

# MD of Provost



## Agricultural Roundup



### March & April 2019

### ~Ladies Calving Clinic Success~

We would like to send out a huge thank you again to everyone who attended our event. We appreciate CARA, Just like Mum's catering, volunteers, and all of our local vendors and speakers for their contributions as this night would not have been the great success it was without you. -We wish you all a happy calving season!



**We want  
-YOUR-  
favourite  
recipes**

Please email one of the Assistant Ag. Fieldmen your best recipes to be featured in our Ag. Roundup throughout the year. Support our local producers and show off your home-grown ingredients that make it on the dinner table to satisfy the farmers in your community.  
*Photos encouraged!*

**Congratulations**  
to Ian Green for being awarded the AACPO  
*Peace Officer Award of Excellence.*

The Provost Seed Cleaning Plant is undergoing a large expansion renovation and upgrades, so as of May 1<sup>st</sup> it will be closed for cleaning but treating will still be available; please plan accordingly.



**ATTENTION!**  
**Call in your No Spray Zones before May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

What would you like to see in our next newsletter? Call, text, or email one of your Assistant Ag. Fieldmen – *Contact information on the front page.*

**PROVOST AGRI-DAY & TRADESHOW!**  
APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 2019  
@ CRESCENT POINT PLACE  
10:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
BRING A FOOD BANK DONATION

- Agri-Day & Tradeshow**
- Did You Know**
- Recipe Applications**
- Seed Cleaning Plant**
- Dust Control**
- Tree Pruning**
- Provincial Award**
- Weed Report**
- Seasonal Employment**
- Pest & Strychnine Information**
- Insect Update**
- Cattle Corner**
- ASB Crew**
- Fishing**
- CAP**
- Announcements**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:**  
[HTTP://MDPROVOST.COM/AG-SERVICE-BOARD/](http://mdprovost.com/ag-service-board/)

Box 300 Provost, Ab  
ToB 3So  
1-780-753-2434  
mdprovost.ca

**YOUR ASB CONTACTS:**

AG. FIELDMAN-*Brian Carter:*  
[bcarter@mdprovost.ca](mailto:bcarter@mdprovost.ca)  
780-753-0184

ASST. AG. FIELDMAN-*Jessica Robley:*  
[jrobley@mdprovost.ca](mailto:jrobley@mdprovost.ca)  
780-753-4382

ASST. AG. FIELDMAN -*Caitlin Wolf:*  
[cwolf@mdprovost.ca](mailto:cwolf@mdprovost.ca)  
780-753-4359

## DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 11,000 different species of grasshoppers in the world; 80 of those are in the prairies with 7 of those causing issues to agriculture, crop, and forages: Two stripe, packer, lesser migratory, clearwing, redlegged, blackwing, and large headed.
- There are 20,000 species of bees in the world. Bees see all colours except red. 1/3 of our global food supply is pollinated by bees.



New Addition to the Pest Control Team:  
***Michelle Holte*** (PWCM)  
Pest & Weed Control Manager

Strychnine will still be available for sale this year. Payment (cash or cheque) must be given and paperwork must be completed before strychnine is sold. From April 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, it will be available at both the Provost and Hughenden Shops Tuesday mornings. Available by appointment after June 5<sup>th</sup>. Your receipts will be mailed to you. Any questions call Michelle at 780-753-4035 or email [mholte@mdprovost.ca](mailto:mholte@mdprovost.ca)



<https://www.albertaarborists.com/>

## When to Prune?

- **Coniferous trees**, like spruce or pine, can be pruned any time of year. For most trees, the best time of year is from March to mid-April or during the winter.
- **Birch and Maple**- prune ONLY during the growing season, June and July, when the leaves are fully developed.
- **Elm trees**- DO NOT prune from April 1-October 1.
- **Hardwood trees**, like Aspen or ash, and **shrubs without showy flowers**, prune in the dormant season
  - o to easily visualize the structure of the tree
  - o to maximize wound closure in the growing season after pruning,
  - o to reduce the chance of transmitting disease, and
  - o to discourage excessive sap flow from wounds

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The M.D. of Provost No. 52 Agricultural Service Board is currently seeking applicants for temporary positions to carry out the 2019 Weed Control Program.

The successful applicants will be working out of the Hughenden M.D. Shop and the Provost M.D. Shop. Duties will include operation of the spray trucks, consultation with ratepayers, weed inspection, some reclamation and record keeping. A pesticide applicator's license would be an asset but not a requirement.

For more information contact:  
Brian Carter, Agricultural Fieldman,  
M.D. of Provost No. 52  
Phone: Cell 780-753-0184 or  
Office 780-753-2168  
Send resumes to:  
M.D. of Provost No. 52  
Box 300  
Provost, Alberta  
ToB 3So  
Email: [bcarter@mdprovost.ca](mailto:bcarter@mdprovost.ca)

## SEASONAL EQUIPMENT OPERATORS & LABOURERS

The M.D. of Provost No. 52 is currently seeking seasonal equipment operators and labourers for the 2018 season. These positions will be based out of but not limited to the M.D. shops located in Hughenden and/or Provost.

Valid Driver's License Required (Class 1Q Endorsement preferred).

Experience in operating various heavy equipment, the ability to work without supervision, and mechanical ability are required.

For more information contact

Tyler Lawrason @ 780-753-2434 ([tlawrason@mdprovost.ca](mailto:tlawrason@mdprovost.ca))

Len Fossen @ 780-753-4423 ([lfossen@mdprovost.ca](mailto:lfossen@mdprovost.ca))

Marty Biro @ 306-873-7831 ([mbiro@mdprovost.ca](mailto:mbiro@mdprovost.ca))

Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume with a current driver's abstract to one of the above or to the following:

M.D. of Provost No. 52  
4504 – 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Box 300  
Provost, Alberta  
TOB 3S0

These positions will be left open until suitable candidates are found.

This position falls under the collective agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 955.

We thank all applicants for their interest.

However, only those applicants receiving an interview will be contacted.

## PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCEMENT

Please ensure you have filled out and submitted your dust control application. Forms are available at the Administration Office or from our website.

Submissions are due **no later than April 15.**

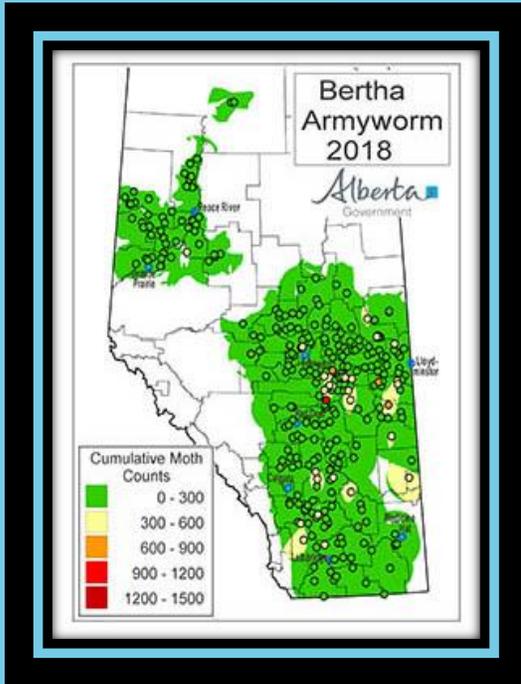


# Insect Update

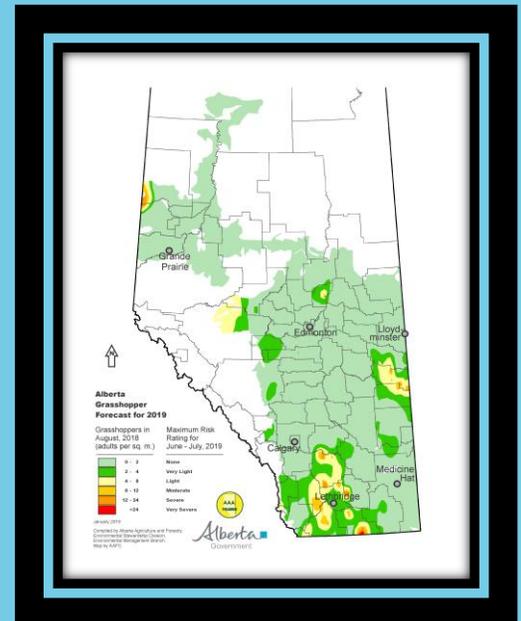


Scott Meers (Insect Management Specialist) says that the

***Bertha armyworm*** is trending upwards and there could be some outbreaks. “Last year we saw quite a substantial jump up in central Alberta. I fully expect we are going to see an outbreak phase someplace in central Alberta this growing season.” He adds that it looks like an outbreak that is growing in the Peace Country. “We also have a couple questions further south of Highway 1, but we see that up and down over the years, and often it is not an outbreak. However, it really does look like central Alberta is in for bertha armyworm – it is hard to read exactly where - but probably centered around Camrose”. Bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) was monitored in 2018 using a network of pheromone-baited traps placed in 290 locations throughout Alberta. Pheromone traps are used to determine the density and distribution of moths. This network of pheromone traps is organized by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and individual traps are managed by a wide range of cooperators. Without dedicated and willing cooperators such a comprehensive monitoring system would not be possible. Our cooperators can submit their trap counts using their smart phones with a web-based application. If you are interested in managing a trap location in Alberta for 2019, please email: [shelley.barkley@gov.ab.ca](mailto:shelley.barkley@gov.ab.ca) for more information. The MD of Provost will be setting up Monitoring Traps this spring.



As for the 2019 ***grasshopper*** forecast, Meers says that a few interesting things are happening. “We are seeing in southwest Alberta – Vulcan, Willow Creek and Lethbridge counties – higher grasshopper numbers in 2018. That forecasts into bigger numbers in 2019, depending on factors such as spring weather. There were problem spots in 2018, and there is potential for those to increase in 2019.” “The 2019 grasshopper forecast map shows a very low number for the Peace, but we have been seeing a two-year cycle in that region. If we follow that pattern and we look at the map based on the 2017 survey, it looks like we could be in an outbreak situation. We say if because we just don’t have the scientific basis to make that call, but all the trends show a two-year cycle. Given the pattern of every other year, 2019 very likely will be a grasshopper year in the Peace.” Investigations in those areas have shown that the most common species, *Melanoplus bruneri* (*Bruner’s Spurthroat*) was in low numbers in 2018. This is a species that wasn’t recognized as a pest until very recently. *M bruneri* also has documented populations of biennial lifecycle. This is a possible explanation for the outbreaks in alternate years that have resulted in very wrong forecasts for the past 10 plus years (in the Peace River region and northern central Alberta). Investigations are underway assess the possibility of this biennial lifecycle and its impact on grasshopper forecasts. Based on our 64 surveys from last summer, the southwest part of the M.D. has a rising grasshopper population.



More information can be found at: [agric.gov.ab.ca](http://agric.gov.ab.ca)

# Weed Alert- *Jimsonweed*

**\*Not common to Alberta\***

## **All Parts of the Plant are Poisonous**

**Concern:** Jimsonweed (a.k.a Devil's Trumpet) is a serious weed in cultivated land in the United States and eastern Canada. The plant has toxic effects that have resulted in death to livestock and humans that ingest it.

**Plant:** The plant has smooth thick red to purple stems that can reach 2 meters tall. Leaves have irregular toothed margins 10-20 cm long. Flowers are white to purplish, 5 point trumpet shape, 7-10 cm long. Seed pod is 2-5cm wide, has spines, is egg shaped and may contain up to 600-700 seeds per capsule. The seed capsule will explode expelling the seeds once mature. Has distinctive sour repulsive odour.

**Where to Find This Weed:** This invasive weed has been showing up in canola fields. Jimsonweed has been reported recently in Barrhead, Leduc and Westlock Counties while producers are swathing canola.

**Control:** Jimsonweed seed is difficult to clean from canola, removal prior to combining is recommended. Jimsonweed should be pulled from fields prior to swathing down, once cut the seed capsules may mature into viable seeds for next year. When hand pulling, wear gloves and long sleeves and double bag the plants for the landfill disposal. In this year of feed shortages, canola stubble should not be baled up for feed where plants have been found. These practices will increase risk for poisoning in livestock feed.

Do not compost. Do not burn, as this will release toxins in the air and may cause secondary poisoning.

Early detection and eradication is very important to stop the spread.

*Photos courtesy of Westlock County.*

Please report any sightings to **Nicole Kimmel**, Weed Specialist, Agriculture & Forestry at (780) 422 0885 or [nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca](mailto:nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca).



## **RAT UPDATE!**

Rats cause structural damage by gnawing, consuming and contaminating grain and food stores, and transmitting diseases to humans and animals which is a major concern for agriculture and the general public. Quick action is essential when dealing with an infestation. Under ideal conditions, two rats can multiply to as many as 15,000 in one year. Alberta is the largest inhabited area with no permanent rat infestations in the world. It is through the efforts of the Alberta Rat Patrol that we stay rat free. Every year the Rat Control Zone, a strip 29km wide and 600km long beside the Saskatchewan border, is checked for signs of the encroaching rodents. All potential infestation sites are inspected at least once and sites of concern are checked more often.

All sites in the M.D. of Provost have been checked twice this winter by our Pest Control Officer, Kent Kozlinski, and our new Pest & Weed Control Manager, Michelle Holte. Please notify either of our Pest Control personnel if you have any rat concerns so they can respond quickly to eliminate the pests. Control options will be discussed and could include tamper proof bait stations, cleaning up food sources, and shooting the rats.

There were three small infestations found in 2018 but they have been cleaned up and are being checked frequently for any rat signs.

For more information on the Rat Control Program visit the Government of Alberta website at: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14443](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14443).



In this area pest control inspectors perform these key tasks:

- check premise within the first three ranges (29 km) west of the border (Map above)
- distribute bait and establish bait stations
- encourage rat-proofing of buildings and the removal of rat harborage and food
- destroy any rat infestations that are found

Visit:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/agdex3441](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/agdex3441) for more information.

# The Cattle Corner...

## Calving Tips, Tricks & Facts

- In heifers, if the head of a calf keeps falling back and won't come through cervix, the calf is too big.
- While adjusting a calf's position, make sure to cup the hooves with your hand to avoid tearing of the uterine wall.
- When attaching chains to the calf's feet, use the half hitch concept. The first loop goes above the fetlock joint and the second loop goes below it; these two points of pull will spread the pressure out.
- Using a calf jack applies 966.5 lbs/minute whereas a manual pull applies 250 lbs/minute. It is best to only use the jack when absolutely necessary.
- According to a Calf Vigour study, over 60% of difficult assist calves will fail to consume colostrum within four hours, and are more likely to need pre-weaning treatments.
- In accordance to the same study, calves with weak suckling reflex will be approximately 42 times more likely to not consume colostrum in the recommended time.
- Heifers produce less colostrum than cows, and that colostrum contains 25% lower concentration of immunoglobulins which help jump start the immunity of the calf.
- Calves should receive a colostrum amount of at least 5% of their body weight within six hours of age.
- If a cow hasn't expelled the placenta in seven hours, it is a retained placenta and needs to be dealt with.
- According to the Western Producer, there was a large survey done in Western Canada in 2015 to obtain some facts regarding cow/calf operations. Here are some of the interesting results:
  - o It found that the average calving season was 90 days long, compared to the industry benchmark which is 63 days.
  - o The average death loss in the survey was 7%. Scours and pneumonia were responsible for 30% of those fatalities. This shows that vaccinating for scours is a great preventative measure to take on your operation.

Resources: <https://www.producer.com/2015/10/interesting-facts-from-cow-calf-survey/>; Dr. ML Gendron from Border Vet Clinic; The Beef Cow/Calf Manual



## GOLD Management Indicators

**GOLD** stands for growth of calves, number of open cows, length of calving season and death loss. It is used to evaluate the productivity performance of your herd by comparing your numbers to the industry benchmarks.

**Growth of the calves** is calculated using the weaning weight of the calf as a percentage of the dam's weight. The benchmark level to aim for is 63%. Growth is 30% heritable, and is otherwise affected by non-genetic factors such as nutrition, weather conditions, etc.

**Number of open cows** is measured by pregnancy testing your herd in the fall to determine the number of open cows after the previous breeding season and will indicate the overall fertility of your herd. The benchmark is 4% open cows.

**Length of calving season** is measured by the amount of days from when your first calf hits the ground, to when the last calf is born. The industry benchmark for this indicator is 63 days, or three estrous cycles (21 days each). If you are able to achieve a high number of pregnancies in a shorter calving season, you will likely be able to market a more consistent calf crop at the market in the fall. If you have a breeding season longer than 63 days, it is best to shorten it gradually so your cows can adapt to the change easier.

**Death loss** measures the number of calf deaths from birth to weaning. The benchmark is less than 3%.



# Gone Fishin'

We are in Zone 2 –Parkland-Prairie 2 (PP2).

Alberta fishing licenses and Alberta WIN cards are required whether you are keeping your fish or not. You can purchase and renew either online at [www.albertarelm.com](http://www.albertarelm.com) or at select retail stores and insurance agencies.

Licenses expire March 31 so renewals are necessary for April 1 and cost \$28 for an Alberta resident aged 16-64.

Capt. Ayre Lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout; there are no size restrictions but there is a limit of five fish.

Streams in our zone are closed April 1 – May 14.

For more information about rules and regulations in our MD call the Provost Fish & Wildlife Office at 780-753-2433. For more information on Provincial rules and regulations visit: <http://albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs/>



The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial initiative aimed at generating economic growth in the agricultural sector and delivering the greatest benefits for farmers, food processors and Canadian families. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is in effect from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership investments will help ensure Canada's agriculture sector remains a leader in job creation and innovation. Canadian Agricultural Partnership will help achieve Canada's objective of expanding agricultural exports to \$75 billion by 2025.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership outlines a national vision to create the most modern, sustainable and prosperous sector in the world.

Visit: <https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/> for more information on the CAP program in Alberta.

## Can't Leave Alone Bars

Submitted in Remembrance of Laurie Stuckky



### Ingredients:

- 1 package white cake mix (regular size)
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, eggs and oil. Press two-thirds of the mixture into a greased 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Set remaining cake mixture aside.
2. In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the milk, chocolate chips and butter. Microwave uncovered, until chips and butter are melted; stir until smooth. Pour over crust.
3. Drop teaspoons of remaining cake mixture over top. Bake until lightly browned, 20-25 mins. Cool before cutting.

Brian Carter, Agricultural Fieldman and local farm boy. I've been with the M.D. for two years now and I look forward to working with the new additions on the Ag team. (Left)



Hello, my name is Jessica Robley. I am a proud community member who grew up just north of Metiskow. I have worked with the M.D. for over 6.5 years now and I am looking forward to taking on the position as your new Assistant Ag. Fieldman. My hopes for this newsletter are to improve communication and build knowledge within the agricultural side of the M.D. and I am eager to learn more about what I can do for our local farmers. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any comments or questions. (Middle)

Since I was young, I've had a passion for agriculture, especially cattle! My family runs a small cow/calf operation just outside of Morrin, Alberta. After high school I attended Lakeland College in Vermilion where I obtained two diplomas in agriculture; Animal Science Technology and Agribusiness. I moved to the Bodo area in spring of 2018, and am looking forward to meeting ratepayers and locals through my new position as Assistant Ag. Fieldman here at the M.D. of Provost! –Caitlin Wolf (Right)

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