MD of Provost

Agricultural Roundup

November/ December 2020

CARA Survey

Did You Know?

Mycotoxins

Recipe

BCRC Decision Making Tools

Ag-Plastics Recycling Program

Tree Disease

Garden Cleanup

Environmental Farm Plan Workshops

Box 300 Provost, AB
T0B 3S0
1-780-753-2434
mdprovost.com

Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Tis' the season for snowplows! Please be aware of plow trucks and graders out plowing roads.

Planning for the Future...

CARA has been conducting applied research, demonstration, and extension since 1979. As we move forward, it is time to take a closer look at the needs of our local producers. **We need your help in determining local agricultural needs so that we can fine-tune our program to better meet them. Can you help us by filling out this survey?** By giving us your opinion, you will help the CARA Staff and Directors develop a sound plan for the future.

CHINOOK APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
CARA

To fill out the survey, please visit ***ChinookAppliedResearch.ca/2020survey***

Your ASB Contacts:

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Agriculture Update for Professionals

November 26th, 2020 from 9:00am – 4:00pm.
Register online at https://www.agricultureupdate.ca/.

If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of the newsletter, please email cwolf@mdprovost.ca

Did You Know.... RAT Edition.

Norway rats were first discovered on a farm near Alsask, AB during the summer of 1950. By the fall of 1951, 30 rat infestations had been confirmed along 180km of Alberta's eastern border, and in 1952, rats were active along 270km of the border. Most of these infestations were within 10 to 20km of the border, but in three areas between Medicine Hat and Provost, there were infestations 50 to 60 km into Alberta.

In 1953, the southward spread of rats was halted when they reached the relatively uninhabited Cypress Hills. They continued to spread north until 1958 when they reached the uninhabited and unbroken boreal forest near Cold Lake.

Rat control in Alberta has not really changed since 1960. Presently, the number of sites inspected annually by the PCOs varies between 2,000 to 4,000.

Baking Powder Biscuits

a Great Grandma recipe.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 7/8 cup milk (1 cup less 2 Tbsp)

Directions:

1) Mix all ingredients together.

2) Roll out on floured counter and cut with the rim of a glass (dipped in flour) into biscuit shapes.

3) Bake at 400°F for 12 minutes.

Mycotoxins

Mycotoxins are poisonous compounds produced by certain fungi that are only detectable in feed through lab testing. If they are present in feed sources, they can create a variety of problems for beef cattle including reduced health and productivity. Fungal diseases such as fusarium and ergot are common causes of mycotoxins. Mould present in feed such as cereal swaths, standing corn for grazing, hay, cereal forages and/or straw, is also a source of mycotoxins. Higher moisture levels throughout the season will allow mycotoxins to thrive.

Symptoms of mycotoxin poisoning in cattle include:

- Decreased consumption: feed reduction greater than 30% should be investigated.
- Decrease in growth or performance.
- Animal is frequently sick (immune suppression) and does not respond to antibiotics.
- Animal has convulsions, muscle spasms, temporary paralysis.
- Gangrene or lameness, especially in animal's ears, tail, and feet.
- Fever or intermittent diarrhea.
- Blisters, reddening, or ulcers in mouth.
- Abortion or premature births occur, or reduced lactation.
- Fertility issues such as weak testicular development or low sperm count in bulls.

The best way to prevent feeding mouldy feed is to consider testing your feed sources on a regular basis and to follow all best practices and precautions.

http://www.beefresearch.ca/research-topic.cfm/mycotoxins-94

BCRC DECISION MAKING TOOLS!!

The following tools can help you make specific production decisions that suit your operation. They can be found on the Beef Cattle Research Council website:

http://www.beefresearch.ca/resources/decisiontools.cfm

Carrying Capacity Calculator
Cow-Calf Production Indicators Calculator
Winter Feed Cost Comparison Calculator
BRD Vaccination Cost Benefit Calculator
BVD Vaccination Cost Benefit Calculator
Bull Valuation Calculator
Value of Calving Distribution Calculator
Tool for Evaluating Feed Test Results
Tool for Evaluating the Economic Value of Feeds Based on Nutrient Content
Economics of Water Systems Calculator
Economics of Pregnancy Testing Beef Cattle
Value of Preconditioning Calves
Impact of Body Condition on Cow Productivity and Profitability

Alberta Ag-Plastic *'Recycle It!'* Pilot Program Announcement...

This fall, the Provost Regional Landfill was chosen by Cleanfarms as a collection site for grain bags and twine in a recycling pilot program. **We will have designated collection days on the FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.** Please ensure that your bags are secured and clean, and twine bagged properly (see examples and proper steps below). There will be a bobcat and operator at the Provost Regional Landfill on these specific collection days to assist with unloading. Grain bags that are loose or hand rolled, and twine that is excessively dirty or contaminated with net wrap will be rejected and subject to a landfill tipping fee.

Please Note...

If you do not have access to a grain bag roller, one is available for rental from Kevin McGillivray at 780-753-0230.

If there are any questions about the program, or you need twine recycling bags please call the M.D. of Provost shop at 780-753-2168 or either of the Ag. Fieldmen.

The Provost Regional Landfill is located on RR 33 north of HWY 13 (SW 3-40-3 W4).

Twine Recycling

1 Shake

- Remove as much debris, snow or ice as possible*
- Do not include net wrap

2 Bag

- Obtain Cleanfarms recycling bag from RM or collection site
- Place loose twine in a Cleanfarms recycling bag
- Poke small holes in bag at the bottom to drain water
- Secure bag tightly closed with twine or zip tie

3 Return

- Return to your local pilot collection site

*Excessively dirty twine, especially if knotted, may be rejected, subject to a landfill tipping fee or additional charges at drop off.

Grain Bag Recycling

1 Shake

- Please shake off as much organic material (spoilage, dirt, etc.) as possible*

2 Roll

- Must be rolled and tied with twine
- Rollers and compactors are available at some Alberta collection sites
- Contact your local collection site in advance to confirm

3 Return

- Bring grain bags that are rolled and tied securely to your local pilot collection site

*Excessively dirty or loose/unrolled bags may be rejected, subject to a landfill tipping fee or to additional charges at drop off.

CYTOSPORA CANKER in Spruce Trees

Cytospora canker is most common in Colorado and White spruce trees and is caused by a fungal pathogen that attacks the infected tree. Spores are released from the cankered branches throughout the growing season and spread by rain, wind, insects, birds, or man to other branches on the same or other trees. The fungus will first infect the branches through wounds but will eventually spread throughout the whole branch.

Symptoms of Cytospora canker will typically start in lower branches. The needles on the branch will turn brown and eventually drop, leaving entire branches bare, with dead areas of the bark exuding a white or blueish resin. This infection is most severe in crowded or stressed trees.

The best control method is to maintain tree vigour by watering, and not cultivating deeper than a few inches near the tree. Remove and dispose of infected branches as they will only serve as a source of infection. It is best to prune during late winter or dry periods. Prune to a lateral branch at least 10 -15cm below any visible cankers.

Fall Vegetable Garden Cleanup: 11 TASKS TO DO NOW!

Remove plant matter from the garden. Chop peas and beans off at ground level, leaving their nitrogen-fixing roots in the soil.

Get your compost cooking. Break material into smaller pieces and start compost pile. Compost everything unless it is already diseased.

Do one last weeding. Weeding is most important in late summer and autumn than any other time!

Plan out new garden beds. Fall is a great time to create new planting beds.

Use those fall leaves wisely. Remove leaves from your lawn by mulching with a mower or spread them on your garden patch as compost.

Protect fruit trees from rodent pests. While the mower is out, mow around the fruit trees one last time to discourage mice from nesting there.

Protect your garden soil. Cover garden with mulch or compost to enrich the soil over winter.

Consider crop rotation. Make a note of what crops were grown where to help with planning for next year's planting.

Test and improve your soil. Fall is a great time to get your soil tested.

Plant garlic. October and November are the best time to plant garlic.

Maintain your garden's features. Put all your stakes, supports, tools and pots away for winter.

"Continually striving to provide a rural environment where residents may enjoy an excellent quality of life."