play an important role in protecting this species by avoiding unnecessary disturbances to nesting sites, especially during the breeding season (April 15th - August 15th).

Due to piping plovers camoflage, a nest may be difficult to see even when it is only a short distance away. If an adult bird appears agitated, repeatedly calls, or attempts to lead you away from a particular area, it may be responding to a nearby nest or chicks. The best response is to calmly move away and give the birds additional space. By taking simple precautions, Albertans can enjoy these unique lakeshore environments while helping protect one of Alberta's most vunerable shorebirds. If you see a piping plover, please observe it at a respectful distance.







Prairie Staples

Cut-Leaved Anemone *Anemone multifida*

Cut-leaved anemone is a hardy, early-blooming perennial with delicate, cup-shaped flowers that can range in color from white to pink to deep red. The blossoms stand out against finely divided, feathery green foliage and densely hairy stems. The flowers draw native bees and early-season pollinators. Thriving in full sun to light shade and well-drained soils, cut-leaved anemone is highly drought tolerant once established. Like other members of the buttercup family, it produces protoanemonin a natural toxin, which deters browsing by herbivores.





Predator Reduction Incentive Program

The Predator Reduction Incentive Program has opened. This program was introduced with the purpose of managing the impact of predator species coyotes and wolves - on livestock and wildlife populations within our jurisdiction. Interested participants are advised to review and understand all information pertaining to the program prior to participating to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. Be advised that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the program will result in disqualification. Full program details can be found at mdwainwright.ca

Inspection appointments are required. This program will conclude April 30th or once the budget is exhausted, whichever comes first. If you have any questiosns regarding this program please contact the Agricultural Services Department by calling 780-842-4454 or emailing asbprograms@mdwainwright.ca

Health Canada Approval of Drone Sprayers

Effective June 30th Health Canada has granted final approval to new federal policies for drone spraying of crops. The new policy allows remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) to be used to apply pesticides that are already approved for conventional aerial application. Pesticides not registered for aerial application still require a Health Canada approved label amendment in order to use RPAS for pesticide application.

Pest & Disease Survey Results

Quality assurance, market access and yield are key to the success of Alberta's agriculture industry. Surveillance and monitoring for insects and diseases provide a key piece to this success by gathering information about established species populations and new threats to the cropping industry. The information gathered from pheromone traps, field insect collections and counts, and surveys is used to create forecast maps and make control recommendations.

The M.D. of Wainwright partakes in a number of surveys each year. During the 2026 field season, field surveilance and surveys included: diamond back moth counts, bertha army worm counts, swede midge traps, canola flower midge traps, wheat midge soil sampling, grasshopper surveys, clubroot surveys, and wheat head surveys which are tested for bunt, loose smut, fusarium head blight, and ergot. Results and insect forecast maps can be found on the Government of Alberta website under the Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network.



Fall Rat Inspections

Fall Rat Inspections will commence in Range 1 within the M.D. of Wainwright in October.