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Newsletter Subscription

The AgReview newsletter is a free publication for Rocky View County residents. To change your subscription, please contact Agricultural Services at 403-520-7273 or AgServices@rockyview.ca
Agricultural Services Summer 2016
Operations At-a-Glance

Weed Inspections
2,393 formal inspections
700 active cases
940 re-inspections

Herbicide Application
Division 6
and all other divisions were spot treated as needed.

Roadside Mowing
2,350 km of roadside received a first cut and
1,700 km received a second cut.

Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef
National Beef Sustainability Assessment

The National Beef Sustainability Assessment (NBSA) is a two-year, farm to fork study that sets environmental, social, and economic benchmarks for the Canadian beef industry.

The study was guided by a multi-stakeholder steering committee and reviewed by an external third-party panel of experts.

All aspects of the value chain, from farming to consumption, were examined in the NBSA, to allow for a comprehensive evaluation of full value chain sustainability.

To view the factsheet, please click here.

To view the NBSA’s news release, please click here.
Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in Poultry
Re-printed from the Government of Alberta’s website.

Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) is a respiratory disease of chickens, pheasants, pheasant crosses, and peafowl. It is highly contagious and is spread either by infected birds or other birds through mechanical means.

There is an age-dependent resistance to this disease, as most birds under the age of three weeks do not get infected. ILT affects the trachea (windpipe), lungs, nasal sinuses, and conjunctiva (eye lids).

Clinical signs associated with mild forms of the disease include general unthriftiness, decreased egg production, watery eyes with conjunctivitis, swelling of the sinuses, and persistent nasal discharge.

The number of birds in the flock affected by this disease can vary from five percent to 100 percent, depending on the severity of the infection. Mortality varies from no death loss to 20 percent mortality in the flock. This disease can cause illness in birds for a few days to a couple of weeks.

Cause of ILT

ILT is caused by a herpes virus: Gallid herpesvirus 1. This virus of the same family as the herpes simplex virus 1 that causes cold sores in humans. As such, the mechanism of transfer is similar.

Public health significance

There is no evidence to suggest that Gallid herpesvirus 1 is transmissible to humans or to other mammals. Therefore, it is considered safe to consume meat and eggs from ILT-infected birds.

How does ILT spread?

ILT is uncommon in commercial poultry operations in Alberta. It is more commonly found in hobby or fancy flocks. Adequate biosecurity is difficult in these smaller flocks as new birds are added on an ongoing basis from various sources without implementing proper quarantine.

Some exotic species, such as pheasants and peafowl, can also carry the virus and spread it to resident birds. Many species of wild birds, including crows, sparrows, and pigeons, appear resistant to infection with ILT. Wild birds might act as mechanical vectors for ILT virus.

The most important means of spreading ILT is by direct contact between susceptible and infected birds. The virus can also be carried into poultry houses or other farms on contaminated equipment and vehicles, or on dirty footwear and clothing. Humans can be implicated in the spread of infection between farms.
ILT in Poultry Con’t

Preventing ILT

Following an effective biosecurity plan is essential to prevent the introduction of viral diseases, including ILT, into a flock. Biosecurity plans must be continually evaluated. Commitment, dedication, and persistence by all farm staff and residents are required for success.

The essential elements of biosecurity include the following:

• The best prevention is to only purchase birds from a source known to be free of ILT or to maintain a closed flock (no additions from other flocks).

• If you do purchase birds, they should be isolated on your farm for 21 days before being mixed with your resident birds.

• In consultation with your veterinarian, you should establish a vaccination program that protects your flock from ILT and other poultry diseases.

• Consult a veterinarian as soon as clinical signs are observed to determine the cause of sick or dying birds. The clinical signs of ILT can mimic those produced by Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease and Infectious Bronchitis. Early detection of highly contagious viruses is essential to minimize the impact on your birds, as well as those of your neighbours.

• Provide clean boots and coveralls for anyone who must enter your barns or bird-holding areas.

• Do not allow other people to enter your barns, especially if they have contact with other poultry. Do not visit other poultry farms or barns unless proper biosecurity precautions are taken.

• Restrict vehicle traffic on your farm site to specific areas away from your birds to prevent spreading contamination into your barns.

• Minimize other animals’ (dogs, cats, rodents, wild birds, etc.) access to your poultry barns.

• Prevent contamination of feed and water sources with particular attention to wild birds and animals.

• Store dead carcasses in a closed container until they can be disposed of according to the requirements of the Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation. Also, confirm with your local authorities regarding appropriate carcass disposal (e.g. incineration, burial, compost).

• Employees of commercial farms should not have flocks of poultry or fancy birds of their own at home.

• Perform a thorough cleanout and disinfection between flocks. The ILT virus can survive for variable lengths of time depending on ambient temperature (for example, warmer temperatures reduce survivability). The virus is inactivated more quickly when exposed to sunlight or disinfectants.
ILT in Poultry Con’t

Vaccinations:

Three types of vaccine are available:

1. Recombinant (rLT) vaccine – may be administered at the hatchery in 18-day-old embryos or day-old chicks. This vaccine also currently contains protection against Marek’s Disease. Vaccine virus is not shed; therefore, unvaccinated birds are not at risk. Contact your hatchery if you wish to implement this option.

2. Tissue culture origin (TCO) vaccine – administered as an eye drop to each chicken. This vaccine can be administered in the face of an outbreak to help reduce shedding of the virus. This is a live virus vaccine that will not revert to virulence and is the one currently recommended.

3. Chick embryo origin (CEO) vaccine – strongly not recommended because this vaccine virus can revert to virulence and cause severe disease in vaccinated and unvaccinated birds.

It is important to know that if you vaccinate while the birds are sick, they will still shed the virus. Vaccinating sick birds reduces their potential to shed in the future.

ILT vaccines, because they are live virus vaccines, must be kept refrigerated (according to manufacturer’s directions) to maintain their viability.

Controlling and reporting ILT outbreaks

ILT can only be confirmed by post mortem examination of the dead birds and special laboratory tests. In most situations, early slaughter or depopulation of the flock is the best solution.

Outbreaks of ILT in Alberta must be reported within 24 hours to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV), Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. Poultry boards, hatcheries, and feed companies are notified when ILT is diagnosed, although the exact location of the outbreak is not released.

If you are registered with the Premise Identification System, you will be notified if you are within 20 km of an outbreak. This notice serves as a reminder to producers and industry to enhance the biosecurity of their flocks and to report any suspicious losses to the OCPV.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development currently has two programs focused on the health of small or fancy flocks. One program is available to producers and veterinarians who wish to submit non-quota birds for non-specific disease testing. Through this program, ILT can be diagnosed, along with other diseases. An affiliated program is ILT-specific and directed towards ILT outbreaks. Both programs are available no cost to the producer.

For information about Alberta’s animal health-related legislation, please see the Chief Provincial Veterinarian website or at rockyview.ca.
Growing Forward 2 Announces Changes to On-Farm Energy Management Program

On October 24th, 2016 Minister Carlier announced changes to the On-Farm Energy Management Program. There is $10 million in extra funding to be spent by March 31, 2018. Changes include a higher cost share rate from 35% to 70% and an increase in the program maximum funding from $50 thousand to $750 thousand per applicant. This will allow high impact projects to be complete for large operations while still providing smaller producers to make purchases.

All applications in the system under the old rules will be given the opportunity to withdraw their applications and reapply under the new rates if they agree to the new terms and conditions (there are a few extra reporting questions).

Producers who have already had their projects paid out under the 35% cost share won’t be paid twice on the same project or topped-up at the new rates. However, they now have the opportunity to reapply (because of the increase to $750 thousand cap) for new projects.

This extra money is available to spend before March 31, 2018. Applicants will need to have their purchases complete and the equipment installed and operational by March 31, 2018. By January 2018, the program will only accept applications for already-complete projects.

This project is retroactive back to April 1, 2013. If applicants have receipts for their purchases from this date onwards, they are eligible to apply.

For more information on the On-Farm Energy Management Program (OFEM) Contact Jason Price by phone at 780-427-4181 or by email at jason.price@gov.ab.ca.

Congratulations to our ASB Farm Member Jessica Dugdale

Jessica was one of ten young farmers who were selected to participate in the inaugural Successor Development Program, as part of the Bridging the Gap: Step Up to Success initiative through Farm Management Canada (FMC).

The Successor Development program provides an opportunity for young farmers to join FMC and take part in key industry events dedicated to farm business management and more importantly, taking over the farm.

For the full article please click here.
Grain Grading

The Canadian Grain Commission has the responsibility and authority to propose and enforce laws and regulations that establish and maintain standards of quality for Canadian grain, regulate grain handling in Canada, and ensure the dependability of grain as a commodity for domestic and export markets.

As of August 1, 2016 there is an updated version of the Grain Grading Guide which is available for review and printing from the Canadian Grain Commission. To view please click here.

Ag Plastics 2015 Highlights Factsheets

Alberta Agricultural released two factsheets on Ag Plastics, which can viewed by clicking the below links.

Factsheet 1 click here.

“Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipalities”

Factsheet 2 click here.

“Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipal Waste Authorities”

If you have any questions regarding the documents please contact: Scott McKie, Environment Program Coordinator, Agriculture and Forestry, by email at scott.mckie@gov.ab.ca or by phone at: 780-980-7579
Get Set to Grow

Watch for Agricultural Services’ Get Set to Grow workshop series beginning 2017. Here are a few of the topics we have in mind.

- Working Well Workshop
- Bees & Trees
- Solar
- Farm Security
- Bear Safety
- Tree Pruning
- Weed & Pests
- Vegetable Gardening
- Crop & Disease
- Canning & Preserving Foods

Master Farm Family Award

Remember the deadline to nominate a deserving farm family for the 2016 Master Farm Family Award is February 17, 2017. Download a nomination form at www.rockyview.ca/agriculture.

Upcoming Events

Closing the Gap – Creating a more profitable business, January 11, 2017 click here.


Transition Planning Workshops for Farm and Ranch Families, January 10, 2017, Airdrie, click here.
LLL Agenda

Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM
Balzac, AB - Canadian Angus Association Office
292140 Wagon Wheel Blvd

Bridging the Gap - Generations and Impacts in Agriculture
Kristin Cumming, Cantos Performance Management

Growing Forward 2 Update
Barb Archibald, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Wintering Site Assessment and Design
Karen Yakimishyn, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Antibiotic Resistance & Social Licence
Dr. Cody Creelman, Agri-Health Services & Social Media Sensation

Sustainable Pasture Management 2
Cameron Carlyle, University of Alberta

Livestock Pathology for Producers
Dr. Cody Creelman, Agri-Health Services

Hosts: Kneehill County, Mountain View County, Rocky View County, Wheatland County, M.D. of Bighorn, Cows & Fish, Foothills Forage & Grazing Association
Agricultural Supplies for Rent or Purchase

For Rent:

Pasture sprayer – No charge to rent. Cost covered by the Agri-Environmental Incentive Program. $1,000 deposit required at time of drop off

Skunk trap – Free for two weeks, $25 per week after the first two weeks. $125 deposit required.

Magpie trap – Free for two weeks, $25 per week after the first two weeks. $125 deposit required.

Pigeon trap – Free for two weeks, $25 per week after the first two weeks. $125 deposit required.

Hay and soil probes – Free for two weeks, $25 per week after the first two weeks. $125 deposit required.

Tree planter – $50 per day

For Sale:

Pocket gopher traps – $10.95 each

Weeds of the Prairies – $30 each

Alberta Invasive Plant Guide – $5 each

Bat boxes – $30 each

Green Acreages Guide workbook – $30 each

Twine recycling bags – FREE, pickup at main office

For more information or to rent or purchase any of these items please call 403-230-1401 and ask to speak with Agricultural Services.

Agricultural Service Board

Rocky View County’s Agricultural Service Board implements agricultural policies, programs, and services which support a sustainable future for Rocky View County residents.

Agricultural Service Board Members

Councillors:
Bruce Kendall, Division 9, Board Chair
Liz Breakey, Division 1
Earl Solberg, Division 5

Farmer Representatives:
Ludwig Reicheneder, East Airdrie
Jim Dunn, West Airdrie
Jessica Dugdale, Southeast Rocky View County
Travis Eklund, West Rocky View County

Agricultural Services Staff:
Jeff Fleischer, Agricultural Services Supervisor
Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer
Ashley Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer
Kristyn Smigelski, Agricultural Services Officer
Delaney McNaughton, Agricultural Services Officer

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Michelle McKinnon

For information about Growing Forward and EFP call 403-230-1401

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