

Have your say on proposed new farm legislation

On November 17, 2015, the Government of Alberta announced its intention to introduce new legislation to cover Alberta's farm and ranch workers. If approved, the legislation would ensure farm and ranch workplaces provide WCB coverage and comply with occupational health and safety laws.

According to the press release, changes would include:

- Ensuring farms and ranches are subject to occupational health and safety legislation to prevent farm and ranch incidents that can result in injury or death.
- Providing Workers' Compensation Board insurance coverage so that workers can continue to support their families if they are injured on the job, and protecting farm and ranch owners against the impact of workplace injuries and illness.
- Including farms and ranches in employment standards and labour relations legislation.



Farm and ranch workers will be protected by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations beginning January 1, 2016. Workers' Compensation Board coverage for farm and ranch workers will also be mandatory as of this date.

Albertans can participate in an online survey (deadline to

participate is January 5, 2016) on the Government of Alberta website. For more information on the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* and proposed changes and timelines, or to provide your input online, visit www.work.alberta.ca/farmandranch

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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ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities



Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership

The Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership (JCWP) formed in 2007-08, and is a multi-stakeholder, non-profit group concerned about the future of the Jumpingpound Creek watershed. Members of the Partnership include local farmers, ranchers, landowners, residents, all levels of government, and industry.

The JCWP's mission was to develop the Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The IWMP will guide decisions made by individuals, groups, resource managers, and governments living and operating within the watershed to maintain and improve environmental function and ensure an ample supply of high quality water for future generations.

Within the Plan, ecologically-based targets and thresholds were established for:

- Water quantity (streamflow),
- Groundwater,
- Water quality,
- Riparian health,
- Rangeland health, and
- Land cover (to promote biodiversity).

Recommendations were also made to help land managers

achieve the targets and thresholds and to guide decisions regarding land and water management in the watershed.

In spring 2015, JCWP received funding from the Provincial Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) that will help to implement recommendations within the Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The WRRP goals are well-aligned with the Plan recommendations, including:

- Wetland/Riparian restoration and conservation,
- Advancing flood and drought resiliency,
- Restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity and function in critical areas,
- Increasing knowledge and participation in activities that restore and sustain watershed functions, and
- Enhancing community capacity to restore and maintain critical watershed features.

The main Jumpingpound Creek projects that were funded through the WRRP are:

- Riparian fencing to promote regrowth of willows and cottonwoods and improve

livestock distribution on rangeland,

- Working with local landowners to identify future restoration/resiliency project sites, and
- Preparing and implementing a restoration resiliency plan for the lower Jumpingpound Creek within the Town of Cochrane.

The restoration plan objectives for lower Jumpingpound Creek include:

- Restoring streambank vegetation to moderate water temperatures in Jumpingpound Creek (maintain 20°C).
- Enhancing instream fish habitat structure.
- Managing invasive plants to reduce occurrence and improve riparian health scores (>68%).
- Educating residents about Jumpingpound Creek to encourage stewardship.
- Highlighting the importance of the creek in terms of headwater tributary and water supply; the importance of riparian areas, and local biodiversity.

For more information on the Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership and the IWMP, visit www.rockyview.ca and search for Jumpingpound Creek.

Applying manure on frozen or snow-covered land

Spreading manure on frozen or snow-covered land increases the risk to surface water quality during spring runoff. Sections 24(5), (6) and (7) of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) prohibits manure application on frozen and snow-covered land, unless prior permission is received from the NRCB, or the NRCB issues a notice allowing application due to weather conditions. In emergencies such as severe weather or imminent manure storage lagoon overflow, spreading on frozen and snow-covered land may be necessary, and operators must contact the NRCB for permission. An

inspector will work with the operator to identify land that is appropriate for spreading and the setback requirements. (Required setbacks are set out under section 24(10) of the act, but in some circumstances larger setbacks may be needed.)

If permission cannot be given, the inspector will help identify alternatives to spreading, such as short term solid manure storage.

The NRCB also supports removal and spreading of snow from pens after heavy snowfall. Permission is required and is normally granted for spreading snow that contains minimal amounts of manure.

Confined feeding operations that existed before 2002 that do not have nine months' storage for liquid manure are exempted from the requirement to obtain permission. Operators of these facilities are encouraged to notify NRCB inspectors of intended spreading, so inspectors can appropriately respond to any complaints. The spreading must comply with AOPA's setback and soil nutrient requirements, and must not create a risk to the environment.

Permission from NRCB to Rocky View County to reprint. November 17, 2015

Making the best of emergency spreading

Understanding the risks of winter spreading and a little planning can help you prepare should you ever need to make a request to the NRCB for permission to spread on snow or frozen ground.

When snow accumulates or the ground is frozen there are a number of conditions in place that work against you. Frozen ground does not allow for infiltration and may make incorporation impossible or impractical. This means that often manure remains exposed, resulting in increased runoff losses during snow melt and nutrient loss to the air, causing odours.

Manure on the surface is also more likely to leave the field during snow melt and any vegetative buffers you have in place to filter runoff are dormant.

The presence of snow also causes problems by hiding pathways to sensitive receptors. Old water wells and seasonal runoff channels can disappear from view, and if you or your applicator are not conscious of them when spreading, you might forget and place manure in a sensitive area.

HOW THEN CAN YOU PREPARE?

First, ask yourself if you have enough storage. If winter spreading happens on a regular basis you either do not have enough storage or you need to reconsider how you manage your manure. Consulting with resource people like your CFO extension specialist will help you determine if capacity is the problem and if so, the potential for Growing Forward 2 grant support. Grants are available for operations with

less than nine months of storage for design and construction costs.

Having enough storage, however, is not a guarantee against emergencies, so planning is still a valuable tool. This means pre-screening your lands, soil testing, and identifying setbacks and features that may not be visible when a request is made. Flagging some sensitive features, like well heads and runoff channels may also ensure setbacks are met and water resources are protected. This is also valuable information to share with your NRCB inspector, when discussing winter spreading.

For more information about winter spreading of manure or Growing Forward 2, contact 310-FARM and ask to speak to a CFO extension specialist.

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Farewell...

Agricultural Fieldman Tim Dietzler announced his retirement at the Agricultural Service Board meeting held November 12th, 2015 at the Rocky View County office. ASB Chairman and Division 5 Councillor Earl Solberg presented Tim a plaque.

In appreciation for your 27 years of dedicated service (1989-2016)

"Thank you for your expertise and passion in serving us, the rural residents of Rocky View County"

On behalf of the Agricultural Service Board and agricultural producers of Rocky View County.



Get Set to Grow

Watch for Agricultural Services' Get Set to Grow workshop series beginning 2016. Here are just a few of the topics we have in mind:

- Bees & Trees
- Shelterbelt Renovation
- Working Well Workshop
- Septic Systems
- Tree Pruning
- Horse Health & Management
- Vegetable Gardening
- Crop & Disease
- Canning & Preserving Foods

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

Joint workshops with neighbouring municipalities

A poster for an event titled "LIVING IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT" presented by the MD of Bighorn. The poster features a background image of a winding road through a mountainous landscape. The text on the poster includes:

MD of Bighorn Presents
LIVING IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
4:00pm Doors Open
5:00pm The Importance of Connected Landscapes in Alberta's Eastern Slopes - Dr. Michael Quinn
6:30pm Dinner & Cash Bar
8:15pm Between Rock and Hard Places: Wolverines in Multi-use Landscapes of Alberta - Dr. Tony Clevenger
4:00 - 8:15pm Visit the Trade Show in the Hall of Vision
February 5, 2016 Cochrane RanchHouse
Tickets \$35
Ticket Purchase Deadline January 27th, 2016
Tickets Available At:
MD of Bighorn 403-673-3611
Mountain View County 403-335-3311 Ext. 184
Rocky View County *in person only 403-520-7273
www.mdbighorn.ca

RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

FEB. 04. 2016

Olds College Alumni Centre

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Registration at 8:45 AM-Free Parking!

Ranching in the 21st Century

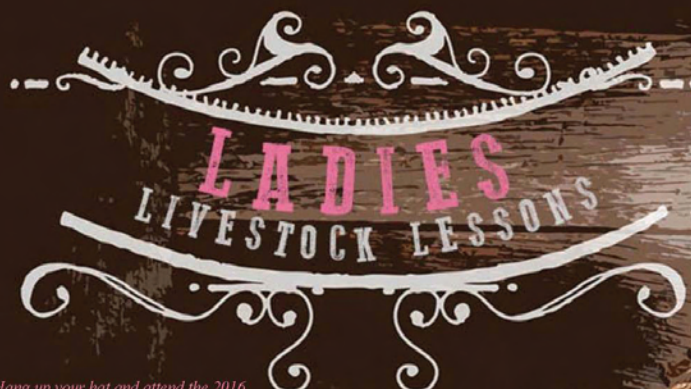
Discover new ways to manage your livestock, explore options for marketing your product, and learn about the challenges and achievements of successful ranchers



For registration details contact Carrie at
Mountain View County
Phone: 403-335-3311 Ext. 204
Email: cmabin@mvcountry.com

\$45 (\$25 for Students)

Follow us on Twitter at #RanchingOpportunities



Hang up your hat and attend the 2016 Ladies Livestock Lessons winter workshop. An opportunity to learn, socialize & connect with farming women!

Register Today!

\$50 includes meals, coffee & snacks

Please register online via Eventbrite at:
<http://2016ladieslivestocklessons.eventbrite.ca>

Registration closes January 18th, 2016
As space is limited, pre-registration is required

For more information or for registration details contact Carrie at Mountain View County Agricultural Services
Phone: 403.335.3311 Ext 204
e-mail: cmabin@mvcountry.com

HOSTS

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

Saturday, January 23rd

Weedon Pioneer Community Hall

42299 Weedon Trail, Cochrane, AB

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Afternoon sessions are held at the Cochrane & District AG Society Arena

TOTAL STOCKMANSHIP
With Curt Pate

IN FOOD WE TRUST
Dr. Melody Chan from Zoetis

RANCH ROPING
Stan Cena from the Cochrane Roping Club

GRAZING MANAGEMENT
Dr. Edward Bork from the U of A

VERIFIED BEEF PROGRAM UPDATE
Shannon Argent from Verified Beef

CATTLE AND EQUINE VACCINES
Dr. Alycia Chrenek from Zoetis

PLATINUM WORKSHOP SPONSOR
United Farmers of Alberta



Twitter: #ladieslivestocklessons
www.facebook.com/pages/Grazing-Schools-for-Women
ladieslivestocklessons.blogspot.ca



January 23rd
2016

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.

Agri-Environmental Incentive program

Bona fide farmers are eligible to receive funding through this program. The program deadline is December 31, 2015. 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 and search for "Agri-Environmental."

If you would like an application form 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

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

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Kristyn Smigelski, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES OFFICER

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry 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