



Internet or InterNOT? Tell Us About It!



Can't see the www.Forest.com for the trees?

Saddle Hills County understands that high speed internet access is increasingly moving from "luxury" to "necessity," as more business, government and personal communications have moved online. Some wireless service providers such as ABnorth.com have begun serving some rural areas of the county and satellite Internet is an option that some residents have taken. However, many residents within the county are still without a suitable high speed Internet option.

Barriers to wireless access may include a lack of nearby towers, or trees or hills that obstruct a clear line-of-sight to a nearby tower.

If you would like to connect to high speed internet, but cannot, please call the County office at 780-864-3760 and tell us about your particular challenge. We would like to better understand the problem, to investigate potential solutions.

Livestock Insurance Program from AFSC

A livestock insurance program, the first of its kind in Canada, will soon be offered to Alberta beef producers to help protect their operations from fluctuating market prices. The Cattle Price Insurance Program (CPIP) will be offered by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) in addition to its suite of crop insurance programs. Alberta's beef producers will be the first of the province's livestock industries to be able to access the insurance program. CPIP is an Alberta-made livestock insurance product tailored to provide price protection for Alberta cattle producers. The program was developed through a partnership with the federal government, the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Beef Producers.

"This type of insurance doesn't currently exist in Canada and will be another tool our producers can use to help protect them from fluctuating cattle prices," said George Groeneveld, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Groeneveld continued and said "Livestock insurance will help support the livestock industry over the long term. The Cattle Price Insurance Program is one of the key initiatives highlighted in the Alberta Livestock and Meat Strategy." The Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) was instrumental in supporting this initiative and will be working closely with AFSC and the livestock industry over the next two years to increase awareness of the program. CPIP will provide protection against drops in Alberta beef prices over a defined time period. Premiums would vary according to policy length and coverage desired. The insurance will be a voluntary, producer-funded program and will provide timely claim payments.

AFSC is targeting mid-2009 for launching a price insurance product for fed cattle and is in the design stages of a program for calves and yearlings. For more information, contact AFSC at 1-800-396-0215.

Tax Deferral for Farmers

The Government of Canada is offering 2008 tax deferrals to producers who have been dealing with drought in designated areas of northern Alberta. Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced December 19th that producers who resorted to selling off cattle to avoid financial losses due to drought conditions will be eligible for a one-year tax deferral on 2008 income from those sales.

"Producers need to be able to make good business decisions when dealing with drought," said Minister Ritz. "This Government is making sure producers can recover following the drought last summer when they were forced to sell cattle. Producers will be able to use these savings when they rebuild their herds in the spring." The deferral was made after reviewing forage yield, precipitation, soil moisture and water supply data for the 2008 growing season, and provides a management option to breeding livestock owners.

Owners of breeding livestock in the Counties of Grande Prairie No. 1, Saddle Hills and Clear Hills who were forced to sell all or part of their herd in 2008 due to drought conditions are eligible for the deferral.

Producers who reduced their breeding herds by at least 15 per cent are eligible. Thirty per cent of income from net sales can be deferred if the herd has been reduced by at least 15 per cent, but less than 30 per cent. Where the herd has been reduced by 30 per cent or more, 90 per cent of income from net sales can be deferred.

Eligible producers will be able to request this deferral when filing their 2008 income tax returns. Livestock producers are advised to contact their local Canada Revenue Agency Tax Services Office or phone 1-800-959-5525 for details on the income tax provisions.

2007 Aerial Photos

Saddle Hills County offers aerial photos for purchase. We would like to note that these are not the farmyard aerials, which private companies occasionally offer, since these were taken at higher altitudes. Please visit the County office to view samples. We recommend you order well in advance to allow for timely printing and delivery. The photos are available in different sizes and paper qualities as listed below. The photos are also now available in a PDF format, provided that the purchaser completes a Digital Data Agreement with Saddle Hills County. The most recent photos available were taken in June of 2007. For more information regarding Aerial Photos, please contact Cheryl at the County Office.

Printed Copies of Aerial Photos:

	Photo Quality	Heavy	Coated
8 1/2 x 11	\$15.00	\$10.00	
8 1/2 x 14	\$20.00	\$15.00	
11 x 17	\$25.00	\$20.00	
Map Size (36 x 36)	\$125.00	\$100.00	

Digital Data:

Quarter Section:	\$15.00	JPEG Format
Half Section	\$20.00	JPEG Format
Full Section	\$25.00	JPEG Format
Part Township	\$75.00	JPEG Format
Township	\$175.00	JPEG Format

Aerial Photography of Woking:

Partial Hamlet	\$75.00	JPEG Format
Entire Hamlet	\$125.00	JPEG Format

The digital data order may be delivered by e-mail to the original Digital Data Agreement holder if the file is small enough.

File sizes too large for e-mail will be provided on CD for an additional fee of \$10.00. Shipping & Handling fee is cost plus 25%.

Transfer Station Hours

Woking Blueberry	Tuesday	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
	Wednesday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm
	Saturday	1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Bonanza	Friday	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
	Saturday	8:00 am - 12:30 pm
CCS Spirit River Landfill	Mon-Sat	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Gundy	Saturday	10:00 am - 2:00 pm