

# agri view

October 2014

## Agricultural Awards and Scholarships

Agriculture is the second-largest economic driver in the province, and farm families have been the backbone of rural Alberta for over a century. Rocky View County acknowledges this contribution, and each year offers two farm family awards and a scholarship to a local post-secondary student attending Olds College.

**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 2015 Master Farm Family Award, please visit [www.rockyview.ca/agriculture](http://www.rockyview.ca/agriculture), then click on Agricultural Information and Services to download a

nomination form. Forms must be submitted before February 15, 2015.

**The Calgary Stampede's BMO Farm Family Award** honours those very deserving families throughout southern Alberta that ensure our agricultural industry and rural communities continue to thrive. Nominees are hosted at a recognition program during the Calgary Stampede. As special guests, they enjoy a daylong itinerary of Stampede events, including brunch and tickets to the rodeo for the whole family. Rocky View County selects the nominee for this prestigious award from among past recipients of the Master Farm Family Award, so your opportunity to nominate occurs through nominating someone for Rocky View's Master Farm Family Award.

*"Focusing on the youth in planning for the farming future was a predominant theme during the community consultation stages. The youth of today are the consumers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow."*

*-Agricultural Master Plan*

**Rocky View County's Annual Agricultural Scholarship (\$500)** is designed to encourage local young people to pursue a career in the agricultural field. First- and second-year students from the County, who are attending Olds College with a major in agricultural production or land and water management are eligible. To apply for this scholarship, contact Olds College by visiting [www.oldscollege.ca/scholarships](http://www.oldscollege.ca/scholarships).

**Two 4-H Scholarships (\$500 each)** are sponsored by Rocky View County each year. These are targeted to active 4-H members who live in the County, entering any post-secondary educational institution (not restricted to Alberta and not just pursuing an agriculture degree). Check with your local 4-H leader or apply through the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

### ROCKY VIEW COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

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

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Calgary, Alberta T2E 6X6

TEL 403-230-1401  
EMAIL [AgServices@rockyview.ca](mailto:AgServices@rockyview.ca)  
WEB [www.rockyview.ca](http://www.rockyview.ca)



**ROCKY VIEW COUNTY**  
Cultivating Communities

# Clubroot update

## WHAT WE KNOW

- The 2013 provincial clubroot survey identified several fields where clubroot resistant varieties showed a high incidence of clubroot infection (not in Rocky View County)
- These samples were brought back to the University of Alberta greenhouse. The University and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) carried out testing over the winter/spring to determine the cause of the breakdown in resistance.
- The University and ARD determined that there was a pathotype shift causing the resistance breakdown. A new pathotype was identified, and all of the current commercially available clubroot resistant cultivars are susceptible.
- The new pathotype is being called 5x because it shows traits that are similar to pathotype 5. Pathotype 5x has other traits that make it more virulent than pathotype 5.
- Pathotype 5x has been confirmed on only one field in the Edmonton area to date.

## ACTION TAKEN TO DATE

- Maureen Vadnais, manager of the Agricultural Service Board Program, will coordinate ARD's response team.
- ARD continues to work with the farmer affected by pathotype 5x and the agricultural fieldman in the area to prevent movement of this pest. The municipality issued a notice restricting access to the affected field and outlining cleaning requirements and cropping restrictions. The farmer has been very cooperative.
- The Clubroot Action Committee met on August 15. Amendments were made to the Clubroot Management Plan and the response plan was outlined.



## NEXT STEPS

- ARD will continue to support and work with the farmer and municipality to limit movement of the pest from the known field.
- ARD is currently evaluating resources to ensure we can accommodate testing of suspect fields. The plant diagnostic lab will assist with testing.
- ARD is working to support ongoing surveillance and research with our academic, municipal, and industry partners.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Are clubroot resistant canola varieties no longer resistant to clubroot?

A: The current susceptibility is due to a pathotype shift. The clubroot resistant varieties are still showing good resistance to the more commonly found pathotypes 3 and 5.

Q: Are there penalties for the farmer? Is he allowed to go onto his field?

A: The farmer is allowed to conduct farming operations. The notice outlines cleaning requirements for all equipment leaving the field. Access is restricted to the farmer, his employees, the agricultural fieldman and ARD/University research staff. ARD and University staff must follow certain protocols to enter and exit the field. Anyone else wishing access to the field must first be vetted by ARD and the agricultural fieldman 72 hours before access is granted to the field. Access has already been denied in some instances.

Q: Is ARD allowing seed companies access to the 5x inoculum to test their new varieties for resistance to the new pathotype?

A: ARD is not allowing the inoculum to be transported outside of the current testing facility. It would contravene the *Agricultural Pests Act* to transport the pest outside of this controlled environment.

Seed companies currently work with ARD to screen their new varieties for resistance to clubroot. This process will remain the same.

## Weed beware!

### ORANGE HAWKWEED (*HIERACIUM AURANTIACUM*)

Orange hawkweed became a threat in 2003 when it was discovered in a flowerbed. The prevalence of this prohibited noxious weed has been nil until this summer when it was found in a natural area. Like any invasive species key features will help in identifying it. The flower, stem, leaves and root system all have distinguishing features. The flower head is composed of ray flowers with square edged, notched petals that have orange-red flowers. There are small bristly hairs growing on the stem. The leaves are mostly basal with bristly hairs also. This perennial forb reproduces by seed and stolons (short, strawberry-like runners).

The natural area where this invasive plant was found has been controlled and will be monitored to ensure the infestation does not return or spread.

If infestations are left untreated they can form dense mats of rosettes that exclude all other vegetation. Early detection is the best chance for eradication because once it is established it is difficult to control. There are a number of control options if the detection is found early. Prevent overgrazing, if a rangeland is stressed it can be highly susceptible to this weed (and others). Repeated cultivation may be effective in cropland situations. Mowing will prevent seed production but will encourage vegetative reproduction. Hand pulling or digging before flowering can be very effective for small infestations but requires repeating this type of control. A registered herbicide for orange hawkweed can also be used.



Reference: fact sheet Alberta Invasive Species Council: [www.abinvasives.ca](http://www.abinvasives.ca)

### BIGHEAD KNAPWEED (*CENTAUREA MACROCEPHALA*)

Bighead knapweed is another weed that has been found in several locations within the County, and was added to the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta in 2010. This invasive species has been a cultivated ornamental for over 200 years. Bighead knapweed is easily identified by its “big head” which is bright yellow. The stem can grow from one foot to five feet and is covered with long, soft hairs, which are slightly cobwebby. The leaves are lance shaped and covered with short hairs and dotted with resin glands. Bighead knapweed has a tap root which can develop into a woody crown with age. Many infestations have resulted from garden escapes, which is why prevention is very important; do not grow as an ornamental or use in dried flower arrangements.

There are a few control methods that are effective. Since most infestations we’ve found so far are very small, repeated mowing will suppress seed production but plants will re-grow. Digging out the plants to remove the entire taproot will prevent re-sprouting, and bagging/burning will best destroy this plant. Currently there are no registered herbicides for use on this knapweed.



## FLOWERING RUSH

Another species that seems to have exploded this season is flowering rush. This prohibited aquatic plant was first spotted in 2011, in the Headworks Canal which supplies water to Chestermere Lake and the Western Irrigation District. A cattail-like perennial of freshwater wetlands, flowering rush is not native to North America and was likely introduced as an ornamental flower. It is able to reproduce by both seed and vegetatively (rhizome-like roots produce new roots which separate from the parent plant to start new plants). Flowering rush infestations can displace native vegetation and result in reduced water quality, which may disrupt valuable fish and wildlife habitat. Dense stands in irrigation ditches can reduce water availability and in lakes can interfere with boat propellers and swimming.

During the winters of 2012 and 2013, the provincial government dredged portions of the Headworks Canal to remove the flowering rush and prevent its downstream infestation of the lake itself. Where dredged, the canal appeared nearly weed-free! Unfortunately not all of the canal was dredged, and in 2014, it is obvious that Chestermere Lake has a significant infestation, nearly ringing the entire shoreline. Though the plants are not yet dense, they are established and likely to spread.

The Town of Chestermere, Western Irrigation District, Alberta Lake Management Society, Rocky View County, The City of Calgary and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development are reviewing measures tried in various states and provinces who already are dealing with flowering rush. A response plan is being developed for implementation starting in November, 2014.

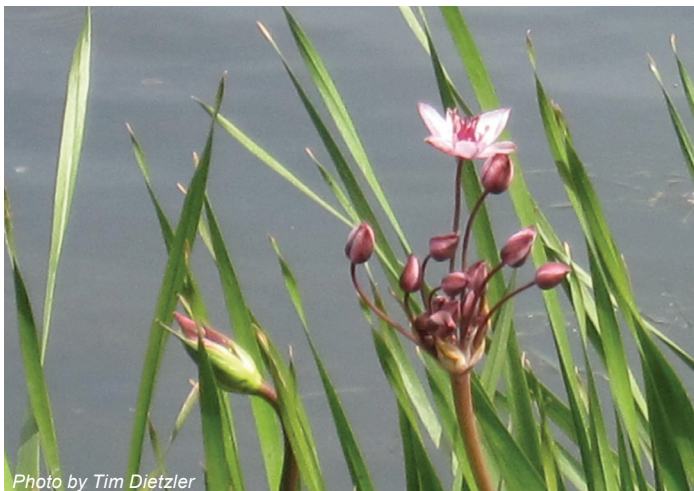


Photo by Tim Dietzler



## Agri-Environmental Incentive Program

Bona fide farmers are eligible to receive funding through this program. The program deadline is December 31, 2014. Any projects you wish to receive funding for must be completed on or before this date.

For a list of projects and available funding visit [www.rockyview.ca](http://www.rockyview.ca) and search for "Agri-Environmental."

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

## CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



Props, boats and natural ecosystems can be ruined by zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Take a few simple steps to preserve our lakes and fisheries: **CLEAN** off the plants and debris, **DRAIN** bilges and ballast, and **DRY** any wet areas of your boat.



ZEBCA MUSSELS

2.0 cm

QUAGGA MUSSELS

2.5 cm

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL



**DON'T LET THEM CATCH A RIDE**  
**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS**

TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES:  
1-855-336-BOAT (2628)  
[esrd.alberta.ca](http://esrd.alberta.ca)



# Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program (CABSESP)

BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy is a progressive, fatal disease of the nervous system in cattle and is associated with the accumulation of abnormal proteins (prions) in the brain.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) gives each country a risk status based partly on results from testing sufficient cattle for BSE. In 2007 Canada gained Controlled Risk status after the first Canadian-born case in 2003 was detected and mitigation measures were put into place to prevent the spread of BSE. Between the first case and the last BSE case reported in Canada (2011), there has been a total of 18 cases. With ongoing and sufficient BSE surveillance, Canada can apply for a better risk status (Negligible) in 2016 which will maintain and enhance international market access for the beef industry.

Eligible producers are reimbursed \$75 for each eligible animal. Reimbursement to producers under the CABSESP is performed to offset the costs to have an animal assessed for eligibility, sampled if eligible, and to retain control of the carcass until a negative BSE test result is available.

## BEFORE YOU CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Only a licensed veterinarian certified by the Government of Alberta can participate in the CABSESP.
- Veterinarians will be required to provide a description of the herd and operation, not just information on the animal.
- Producers will be required to provide detailed farm records that include animal records, tags and/or tattoos that confirm the animal's date of birth and possibly purchase. These records must be authentic and should be consistent with the rest of the herd.
- The producer must be in lawful possession of the animal. Evidence of this possession will be required.

## WHAT CATTLE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TESTING?

Accepted animals with a minimum age of 30 months, up to over 107 months of age (eight years and 11 months), that fall into any of the high risk categories:

- Diseased – not likely to respond to treatment
- Distressed – on-farm emergency slaughter
- Downers – not able to stand up
- Dead – by any cause

If every producer in Alberta tests at least one cow per year, Canada will have a strong and representative program that will help keep the industry profitable and growing. You will help maintain continuous access to domestic and international markets for our cattle and beef products.

To request a submission form, or payment inquiries, please contact the BSE unit at 780-427-8236, or fax to 780-422-5734.

If you have questions on the CABSESP, or for a list of BSE trained veterinarians, please call 310-3276 or visit: [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bse](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bse).



**BSE Surveillance is Everyone's Responsibility: Do your Part**



# Test me for BSE

Help keep Alberta beef markets open by supporting BSE surveillance.

Contact your veterinarian to assess and collect samples from eligible cattle for BSE testing.



**Call 310-FARM (3276) [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bse](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bse)**



## Agricultural supplies available

### FOR RENT:

#### **Pasture sprayer**

No charge to rent. Cost covered by the Agri-Environmental Incentive Program, \$1,000 deposit required at 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 Identification Guide**

\$5 each

#### **Bat boxes**

\$30 each

#### **Green Acreages Guide Workbook**

\$30 each

#### **Twine recycling bags**

FREE, pickup at the municipal building

*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

### **Councillors:**

Earl Solberg, DIVISION 5, ASB CHAIR

Liz Breakey, DIVISION 1

Bruce Kendall, DIVISION 9

### **Farmer Representatives:**

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Gwen Isaac, EAST AIRDRIE,

Wendy Metzger, BEISEKER, VICE CHAIR

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### **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](mailto:AgServices@rockyview.ca)



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Cultivating Communities

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

Growing Forward