

agri view

February 2015

Western Canadian Cow-Calf Survey

This survey was first conducted in Alberta in the late 1980s. It is now being expanded to Western Canada through a combined effort involving representatives from the Provincial Producer Associations, the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture specialists, the Beef Cattle Research Council, Canfax and the Western Beef Development Centre.

The survey asks questions about your operation and your management and marketing practices as they relate to your 2014 calf crop starting with breeding in 2013 and ending with weaning your 2014 born calves.

The results of this survey will be used in a number of ways:

- Offer historical comparison with previous study findings to determine how the industry has changed given that the last time this survey was conducted was 16 years ago in 1998;
- Guide extension and research efforts;
- Validate anecdotal evidence on production matters;
- Identify which management practices are linked to strong production performance; and
- Generate an updated set of production benchmarks for the cow-calf industry.

The survey closes **February 28, 2015.**

fluidsurveys.usask.ca/s/westerncdncow_calf_survey/



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
E-MAIL AgServices@rockyview.ca
WEB www.rockyview.ca



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities



Get Set to Grow Workshops

WORKING WELL WORKSHOPS

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Langdon Field House

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (light supper)

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (workshop)

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Airdrie Agriculture Building

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (light supper)

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (workshop)

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES NEAR WATER – NEW COUNTY RULES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Irricana Rec Complex

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Weedon Hall

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(joint workshop with Rocky View County planning)

FARMER PESTICIDE TRAINING AND EXAM

Wednesday February 25, 2015

Rocky View County Municipal Building

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Olds College Alumni Centre

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

\$40 per person includes lunch, snacks and beverages. Parking is free. Registration deadline February 18, 2015, contact 403-335-3311 ext. 143 or e-mail fmccarthy@mvcountry.com

WETLAND RESTORATION PILOT PROJECT LAUNCH

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Goldenrod Hall

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

(joint workshop with Alberta Land Institute for Nose Creek Watershed)

SEPTIC SYSTEM BASICS

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Airdrie Agriculture Building

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

TREE PRUNING & HEALTH

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Rocky View County Office

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

\$10/person includes pruning booklet

4-H WORKSHOP – ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP/CASH FOR WETLANDS

Saturday, March 21, 2015

Balzac Hall

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (breakfast)

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (workshop)

4-H WORKSHOP – WEEDS/PESTS

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Airdrie Agriculture Building

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (breakfast)

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (workshop)

WEEDS & PESTS

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Airdrie Agriculture Building

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

HORSE HEALTH & MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Cochrane RancheHouse – Hall of Vision

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

VEGETABLE GARDENING

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Airdrie Agriculture Building

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Registration can be taken online or by calling Donna Eaton at 403-520-6301 unless otherwise stated. Stay tuned for more events being added at www.rockyview.ca/agriculture



Nose Creek Watershed Partnership update

The Nose and West Nose Creek watershed continues to face pressures from cumulative effects of residential and commercial development, industrial growth, stormwater discharge and agricultural activities. A recognition of water quality and riparian area degradation in the watershed and the need to cooperatively manage the watershed across jurisdictions led to the formation of Nose Creek Watershed Partnership (NCWP) in 1998, with its goal: "To protect the riparian areas and improve water quality in the Nose Creek watershed."

In the beginning, the Partnership focused its efforts on stewardship activities such as cleanups, tree planting and bioengineering projects organized by a part-time watershed coordinator.

The NCWP project portfolio expanded to include projects such as the Nose Creek Rehabilitation Project and monitoring projects for riparian health, fisheries, erosion, and water quality. From 2004 to 2007, the Partnership developed the Nose Creek Watershed Water Management Plan (NCWWMP) as the directive document for subsequent projects and programs.

NCWP partners made significant progress implementing the NCWWMP recommendations. Additionally, each jurisdiction accomplished municipality-specific activities and initiatives to protect riparian areas and improve water quality. Some initiative examples include the City of Airdrie's Master Stormwater Drainage Plan; The City of Calgary's Environmental Reserve Setback Policy and Rocky View County's Riparian and Wetland Conservation and Management policies, and just recently, the County's riparian setbacks for development amendments to the Land Use Bylaw.

Currently, there are three projects dominating the stage for NCWP; Water Quality Monitoring, Internal Drainage Areas Policy Development and its website revision (nosecreekpartnership.com).

1. The **Water Quality Monitoring Program** is one of the longest running Partnership programs, collecting basin-wide water quality data from 2009 to 2013. The water monitoring program satisfies a recommendation from the NCWWMP. The Plan recommended integrating existing water quality monitoring programs conducted by various agencies and municipalities into a comprehensive program that promotes information sharing and avoids duplication. In the five- year NCWP water monitoring program, water sample analysis parameters are temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, total dissolved solids, total phosphorus, total dissolved phosphorus, total suspended solids and fecal coliform bacteria. The data results were compared to the Bow River Basin Council objectives (2008 and revised in 2010/11) and provincial guidelines (AENV 1999 and ESRD 2014). The monitoring results revealed one obvious issue - phosphorus concentration levels elevated above provisional water quality objectives for Nose Creek. Identification of the phosphorus issue lead to the Sediment Monitoring Project in the fall of 2013. The project gathered creek sediment samples and analyzed them for total phosphorus. The sediment phosphorus data paired with the water quality monitoring data offers a better understanding of phosphorus dynamics in the watershed. Both monitoring projects concluded that Nose Creek could benefit from increased efforts to reduce phosphorus inputs. All jurisdictions in the watershed are actively working towards reducing nutrient loading through multiple projects and programs.

2. The **Internal Drainage Areas Policy Development Project** is another key NCWP project. The NCWWMP identified internal drainage areas within Nose Creek watershed that do not contribute drainage directly to Nose Creek except in extreme hydrological events. The Plan advises that internal drainage areas should remain isolated from effective watershed areas whenever possible as they play an important role in maintaining the hydrological regime. There will be extreme events where precipitation exceeds the infiltration capacity of internal drainage areas, causing runoff to Nose Creek. The NCWWMP recommends that during extreme events, runoff directed toward Nose Creek must achieve runoff volume control targets for these areas. In 2013, NCWP initiated the Nose Creek Internal Drainage Areas Study to analyze stream erosion potential and subsequently set the runoff volume control targets to minimize erosion impacts of discharge. The study led to the development of the Internal Drainage Areas Policy Statement that clarifies the required runoff volume control targets for proposed development, the management of environmental flows to natural wetland areas and discharges to Nose Creek during extreme events. To achieve these runoff targets and release rates, development within internal drainage areas must incorporate systems that promote retention and infiltration, such as natural wetland areas.

3. **Website Revision:** NCWP accumulated a vast amount of data and developed watershed resources through the completion of numerous projects and programs. The group, however, recognized it had not identified all stakeholders nor determined a way to convey or deliver the abundance of information to interested stakeholders. It was these realizations that sparked NCWP to invest in refining and enhancing its website (www.nosecreekpartnership.com). The Partnership plans to use the revitalized website as a tool for reengaging and communicating with the community. The website will provide both detailed technical resources for stakeholders seeking scientific data and basic watershed information for those with general interests. NCWP encourages everyone in the watershed to visit the website to learn more about the Nose Creek watershed and delve into more details.



Take part in the Riparian Planting Project

The Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) is partnering with Rocky View County Agricultural Services in its Riparian Planting Project, which will take place over two years. We need landowners who have completed (or will be completing in the near future) an Environmental Farm Plan and want to enhance their riparian area.

Criteria on the sites:

- Must have a riparian area on property (e.g. river, creek, lake)
- As part of the project, planting sites must be fenced a minimum three metres from the riparian area
- Must consider off-site watering systems
- Must have an active livestock operation on property

- Allow County and AWES staff/contractors access to potential planting sites after providing reasonable notice

Landowners must be willing to cover all of the costs and will be reimbursed.

AWES will provide:

- Tree planting design and services
- Provision of information on post planting maintenance and potential assistance
- Monitoring of sites on a minimal annual basis

If this is something you are interested in participating in, please contact Ashley Stewart 403 520 1272 or astewart@rockyview.ca for more information.

Wetland Research

Early in 2015, a new University of Alberta research project, in partnership with Rocky View County, will launch in the Nose Creek watershed. A team of economists and scientists will be investigating the economic, social, and environmental benefits associated with the restoration of wetlands, as part of an innovative program that will provide monetary benefits for wetlands and the services they deliver.

Wetlands contribute important ecosystem services to communities, such as water purification and flood mitigation. Most wetlands in Alberta exist on private land, and the objective of this research is to better understand the barriers that exist to restoring wetlands on private land.

Wetlands can be a nuisance on a working agricultural landscape, due to a direct loss of productive land or costs associated with the inconvenience of having to work around them. This project will pay for the costs and inconveniences of restoring wetlands, at a price determined by landowners.



This research seeks to answer the question of how much money landowners in Rocky View County want to be paid to have a wetland restored on their land.

Once landowners set their price through submitting bids, the researchers will evaluate the costs and will pay cash for wetlands until their restoration budget is exhausted. If landowners are willing to accept a payment for researchers to restore a wetland on their property, then the researchers are willing to pay cash for wetlands.

More information about how to participate in this study will be available when the project kicks off early in March 2015. Payments and restoration work will not begin until 2016, leaving ample time for landowners to decide whether they wish to become involved. The research team looks forward to working with the residents of Rocky View County on this project over the next three years.

For more information about this project, please contact Stacey O'Malley, wetlands@ualberta.ca.



Land to Rent or Seeking Rental Land

Agricultural Services provides a free and simple web listing service of agricultural land to rent, and of producers seeking rental land. The intent is to facilitate growth of the agricultural industry in Rocky View County.

Connections will be made via email, coordinated by Agricultural Services. Names and identifying

information will not be displayed publicly. Once a connection has been facilitated, further arrangements will take place solely between the parties involved.

To post your listing or view what's available, go to www.rockyview.ca and search for "Rental Land."

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:

Susan Church, COCHRANE
Gwen Isaac, EAST AIRDRIE,
Jim Dunn, WEST AIRDRIE
Jessica Dugdale, SE ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Agricultural Services Staff:

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