



Ag. Service Board Breakfasts

The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board would like to invite all County residents to the 2008 ASB Breakfasts.

Date	Location
Feb. 27	Bonanza
Feb. 28	Savanna
Feb. 29	Gordondale
Mar. 4	Blueberry Mountain
Mar. 6	Woking



The breakfasts will kick off at 9:00am.
We hope to see you there!

PUBLIC ENEMY #3 – CANADA THISTLE

Part Four – How Do I Get Rid of It?

How do you know which control method will work the best for your specific farm? Below are several popular Canada thistle control methods that may work on your farm. Just remember, the more control methods you use, the greater the chances of success.

Mowing/Tillage – if you're going to mow or till out your Canada thistle, you have to be in it for the long haul. Mowing or tilling once will do nothing to damage the Canada thistle. In fact, it may actually help spread it. If you choose mowing or tillage as your primary control method, be prepared to repeat the operation once a month until the weeds starve and die. Studies have shown that in grass or pasture crops, combining regular mowing with fertilization both decreases Canada thistle and increases forage stand vigour. Also, a word of caution – multiple tillage operations can be extremely damaging to your soil, so keep this in mind if you plan on trying it this season.

Grazing – the major problem with relying on grazing to control Canada thistle is that, in general, cows would rather eat pretty much anything before they eat the weed covered in spines and barbs. This means that by the time they get hungry enough to attempt the Canada thistle, the rest of your pasture will be overgrazed down to the dirt, so even if your cows do eat the thistle, it'll just regrow and might even spread since the cows have kindly removed all of its competition. The scenario changes if you have sheep and goats, however, since they are browsers and have actually been used in reclamation efforts to graze down brush and weeds like thistle. In general, it is difficult to control thistle using grazing alone, unless you

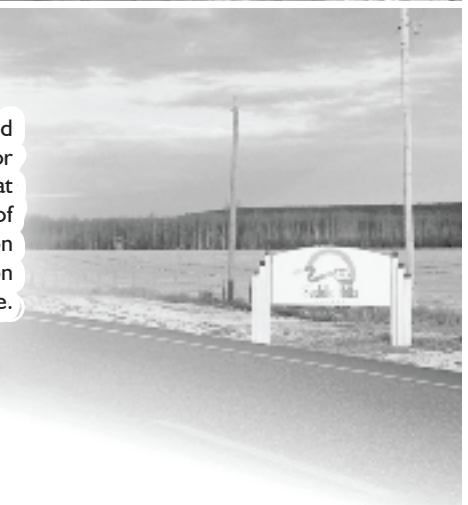
are using intensive rotational grazing. More information on this practice can be obtained from your local agricultural fieldman or applied research association.

Spraying – Spraying has often been thought of as the "magic bullet" of Canada thistle control. Producers spend thousands of dollars every year on herbicides, yet the thistle seems to be thriving more than ever. This goes back to the "don't put all your eggs in one basket" saying. In short, if you depend on spraying to the exclusion of all other management strategies, you are setting yourself up for failure. There are so many factors that can influence your herbicide application – water quality, temperature, wind, agitation, chemical choice, chemical rate, and the list goes on and on. If only one thing goes wrong, your herbicide's efficacy will be compromised and the thistle will likely survive. This is why it is of utmost importance that you design a weed management plan of which spraying is only a part, not the whole. That way, the thistle will already be weakened through mowing, tillage, grazing, crop competition, etc. and the herbicide will be able to finish it off completely, instead of just setting it back.

Thanks for reading this last series on the Top 3 Most Wanted Weeds in Saddle Hills County! Be sure to stay tuned, because in March we'll be having a contest for everyone who followed along and the chance to win some great prizes. Also, if you have any questions at all about the content of these articles or want help in developing a weed management strategy for your farm, please contact the Manager of Rural Development, Amy Kaut, at (780) 864-3760.

Recreation Funding

The Saddle Hills County Recreation and Cultural Capital Fund provides funding for recreation and cultural capital projects that enhance and benefits the quality of lives of Saddle Hills County residents. The application deadline is July 15. For more information contact the Saddle Hills County Office.



Saddle Hills County Fire Services

Next Regular Practice / Meetings

- Monday March 3, 2008 7:30 PM
 - Bonanza Fire Department
 - Woking Fire Department
- Tuesday March 4, 2008 7:30 PM
 - Happy Valley Fire Department
 - Savanna Fire Department
- Wednesday March 5, 2008 7:30 PM
 - Blueberry Fire Department

2008 No Spray Agreements

Saddle Hills County will be conducting a roadside-spraying program for weed and brush control during the months of June through September 2008. All areas of the County may be affected. Areas that were brushed in 2007 will be sprayed this year, as will roads where full Rights-of-Way were mowed and anywhere noxious weeds are found.

Any landowner who prefers no spraying be conducted adjacent to their property on a particular section of County roadway is asked to please contact the County's office to sign a No Spray agreement. If you choose to sign this agreement, you will be responsible for the weed and brush control in that area. This request is valid for one year only.

Any landowner along a highway that does not want spraying is asked to contact LaPrairie Group at 1-800-828-3908.

For more information, please contact the Manager of Rural Development, Amy Kaut, at 864-3760 or akaut@saddlehills.ab.ca

Woking Skating Rink Association Presents

A Sadie Hawkins Day Dinner & Dance

Dinner & Dance
Woking Hall - Feb. 29, 5:30 p.m.
Prizes for Best Hillbilly costumes & Prizes for Kids Games
Music By Burnt River Band
Tickets: Adults \$20, Children \$10
Family max \$50
Call 774-2101 or visit Woking Store.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Policy No. PW16 the Saddle Hills County road acceptance policy, an application has been made from Sabretooth Energy Ltd to the Saddle Hills County to accept the responsibilities of maintaining 800m of Range Road 91 south off Highway 49 and 1.6 km of Range Road 102 south off TWP 794. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal against this must do so in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal by 4:30 pm, March 4, 2008. Letters of appeal be addressed to: Matt Moorman, Technical Service Coordinator Box 69, Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

External Auditing Services

Saddle Hills County is seeking interested firms to submit proposals for external auditing services. For more information and the proposal package, interested firms are to contact Tarolyn Peach, Chief Administrative Officer, at 864-3760 or by e-mail. The deadline for proposals is April 15, 2008.