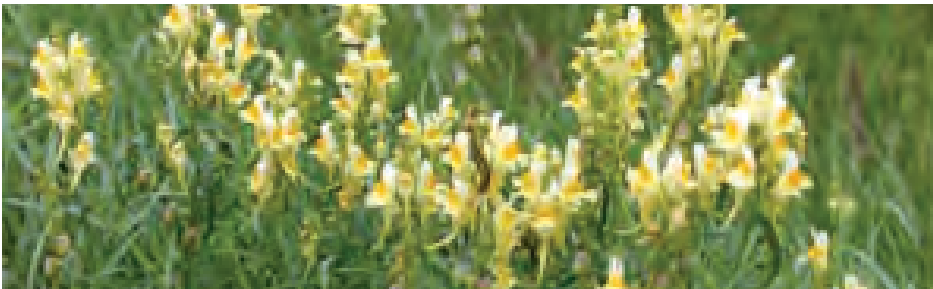




## Salvaging storm-damaged crops - pg. 2

"Over the past few weeks in Alberta, to say the weather has been volatile would be an understatement," says Andrea Hanson, beef extension specialist



## Weed Watch: Toadflax - pg. 5

2016 has seen an increase in Toadflax throughout the County. A late bloomer with noticeable yellow flowers. . .



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Rocky View County has begun using a new unmanned aerial drone in an ongoing fight against a persistent and dangerous enemy.

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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](mailto:AgServices@rockyview.ca)



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY  
Agriculture & Environment



# Salvaging storm-damaged crops

Storm damage to crops can result in problems with nitrate accumulations, especially if the crops were heavily fertilized or manured in the spring to optimize yield.

“Over the past few weeks in Alberta, to say the weather has been volatile would be an understatement,” says Andrea Hanson, beef extension specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Airdrie. “With volatile weather comes storm damage and, for some producers, this means salvaging crops for feed.”

Hanson cautions producers to use care as salvaged crops may have high levels of nitrates that are toxic to ruminants, and emphasizes the importance of testing salvaged feed to establish quality and nitrate levels prior to feeding.

“Sometimes producers want to wait to see if the crop will recover before salvaging it for feed. That’s when the balancing act starts. The nitrate levels in those damaged crops that were heavily fertilized or manured to optimize yield will have the highest accumulations. It takes about four to five days after the damage for the nitrates to build to the highest levels. If the plants start to recover, the nitrate levels will return to a lower level about two weeks after the damage, depending on their growth rate. The true balancing act starts when the leaves start to brown off and the plants begin to deteriorate, losing leaf material and yield.

Unless a perennial hay crop is fertilized at high rates, the risk of accumulating nitrate is much lower than in annual crops, she says. “Alfalfa is a plant that only takes up as much nitrogen as it requires on a daily basis. The excess is stored in the nodules. Nitrate accumulation in alfalfa is extremely rare.”

Nitrates accumulate in plants when the plant is stressed. Drought, hail, and frost are all stressors that can cause nitrate toxicity. Photosynthesis is disrupted because of the damage to the plant but the roots of the plant are undamaged. As long as the roots are still alive, they continue to push nitrogen to the leaves. With damaged leaves, photosynthesis is disrupted, and the nitrogen (in the form of nitrates) accumulates.

“If a producer does decide to salvage the crop, it’s essential that the nitrate levels are known before any of the feed is used,” says Hanson. “Getting a feed test done is cheap compared to losing an animal to something that can be managed. Once the plant has been cut, the nitrate level is fixed and a feed test can be taken. Be sure to check out [www.Foragebeef.ca](http://www.Foragebeef.ca) for useful information on how to properly sample feed for testing.

Hanson also stresses the importance of finding out from the feed testing laboratory what type of nitrate test was carried out as the limits are different depending on how the nitrate level is reported. “AF’s fact-sheet Nitrate Poisoning and Feeding Nitrate Feeds to Livestock is a good reference that has the conversion chart for different reporting systems. Often the laboratory will provide the recommendations based on the level outcome.”

“Feeds containing nitrates can be fed depending on the levels of nitrates and the other feed stuffs available,” adds Hanson. “A strategy for feeding high nitrate feed is needed well before creating a feeding plan to reduce the risk of nitrate poisoning.”

*Article submitted with permission from Andrea Hanson  
Contact: Alberta Ag-Info Centre, 310-FARM (3276)*

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# Growing Forward 2 Announces New Program

GROWING FORWARD 2 (GF2) IS OFFERING A NEW PROGRAM CALLED "THE ACCELERATING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION PROGRAM."

The purpose of this grant program is to stimulate investment in the demonstration, commercialization, and adoption of innovative products, practices, and processes that have the potential to provide sector-wide impact on the agriculture, agri-food and/or agri-product sectors.

The scope of the program is quite broad and we are looking for companies or organizations that are ready to test, pilot, or incorporate an innovation in their business to apply.

Here are a few examples of projects that may be considered for funding:

- the development of systems that change the transportation protocol for livestock
- utilization of wastes from farming operations in new ways
- new equipment development
- demonstration of environmentally-friendly materials made from agricultural products or by-products
- innovative ways to process food and other agri-based products
- novel ways of farming not previously demonstrated/used in Alberta.

For more information please contact:

Dana (Pierce) Gibson

Manager, Growing Forward 2 Agri-Processing Grants

Phone: 780-980-4220

The above list is not exhaustive but gives examples of projects that staff have heard about and were unable to find a GF2 program that would support the project.

The grant program has two funding streams:

## STREAM A: Collaborative Innovation

Created to support projects from not-for profit organizations. We look to support projects that offer publicly available solutions for the agriculture sector of influence for new ways of doing business.

## STREAM B: Implementing Innovation

Created to support projects from primary producers and agri-processors. We look to support projects that lead to a change in how the applicant does business.

Available Funding:

- Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$1,000,000 in project funding
- Funding levels range from 60% to 90% depending on the activity and funding stream
- Projects must be completed by February 1, 2018
- Applications will be reviewed using a competitive process

LAUNCH DATE: AUGUST 5, 2016



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# Master Farm Family Award

The Master Farm Family Award was initiated in 1989 and recognizes a ranch or farm family for their achievements in technical farm production/sustainability practices, team farm business management, agricultural industry involvement, and community service. Previous families who received this award are well known in Rocky View County, and have been strong community builders as well as outstanding producers. Many of their children continue in the business of agriculture or related fields.

To nominate a deserving farm family for the 2016 Master Farm Family Award, please download a nomination form at [www.rockyview.ca/agriculture](http://www.rockyview.ca/agriculture), then click on Agricultural Information and Services and submit before February 15, 2017.



2016 Master Farm Family Doug and Patti Milner, of Lazy M Ranches, joined by Reeve Greg Boehlke (right) and Deputy Reeve and Agricultural Service Board Chair Earl Solberg (second from left).

## Weed Seedling Guide (2nd Edition)

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) has updated its popular Weed Seedling Guide publication.

"Early identification of grass and broad-leaved weeds saves time and money," says Nicole Kimmel, weed specialist, AF, Edmonton. "The second edition of this convenient, pocket-size booklet helps producers and others correctly identify weed seedlings. Proper identification allows you to take the appropriate measures to deal with weeds."

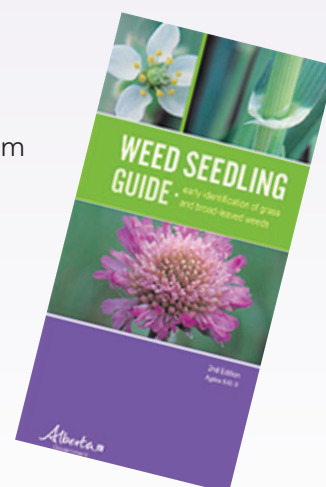
The Weed Seedling Guide (2nd Edition) now includes a number of common winter annual weeds as well as additional weed species. "The text has been revised and updated," says Kimmel. "To further help with identification, the guide now provides a comprehensive table highlighting commonly confused weeds."

**Contact:**  
Publications Office Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
780-427-0391

The coil-bound publication features information on 62 broad-leaved weeds and 10 grasses. The weeds are organized by cotyledon (seed-leaf) shape to make identification easier, and the book has seed-leaf shape drawings and full-colour weed seedling images, a table of commonly confused weeds and a glossary of terms.

Copies of this book may be purchased by:

- calling 780-427-0391
- cheque or money order - complete the order form and send it to the Publications Office
- online credit card purchase by accessing the online sales website



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## Weed Watch: Yellow Toadflax *Linaria Vulgaris*

Yellow Toadflax *Linaria Vulgaris* also known as Toadflax, Butter-and-Eggs or Spurred Snapdragon.

2016 has seen an increase in Toadflax throughout the County. A late bloomer with noticeable yellow flowers, Toadflax prefers sandy-gravelly soils, but is adapted to a wide range of growing conditions. This perennial plant makes seed, but reproduction is primarily by sprouting from its extensive, creeping root system (rhizomes) – 2-3 week old seedlings can produce creeping roots. The ability of this plant to form large colonies allows it to crowd out other vegetation.

Leaves are soft, lance-shaped, pale green, and very numerous. Flowers are bright yellow, arranged alternately in dense spikes at the ends of stems and have a long spur extending from the base that is usually as long as the flower itself.

Prevention is important because once present, Toadflax establishes dense patches that are extremely difficult to control, let alone eradicate. Multiple control methods and several years of commitment provide best success.

This plant appears in wildflower seed mixes. Do not purchase seed mixes unless all contents are listed.

For more information on Yellow Toadflax or any other invasive species please contact Agricultural Services at 403-230-1401 or visit the website at [www.rockyview.ca/agriculture](http://www.rockyview.ca/agriculture).



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# County Deploys Drone for Invasive Species Control

Rocky View County has begun using a new unmanned aerial drone in an ongoing fight against a persistent and dangerous enemy. But the County isn't battling spies or drug lords – it's fighting noxious weeds.

Noxious weeds can cause millions of dollars in damage to crops and livestock, and pose a serious risk to native wildlife and plant species.

Provincial law requires all landowners to control or destroy dozens of different weed species that pose an economic or environmental threat. Rocky View County conducts weed inspection and enforcement programs on private lands, and mounts an aggressive program to control and eliminate weeds on public land as part of this provincial directive. This year, the County stepped up those efforts with the deployment of an aerial drone.

"We can face coulees, steep river banks, dangerous outcroppings, and other hazards that make land inaccessible to weed inspectors. These hard-to-reach areas are often where noxious weeds start to take control, so a drone with real-time video and photos is proving invaluable in helping us locate and identify the threat," says County Agricultural Fieldman, Jeff Fleischer.

Fleischer says that early identification of weed problems through the use of a drone can save the County and private landowners a great deal of money and effort. "If we can identify a weed infestation early, it can be very straightforward and cost effective to control or eliminate the problem," Fleischer says.

Rocky View County Deputy Reeve and Agricultural Service Board Chairman Earl Solberg agrees. "Noxious weeds infest pastures and crops, alter natural habitats, compete with native plants, and impact animal, insect,

and bird species. While there is a cost to control them, it's nothing compared to the cost of the damage they can do if left unchecked."

County staff are trained on the safe operation of the drone, which will be used only for weed inspection purposes. It will fly throughout the growing season, and the County will conduct a full evaluation of this first season's operation later in the year.

"So far, response from the public has been very positive," Fleischer says. "Most rural residents understand the importance of fighting noxious weeds, and they're excited to see the County bringing this technology into the battle."



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# Managing Risk in Winter Grazing Systems



There are 47 videos in this series that have recently been made public on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/dp\\_txdHSOumQ?list=PLOUwF01x2YVXr2cBui0KgskBRwZsKwMr](https://youtu.be/dp_txdHSOumQ?list=PLOUwF01x2YVXr2cBui0KgskBRwZsKwMr)

Created by the West Central Forage Association, Lakeland Applied Research Association, Chinook Applied Research Association and Agriculture and Forestry.

For more information please contact Grant Lastiwka: [grant.lastiwka@gov.ab.ca](mailto:grant.lastiwka@gov.ab.ca)

## Bear Safety Training for Ranch Families Thursday, October 6, 2016 - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Beaupre Community Hall

Join us for an evening to learn about bear safety. This workshop is targeted specifically at safety concerns for southwestern Alberta farm and ranch owners, workers, and family members (all ages welcome) as they go about their daily routines, living and working in close proximity with grizzly and black bears.

### Learn:

- how to minimize attractants around your ranch and yard
- how to avoid bear encounters
- what to do when you do encounter a bear
- how to correctly identify dangerous bear behaviour
- how to respond appropriately

Get hands-on practice using bear spray.

First 15 people to register will get a free can of bear spray (limit one per household).

*Beverages and snacks will be provided.*

*Please dress for the weather - bear spray practice will be outdoors.*



Photo by Angela Carter

Thanks to our generous supporters there is no cost for this workshop, however pre-registration is required.

**Please register by September 30, 2016.** To register please contact Amber Krukewich at the M.D. of Bighorn:

**403-673-3611 or [amber.krukewich@mdbighorn.ca](mailto:amber.krukewich@mdbighorn.ca)**

### **SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:**

Southern Alberta Land Trust Society, Bear Conflict Solutions Institute, Waterton Biosphere Reserve, Rocky View County, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Parks Canada

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# Return your unwanted or obsolete pesticides and livestock medications

Farmers: safely dispose of your unwanted agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications from **October 3-7, 2016** at one of the following locations, *for no charge*.

## Monday, October 3

Innisfail	Central Alberta Co-op Ltd 403-505-1467
Edberg	Edberg Crop Management 780-877-0003
Westlock	Crop Production Services 780-349-4525
Smokey Lake	Crop Production Services 780-656-4343

## Tuesday, October 4

Provost	Richardson Pioneer 780-753-2511
Alliance	Alliance Seed Cleaning Association Ltd 780-879-3927
Smokey Lake	Crop Production Services 780-656-4343
Barrhead	Neerlandia Co-op 780-674-2820

## Wednesday, October 5

Saint Paul	Andrukow Group Solutions 780-645-5915
Lavoy	Richardson Pioneer 780-658-2408
Athabasca	McEwen's Fuels & Fertilizers 780-675-9500
Camrose	Crop Production Services 780-672-3025

## Thursday, October 6

Vermilion	Crop Production Services 780-853-4711
Thorhild	North Corridor Co-op (Thorhild) 780-398-3975
Leduc	Leduc Co-op 780-986-3180
Wainwright	Andrukow Group Solutions 780-842-3306

## Friday, October 7

Legal	Sturgeon Valley Fertilizers 780-961-3088
Viking	Andrukow Group Solutions 780-336-3180
Drayton Valley	UFA 780-542-4141
Lloydminster	Crop Production Services 780-871-4601

\* Obsolete pesticides and livestock/equine medications will be accepted from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at each site on the date indicated.

Program supported by:



For more information, please call CleanFARMS at 877-622-4460 or visit [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca)

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# Getting into Farming Information Session *For the Aspiring Farmer*

## Session topics include:

- Overview of Agriculture
- Business Planning
- Personal Assessment
- Financial
- Land
- Resources/Education

**Tuesday, October 18, 2016**

**Airdrie – Agriculture Centre**  
97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie, AB

## **Time**

**9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
(registration starts at 8:30 a.m.)

**Cost: \$25/person** (includes lunch)

**Registration deadline: October 11, 2016**

***To register call the Agriculture and  
Forestry Ag-Info Centre  
at 1-800-387-6030***





Red Deer River

**Watershed**  
Alliance

# **RDRWA Fall Forum**

## **Water on the Prairies**

**Join us for a day of  
learning, discussion, and  
local watershed stories**

**September 19, 2016**

### **Key Topics:**

**Grasslands & Biodiversity**

**Cumulative Effects**

**Invasive Species**

**Water Quality & Drought**

**Registration at  
11:30 at the  
Canalta Oyen Hotel  
Highway 9 &  
Highway 41**

**Cost \$15  
Lunch Provided**

**Register online at [www.rdrwa.ca](http://www.rdrwa.ca)  
Or contact Kelly @ 403-340-7379**

**ATCO Gas**

**ATCO Electric**



# Agritourism and Farm Direct Marketing - Bus Tour for Producers

12 noon – 8 p.m. September 14, 2016,  
in the Strathmore Region



## Featuring:

- 3 different farm stops sharing their real-world experiences
- a farm-to-table demonstration dinner, where you will both learn, and enjoy the food!
- an experienced agritourism coach providing insights for the day
- learnings from Open Farm Days and the Open Farm Days Coaching Program
- opportunities for peer networking with other producers



## Tour Stops:

1. Seeds to Greens
2. Country Lane Farms
3. Rocking R Guest Ranch

– Featuring Chef Judy Wood of Meez Cuisine  
& Catering for the demonstration dinner

## Cost and Registration:

Registration deadline is September 7, 2016

Cost: \$30 per person (plus GST), includes tour  
transportation and supper

Bus pick-up and drop-off point will be in the Strathmore area  
To register call 1-800-387-6030

For other questions about the tour, contact Colin Gosselin  
at 780-968-3518 (dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in  
Alberta) or [colin.gosselin@gov.ab.ca](mailto:colin.gosselin@gov.ab.ca)



## 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

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

**Growing Forward** 

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