

The Dirt

*Issues Facing MD of Bighorn Landowners
- From Barnyard to Backyard -*

Bighorn Happenings

Dwight Tannas

Well, spring seems to be on the way! Seed catalogues are arriving and I am hoping to get an early start at planting! Please check out our new gardening brochure and think before you plant! It has been an interesting spring and the New Weed Control Act will keep me busy studying all the new additions to the Weed Control List. We will continue to have the same old ones we have been controlling for some time but the Expert Weed Committee has added considerably to the list.

Those of our Agricultural Services and Environmental Advisory Board who attended the Provincial Agricultural Services Board Conference came away with much knowledge and some things to think about. Sarah Partington who heads up the Weed Spotter Program for the Department of Primary Industries in Australia was one of the featured speakers. It is very interesting to see how the general public and industries in Australia are committed to controlling invasive species.

Our Living in the Natural Environment event on the 5th of February was a good success again. Dr. Dave Sauchyn, Senior Research Scientist at PARC, University of Regina, has a very good message and makes one think about climate change in a whole new way. Yes we should limit our affects on climate but we also have to think about how we can adapt to change. Check out the website www.parc.ca/mcri/pdfs/papers/int01.pdf for more information. Gord Stenhouse, Carnivore Biologist, Program Lead, Grizzly Bear Program, Foothills Research Institute gave a very good presentation on the status of Grizzly Bears in the province. Many of you have probably seen Gord on a National Geographic Special or read about his work in one of many publications. Check out the Institutes website for more information.

<http://foothillsresearchinstitute.ca/pages/home/>

On February the 11th the annual "Ranching Opportunities Workshop" that five of our neighbouring municipalities, several non-government organizations and Olds College hosts every year was held. It was again a great success. This year we highlighted a request to address the issue of how young people could stay on the farm. As a result we brought together a panel of successful young farmers to tell their stories and to network with the workshop participants. We also invited financial experts to talk to breakout sessions on a number of subjects. This was very well received. Even though the agricultural industry is in perhaps it's most trying time, there is unbelievable desire by young people to achieve their goal of staying on the land.

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*The Dirt is published approximately
three times per year to specifically
address issues of the natural
environment and rural life
throughout our municipality.*

*If you have an issue you'd like to
us to tackle, please email*

*Dwight Tannas at
dwight.tannas@mdbighorn.ca
or give him a call at either:*

403-673-3611 or 403-233-7678.

*We encourage your suggestions
and feedback.*

Welcome Back to Will Davies

We are thrilled that Will Davies will again be joining our team between early April and until October in the capacity of assistant environmental fieldman. Will was in this position last year and brought a great deal of depth and experience that we are looking forward to having again this summer.

Check out the Alberta Farm Animal Care website. I think you will find it interesting as to the length producers go to protect the well being of their animals. <http://afac.ab.ca/index.htm> If your interested in eating well check out <http://www.healthyalberta.com/HealthyEating/344.htm> I think you will find this website very interesting, or am I just getting hungry? We are hoping this coming summer to partner with many community groups like we did last summer. We look forward to working with you to keep our environment native and free of invasive species!



Yellow Clematis

Provincial Designation:

NOXIOUS

What Does This Mean?

It's pretty, it's found all over our municipality and it is now on the Province's Most Wanted Weed List

Yellow clematis is a perennial vine of the buttercup family, native to high mountain areas of China and India. It is widely available as both an ornamental plant and seed under a variety of names – Golden Clematis, Golden Tiara, Virgins-Bower. This plant should not be confused with the native blue or white clematis found in more wooded areas whereas the yellow tend to grow in more exposed areas. This plant has become very common and in cases abundant in the Bow Corridor.

Now that these plants have been listed by the Province as Noxious, the MD of Bighorn will now be responsible under the Weed Act for ensuring that this species of plant is controlled in our municipality. If you have this plant growing on your private property, it is your responsibility under the Act to remove it.

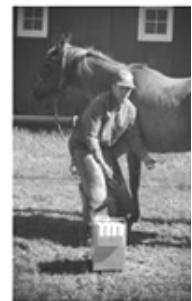
Please help us control the spread of noxious weeds in our municipality that destroy natural vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Check out the enclosed Weed Wise Brochure for great ideas for smart planting. If you have any questions and would like a consultation on weeds vs. native plants, please contact our Environmental Fieldman at the MD office.

Ladies Livestock Lessons

June 15th & 16th
2010

Salvation Army
Camp
Pine Lake, AB



Managing Your Grass, Water & Herd

**Some space is still available for
this amazing weekend. For more
details, contact Bighorn's
Environmental Fieldman
at the MD office.**

Government of Canada Delivers Energy Loan for Farmers

Ottawa, Ontario, February 22, 2010 – Canadian agriculture producers and agribusiness operators who are considering the use of renewable energy sources in their business will soon have a new financing option thanks to a new Energy Loan announced today by Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz.

The FCC Energy Loan is designed to assist producers and agribusiness owners who want to make the move towards producing their own renewable energy. The loan announcement came as part of Minister Ritz's presentation to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Annual General Meeting held today in Ottawa.

"There are sources of energy all around Canadian farmyards and we're helping producers invest in the technologies needed to tap those opportunities," said Minister Ritz. "This initiative is good for the environment and it's good for the bottom line on farms across Canada."

"We're definitely seeing an increase in the number of people across the country that are interested in renewable energy sources to reduce costs and demand on the energy grid," says Greg Stewart, FCC President and Chief Executive Officer. "The Energy Loan ensures FCC is taking an active role on the renewable energy front and shows our commitment to improving rural Canada."

A recent FCC Vision survey showed that 60 per cent of individuals surveyed are considering new ways to find financial value by reducing their environmental impact. The survey, completed in November 2009 by 1,172 producers and agribusinesses across the country, revealed that 37 per cent of those people looking at reducing their impact are considering the use of renewable energy sources in their operation. Available on March 1, the Energy Loan will help producers and agribusiness operators purchase and install on-farm energy sources like biogas, geothermal, wind or solar power.

The Energy Loan offers an interest term of up to five years at variable or fixed rates and with monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual payments available.

For more information on our Vision survey, visit: <http://www.fccvision.ca/InAction.aspx>

As Canada's leading provider of business and financial services to farms and agribusiness, FCC advances the business of agriculture. Operating out of about 100 offices located primarily in rural Canada, FCC employees are passionate about the business of agriculture. A healthy portfolio of more than \$18 billion and 16 consecutive years of portfolio growth reflect our customers' success. FCC reports to Canada's parliament through the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. For more information, visit www.fcc.ca.

In addition to this loan's support for Canadian farmers, Canada's Economic Action Plan continues to support agriculture as a core economic driver in this country. The Government of Canada is focused on strengthening the economy, while preparing to pay down the deficit and to create and protect the jobs of the future. Investments in viable, innovative technologies will help strengthen agriculture industry and the Canadian economy. For more information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

Notice

The Environmental Services Department of the M.D. of Bighorn will be caring out our weed control program from the 1st of May till September 15th, 2010. This spring the new Weed Control Act and Regulations come into effect. The list of weeds that must be controlled has been enlarged. There are now 29 Noxious Weeds and over 40 Prohibited Noxious Weeds. One of the new weeds on the list is Yellow Clematis. Please see the attached factsheet on this weed. Remember weeds on these lists must be controlled.

For more information contact
Dwight Tannas,
Environmental Fieldman
or Will Davies, Assistant
Fieldman at 403 673 3611
Calgary Direct at 403 233



New Alberta Farm Animal Care Executive Director Hired

Calgary, AB, February 1, 2010: Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) is pleased to announce the selection of Lorna Baird of Calgary as the organization's new Executive Director. Baird will take over from Interim Manager, Jim Haggins, on Feb. 1, 2010.

Doug Sawyer, Chairman of the board of directors of AFAC announced the decision, which was made by a selection committee that included five directors of the livestock industry organization.

Baird joins AFAC as she is completing her PhD in Animal Science from Queen's University of Belfast. Raised in Winnipeg, she obtained her BSc. in Agriculture (Animal Science) from the University of Manitoba and followed that with an MSc. in Agricultural Sciences (Animal Welfare Program) from the University of British Columbia (UBC). Her theses at UBC and Queen's, focused on various aspects related to lameness in dairy cattle. Baird has eight years of experience developing and delivering "Lameness in Cattle" training sessions and research presentations to various audiences.

"I believe the most powerful way that animal agriculture will move forward in Alberta is through collaborations between industry, government and research to provide a clear, cohesive, forward-thinking message to the media and consumers," says Baird.

Baird's clear understanding of welfare issues, experience in management and research, communication skills and her dedication and passion for animal behaviour and care will be excellent assets in fulfilling her responsibilities to AFAC. She is excited about the opportunity to work with the board of directors, staff and the Alberta livestock industries in leading AFAC into the future.

AFAC is a partnership of Alberta's major livestock groups, with a mandate to promote responsible, humane farm animal care. AFAC members have worked together to build a framework for continual improvement in handling, transport, research, education and other areas. More information on AFAC is available at www.afac.ab.ca.

For more information contact: Lorna Baird , Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC), Phone: (403) 932-8050 lorna@afac.ab.ca

Websites of Interest

Alberta

Invasive Plant Council

Pictures and fact sheets of weeds!

www.invasiveplants.ab.ca

Alberta Agriculture

www.agric.gov.ab.ca

Alberta Stewardship Network

www.stewardshipcanada.ca

Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company

www.albertaefp.com

Alberta Conservation Association

www.ab-conservation.com

Alberta Environment

www.environment.gov.ab.ca

Sustainable Resource Development

www.srd.gov.ab.ca

FOR ALBERTA ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The Queens Printer

www.gov.ab.ca/qp

780 427- 4952

AFSC

Agricultural Financial Services Corporation

www.afsc.ca

403 948- 8543

Livestock Inspection Service

www.lis-alberta.com

Brand Inspector

403 934 2544

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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