

agri view

December 2014

New Guidelines to Reduce Impacts on Agriculture



Agricultural Services staff are embarking on a project to identify agriculture boundary design guidelines to reduce land use conflicts, and achieve better transitions between agricultural and non-agricultural uses when new residential and commercial land uses are proposed.

Possible examples might include barrier fencing, vegetated buffers, increased setbacks from residences to agricultural land, siting to provide natural topographic or environmental

barriers (to achieve more spatial separation), etc.

The guidelines can be applied to large residential and commercial developments bordering agricultural lands, and also to smaller ones, including first parcels out. Developers will use the guidelines when designing their proposals, and Administration will use them to evaluate applications proposed in agricultural areas.

Direction for this project comes from the Actions sections of the new County Plan: "Develop and

apply 'agriculture boundary design guidelines' to minimize negative impacts on agricultural land from new non-agricultural land uses, including a consideration of increased building setbacks (policy 8.31)." In addition, this project will fulfill recommendations stemming from the Agriculture Master Plan approved in 2011.

It is anticipated the draft guidelines will be available for public comment and input during the spring of 2015, with implementation beginning in the summer of 2015.

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

Implementing agricultural policies, programs, and services which support a sustainable future for Rocky View County residents.

911 - 32 Avenue NE
Calgary, Alberta T2E 6X6

TEL 403-230-1401
EMAIL AgServices@rockyview.ca
WEB www.rockyview.ca



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities

Get Set to Grow

Watch for Agricultural Services' Get Set to Grow workshop series beginning 2015. Here are just a few of the topics we have in mind.



- Farm and Ranch Succession Planning workshop
- Working Well workshop
- Beaver workshop
- Riparian Setback Implementation
- Wetland Restoration Pilot Project
- Crop Pests and Diseases
- Tree Pruning
- Horse Health and Management
- Weed and Pests
- Vegetable Gardening

Watch for details about these and other upcoming workshops at www.rockyview.ca/getset

Joint Workshops with Neighbouring Municipalities

LIVING IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 6, 2015
Cochrane RanchHouse
5:00 to 9:00 p.m. (doors open at 4:00 p.m.)
\$35 per person, includes dinner

This annual forum hosted by the MD of Bighorn brings together rural and urban populations to discuss relevant environmental topics. This year Dr. Edward W. Bork will discuss feral horses in Alberta, including potential conflicts with agricultural operations; and Peter Sherrington will give a presentation titled "Being Aware of What is Around You". Both presentations will explore how we can all become more aware of what is happening around us and how that awareness can be used to help affect positive change.

Tickets for this event are available in person at Rocky View County, 911 32 Avenue NE, Calgary, and by phone from Mountain View County 403-335-3311 ext.143 and the Municipal District of Bighorn 403-233-7678 or 403-673-3611.

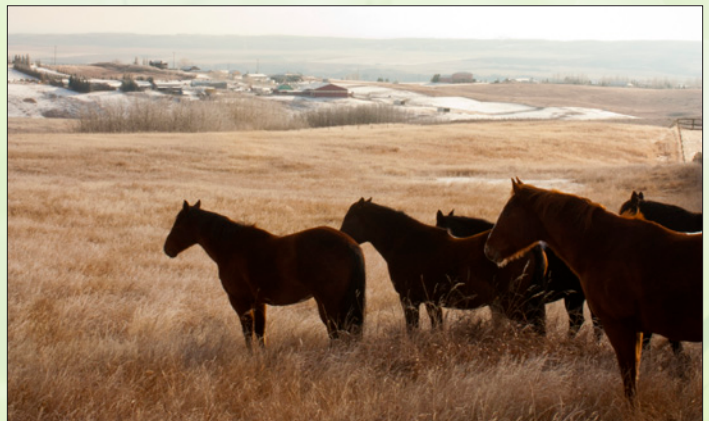
For more details visit www.mdbighorn.ca

RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday February 26, 2015
Olds College Alumni Centre
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
\$40/person includes lunch, snacks and beverages

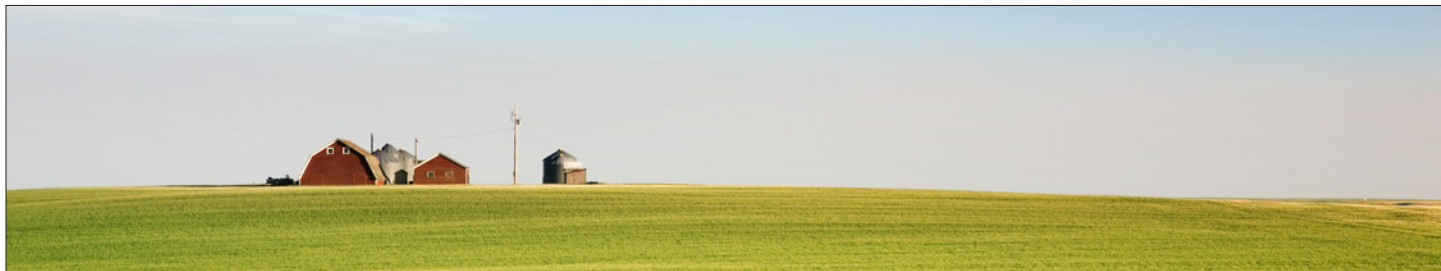
The morning sessions will have speakers discussing the ranching industry, including: watering systems, winter grazing demonstration, feed efficiency, and genomics. The afternoon will include discussions on calving times and strategies as well as a keynote address from Theresa Dietrich on what your consumers want.

To register for this event, please contact Mountain View County Agricultural Services at 403-335-3311 Ext. 143 or email fmccarthy@mvcountry.com



Technical and Financial Incentives for Farmers and Ranchers

Several programs are available to assist you both technically and financially to implement projects and management practices that have a direct and positive impact on surface water quality, and that promote sustainable management of your operation.



ON-FARM ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This program shares the cost of investments that improve energy efficiency on Alberta farms. This enables producers to conserve energy and reduce carbon emissions, ultimately reducing the environmental footprint of Alberta's agriculture industry.

This program addresses three important industry priorities:

- Increased industry competitiveness. When producers make investments that improve energy usage on their farms, the result is a more competitive, adaptable, and sustainable provincial agriculture industry.
- Improved environmental stewardship. When producers use energy more efficiently, they are recognized as reliable stewards of Alberta's resources.
- Improved energy management. Producers who install on-farm submeters are better aware of their energy usage and how to manage it to improve their bottom line.

Eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- Construction projects that install high-efficiency equipment from the program's funding list
- Retrofit projects that improve the operation's energy usage per unit of production
- Installation of submeters to monitor on-farm electricity and/or natural gas usage

ON-FARM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This program shares costs relating to enhancements of a producer's on-farm water supply management, arising from a long-term water management plan (LTWMP). These eligible costs are offered through standard and special incentive projects described in detail in the On-Farm Water Management Program factsheet.

- Standard incentive projects include construction of water sources such as wells, dugouts, spring developments, dams, and pipelines. These projects are eligible for reimbursement of up to one-third of expenses, to a maximum of \$5,000 per applicant.
- Special incentive projects include well decommissioning, well pit conversions, water meters, water well depth measurement equipment, and connections to multi-user water supply pipelines. These projects are eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of expenses, to a specified maximum per applicant or project.

There is no cost to producers for technical assistance provided by Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) water specialists, relating to the completion and required prior approval of a long-term water management plan. You must be an agricultural producer to be eligible for this program, but no environmental farm plan (EFP) is needed.

ON-FARM STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

This program funds projects that help livestock and crop producers implement on-farm management practices in five areas that positively impact water quality and promote sustainable management of inorganic agricultural wastes, including:

- **Grazing management:** This includes riparian area fencing and management, summer and year-round watering systems, portable shelters or windbreaks and wetland restoration (some specific requirements apply; contact program lead for information), and shelterbelts. Examples:

Riparian area fencing and management
Year round summer watering systems
Portable shelters and windbreaks
Wetland restoration
Shelterbelt establishment

- **Manure management:** This includes improvements to manure storage facilities, livestock facilities runoff control and livestock facilities relocation. Examples:

Improved manure storage facilities
Livestock facility runoff control
Livestock facility and permanent wintering site relocation

- **Crop input management:** This includes new purchases of low-drift nozzles and air induction tips, sprayer cones and shrouds, chemical handling systems with jug rinse, sectional control operation system for sprayers and seeding equipment, sprayer boom height control, and weather monitoring equipment (upgrades, maintenance and replacement of existing equipment are not eligible). Examples:

Improved pesticide management
Improved nutrient management

- **Fuel and ag waste management:** This includes the purchase of new double-walled fuel tanks that are CSA or ULC approved and/or double-walled storage tanks for used oil that are identified with a ULC-652 name plate or equivalent, and plastic rollers for used grain bags. For an application for fuel storage to be accepted, at least one old fuel tank must be decommissioned. Examples:

Fuel storage
Used oil storage
Agricultural plastic waste management

- **Other innovative stewardship solutions:** This is project-based and requires one-on-one discussion with a technical representative of the program.

You must be an agricultural producer with an approved environmental farm plan to be eligible for these programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP)

The EFP is a tool that farmers and ranchers can use to assess and improve their environmental stewardship, at a direction and pace they choose themselves.



Producers use a workbook 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. Along the way, producers have access to knowledgeable EFP technicians who can help answer questions and provide advice. The outcome is a plan they know is technically sound, doable, and in line with their overall farm management planning.

The EFP process in Alberta has three main components that all revolve around self-assessment and planning. Producers complete these components by following the steps clearly outlined in the EFP workbook, which they can access online or by request through Rocky View County or Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD), who currently coordinate the program in Alberta.

WATERSHED RESILIENCY AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

This program facilitates the delivery of targeted, comprehensive extension programs; increased uptake of wetland restoration and riparian health beneficial management practices (BMPs); and the realization of significant and measureable changes within high risk watershed areas, focused on addressing water quality issues. This program will encourage watershed groups, municipalities, and/or industry organizations to develop implementation plans targeting the adoption of BMPs related to surface water quality by producers in high risk areas.

Eligible/resulting activities may include: fencing for riparian pasture management, alternative watering systems, winter watering systems, wind breaks and portable shelters, wintering site or manure storage facility relocation, buffer and grassed waterway establishment, wetland and riparian restoration, run-on and run-off controls, and cultural weed control systems in riparian areas.

If you would like to complete an environmental farm plan or have questions about the Growing Forward Stewardship plans, please contact Laura Poile, agricultural services officer at 403-520-7273, lpbile@rockyview.ca

The Grain Bag Saga

Do you ever wonder what happens to the grain bags that either you or your neighbours bring to one of our transfer points?

This year the bags were sold to a broker that ships the plastic to Taiwan. We loaded two sea containers with a total of 38 tonnes. In Taiwan, the plastic will be shredded, washed, dried, and processed into small pellets. Those pellets will then be used to manufacture a range of polyethylene products. The bags are made of a very high quality plastic and are of great interest to recyclers world-wide. Rocky View Solid Waste and Recycling is always seeking new markets for our recyclables. This time, we got the best price from Taiwan, but next year it could be a North American recycler or another company abroad.

It may seem like the County is making a lot of money on residents' plastic. Not true. Getting the bags from the collection site and getting it ready for shipment is not easy or inexpensive. When we receive the plastic

it is either folded or in rolls. In order to be able to ship it economically, it must be baled in our portable baler. At this point, the program costs more than we receive but, without the recycling option, grain bags become a very problematic waste. They are difficult to handle, both on the farm and at the landfill. Burning is not an option; it is illegal because it is dangerous to both human health and the environment.

Rocky View County has been a leader in managing agricultural wastes. We work with a number of agencies in Western Canada to develop systems and programs to deal with difficult materials like grain bags and twine. We believe that some form of stewardship program, like the one in place for pesticide containers, will be required at some point to ensure the recycling program is sustainable. But until that time, we intend to keep refining our program to keep the material out of landfills and off fence lines.



LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS

January 16th-17th, 2015
STRATHMORE!

An opportunity to learn,
socialize & connect with
farming women.

REGISTRATION

\$50 includes meals, coffee & snacks

For more information or to register &
pay contact Fiona at Mountain
View County Agricultural Services
Phone: 403.335.3311 Ext 143
e-mail: fmccarthy@mvcountry.com

Registration closes January 10th

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Strathmore Travelodge 403.901.0000
(Block reservation - Ladies Livestock Lessons)
Days Inn 403.934.1134
Best Western 403.934.5777

HOSTS

Kneehill County, Mountain View
County, M.D. of Bighorn, Cows and
Fish, Foothills Forage & Grazing
Association, Wheatland County,
Rocky View County



HANG UP YOUR BOOTS AND COME TO
THE 2015 LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS
WINTER RETREAT!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH

Strathmore Travelodge
4:00pm to 9:00pm

Canadian Market Update & Taking
Your Beef to Market

Brenda Schoepp - Alberta Rancher & Consultant

Supper (we will even do the dishes!)

Wine tasting & Entertainment

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

Strathmore Travelodge
9:30am to 3:30pm

Morning Yoga class (optional)
7:30 to 8:30

Breakfast 8:30 to 9:30

Emergency Preparedness & Response
Jennifer Woods, J. Woods Livestock Services

Caring for Injured Livestock
TBA - Strathmore Animal Health Clinic

Freshen up your Weed ID!
Nicole Kimmel, Alberta Agriculture

Tag Reading the New Way!
Allflex Technologies Sales/technology specialist

#ladieslivestocklessons

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

Councillors:

Earl Solberg, DIVISION 5, ASB CHAIR
Liz Breakey, DIVISION 1
Bruce Kendall, DIVISION 9

Farmer Representatives:

Susan Church, COCHRANE
Gwen Isaac, EAST AIRDRIE,
Jim Dunn, WEST AIRDRIE

Agricultural Services Staff:

Tim Dietzler, AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN
Jeff Fleischer, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES TEAM LEAD
Laura Poile, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES OFFICER
Ashley Stewart, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES OFFICER

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Key Contact:

Michelle McKinnon

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

The Agri-View newsletter is a free
publication for Rocky View County
residents. If you wish to be on the mailing
list, please contact Agricultural Services.

If addressing is incorrect, or if you wish to
unsubscribe, please contact Agricultural
Services at 403-520-7273 or e-mail
AgServices@rockyview.ca



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities

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

Growing Forward 