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Also known as Devil's Trumpet, Jimsonweed was found in Alberta in 2015.

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Newsletter Subscription

The AgReview newsletter is a
free publication for Rocky View
County residents. To change
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or AgServices@rockyview.ca



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Agriculture & Environment

Final **PAPER** Issue of AgriView

We're making some changes to the *AgriView* – it has a new name and will now be delivered electronically. It's all part of our ongoing efforts to be faster, more efficient, and to keep County taxes low.

AgReview will still give you important farm and ranch information and resources, but if you subscribe we'll now send the publication directly to your inbox, instead of mailing it to your house.

If you would like to receive the digital *AgReview*, email agservices@rockyview.ca with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line, and we'll add you to our list. You can unsubscribe at any time with a link that will be in every email.

Remember if you want to keep receiving *AgReview*, you **must** subscribe. If you would still like to receive a paper copy, contact us at agservices@rockyview.ca or 403-520-7273.



Environmental Farm Plan WebBook 3.0 Now Available

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a tool that farmers and ranchers can use to assess and improve their environmental stewardship.

Producers use a workbook and now an online WebBook to undertake a self-assessment of their operation. This gives them knowledge and options to develop a plan that is the right fit for what they want to accomplish.

Completing an EFP will not only provide information to make strategic and valuable management decisions but will provide funding options through Growing Forward 2.

If you would like to complete an Environmental Farm Plan or have questions about the Growing Forward 2 funding, please contact Laura Poile at 403-520-7273 or lpbile@rockyview.ca, or Kristyn Smigelski at 403-520-8162 or ksmigelski@rockyview.ca



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BSE Testing Ongoing

On December 2, 2015 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) released its final report on the investigation into the 19th case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada, discovered in February 2015.

Case #19 was born on the same birth farm as case #17. The animal in case #19 was born in March of 2009, while case #17 was discovered in 2010. Case #19 is unique in that it was born and infected after the enhanced feed ban of 2007 was in place. What does this mean? The extensive investigation looked at any feed mill that was involved in producing commercial feed fed on this farm. Fortunately no lapses in protocols that could have allowed contamination of cattle feed were found. This is very good news. While no absolute "smoking gun" was found, the most likely cause of this latest BSE case is that the cow consumed a minute particle of leftover feed that was still in a feed storage bin from prior to the feed ban/enhanced feed ban. Scientists believe that as little 1/5 of a gram (roughly the size of a garden pea cut into 15 pieces) of prion-contaminated feed is enough to infect a calf. It is very easy to imagine tiny grains of feed or dust can remain in a feed bin long after that feed is gone.

What does this mean for the Canadian/Alberta cattle industry? We know the feed ban/enhanced feed ban of 2007 means that no amplification or magnification of the disease can happen in Canada like it did in the UK. That means that if we keep doing what we are doing, eventually Classic BSE will no longer exist in Canada. One of the things that we NEED to keep doing is testing appropriate cattle for BSE. Most if

not all beef and dairy producers are familiar with the Canada Alberta BSE Sampling Program (CABSESP). This is primarily the on-farm testing of dead, down, diseased, or distressed cattle by a producer's herd veterinarian. Unfortunately the number of animals being testing over the last few years in Alberta has dropped to a level that is no longer meeting testing requirements. This potentially puts our export trade of beef at risk. If our beef industry loses valuable overseas markets because we are perceived to have "dropped the ball" and are not actively testing, it has the potential to be financially devastating.

What can our beef industry do to help? On-farm BSE testing programs like the CABSESP will be needed for decades. We will need to continue to test for the long term to maintain the confidence of our export markets and consumers. The industry needs your help. BSE testing numbers need to increase in Alberta. This is not the time to "let someone else contribute"; everyone needs to take ownership and help. It is estimated that if each beef and dairy farm in Alberta had one appropriate test done per year, we would surpass our targets. It is a very easy program to participate in and it will help your industry. Please call your local veterinary clinic; they will be able to answer your questions. Help keep the Canadian/Alberta beef industry strong.

Watch an Alberta Agriculture video explaining the importance of the BSE Surveillance Program https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtD_rS6Fdyk

*Submitted: Ian Giebelhaus DVM BScAg: Alberta Agriculture
BSE private Veterinary contractor*

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Weed Watch: Jimsonweed

Jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium*), also known as Devil's Trumpet, was found in Alberta in 2015. Producers noticed a strange plant towering over the crop canopy when it was time for swathing. Jimsonweed is not native to Canada, and occurrences are rare.

Jimsonweed is a foul-smelling annual plant growing up to two metres tall. Stems are substantial in size, branching, and green or purple in colour. Leaves are oval with coarsely serrated edges and a wavy appearance, and are 7.5 to 20 centimetres long. Funnel-shaped flowers appear July to September. Flowers are white or purple, with a five-pointed funnel up to 10 centimetres long, and have a pronounced odour. The prickly, four-segmented seed pod contains black, pitted, kidney-shaped seeds, three-to-four millimetres long by two-to-three millimetres wide.

The entire plant, particularly the seeds, contain alkaloids which, when ingested, is toxic to humans and livestock. Because of the plant's strong odour and unpleasant taste, animals typically consume it only when other food is not available. Animals may ingest Jimsonweed unknowingly, as a contaminant of hay, silage, or seed.

Keep an eye out for Jimsonweed in 2016. If found, please report it to your local agricultural fieldman or Nicole Kimmel, weed specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (780-422-0885 or nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca).

Once reported, Jimsonweed should then be controlled by hand pulling, while wearing long sleeves and gloves, then double-bagged for landfill disposal. Do not burn or compost.



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Recycled Grain bags

Did you know when you bring your used grain bags to one of our transfer sites, those bags may travel around the world to be recycled? The bags are made of a very high quality plastic and are of interest to recyclers world-wide. When you bring your bags to us, we bale them in our portable baler, and then they are shipped to the recycler that gives us the best price. Generally, the buyer then shreds, washes, dries, and processes the bags into small pellets that can be used to produce a number of polyethylene products. Here's a break-down of the bags we processed in 2015:

In 2015, **44 bales** were produced, and **36** of them were shipped overseas for recycling. With each bale weighing about **547 kilograms**, we shipped about **19,700 kilograms**. That's almost **20 metric tons(!)** of plastic sent to be recycled.

Rocky View County 4-H Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Brennan Munro and Megan Beierle, who will each receive \$500 towards their university education.

Rocky View County has strong ties to the local 4-H community and proudly supports youth in agriculture by providing funding, scholarships, and space for meetings and events. With 16 local 4-H clubs, young Rocky Viewers have a great place to learn important skills about leadership, public speaking, and team work through hands-on activities. Judges consider academic performance, involvement in agriculture and the overall qualities of the candidates.



CANADA
4-H Alberta

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2016 Agricultural Waste Round-up Schedule

Bring your empty pesticide containers, tires, electronics, wire, agricultural plastics, and paint for us to recycle. Nine round-ups will be set up throughout Rocky View County from June to September. The dates and locations are:

June 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Scott Lake Transfer Site
252016 Sibbald Creek Trail
(Highway 1 and Highway 68 in the Volker Stevin yard)

July 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Viterra Grain Facility
29340 Highway 2A
(Between Crossfield and Carstairs)

July 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Springbank Community Church
32242 Township Road 245
(South of Calaway Park)

July 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Balzac Fire Station 107
291015 Rocky View Drive
(Highway 566 east of Queen Elizabeth Highway overpass)

July 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Weedon Pioneer Hall
42299 Weedon Trail
(Corner of Highway 22 and Big Hill Springs Road)

August 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bottrel General Store
4 Bottrel Street Range Road 284
(West of Highway 22)

September 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Madden Transfer Site
285090 Symons Valley Road
(Northeast of the intersection of Highway 772 and Highway 574)

September 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Delacour Community Hall
275194 Township Road 254
(East of the intersection of Highway 791 and Highway 564)

September 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jumping Pound Hall
44208 Township Road 250
(North of the Jumping Pound turn off on Highway 1)

For more information, including a list of unacceptable materials, and a guideline on how to properly prepare all waste materials visit www.rockyview.ca/RoundUps.



Did you know you can call **310-RATS** 24 hours a day, seven days a week? If you see a rat make the call.

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Agri-Environmental Incentive Program



Bona fide farmers are eligible to receive funding through this program. The program deadline is December 31, 2016. Any projects you wish to receive funding for must be completed on or before this date.

For a list of projects visit www.rockyview.ca and search "Agri-Environmental"

If you would like an application sent to you or have questions about this program, please contact Laura Poile, agricultural services officer at 403-520-7273, or at lpbile@rockyview.ca.

Get Set to Grow Workshops



Septic Sense

This presentation will cover information on selecting a sewage system, understanding how it operates, and maintaining it.

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Cochrane RancheHouse

Aspen Room

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Registration deadline
is March 11, 2016.

This is a joint workshop, hosted by Rocky View County and the Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association.

Horse Health and Management

This workshop will discuss topics such as basic vet care, floating teeth, vaccinating, and other horse health related topics.

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Airdrie Agriculture Building

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Registration deadline
is April 15, 2016.

Vegetable Gardening

This introduction to vegetable gardening will teach you the basics of suitable vegetable and variety selection, growth and nutrition requirements, and making the most of heat units and water techniques to overcome our climate.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Boulder Creek Golf Course

Clubhouse, Langdon

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Registration Deadline
is April 22, 2016.

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Airdrie Agriculture Building

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Registration Deadline
is May 6, 2016.

Register for workshops online at www.rockyview.ca/agriculture or by calling Donna at 403-520-6301.

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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:

Earl Solberg, Division 5, Board Chair

Liz Breakey, Division 1

Bruce Kendall, Division 9

Farmer Representatives:

Gwen Isaac, 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

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Michelle McKinnon

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

Growing Forward 

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