



Council Declares County an Agricultural Disaster Area

At their November 10th, 2009 meeting, Saddle Hills County Council declared the municipality as an Agricultural Disaster Area. Based on the new information presented by the County's Agricultural Services Board in relation to poor harvest conditions for the month of October; the lack of quality hay; the prices being charged for bales and the poor pasture conditions causing producers to begin their feeding operations earlier than usual, County Council agreed to bring the matter back for further discussion.

Council received information relating to growing season precipitation, forage production potential, forage supply and the local crop conditions. The weather that occurred across the municipality as a whole during the month of October has been viewed as detrimental to an already shaky year for agricultural producers. All agricultural producers have experienced financial hardship due to the recent weather developments. Excessive amounts of crops remain unharvested and cattle producers who had previously experienced a cold spring and dry

summer, now are faced with further feed supply shortages where grains would be used as supplemental feeds. Also shortages of straw further hinder beef producers ability to adjust to forage shortages. The Agricultural Disaster Area declaration puts agricultural producers in line for any Agricultural relief that could be announced by the Provincial or Federal Governments.

Reeve Tim Stone has stated "I can't recall ever having seen a more challenging October for harvesting which has added to the total overall condition in our County for all farmers."

Council will now be presenting this information to MLA Hon. Hector Goudreau with the desire to have him bring the information forward to the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, George Groeneveld in hope of taking Alberta's disaster situation forward to the Federal Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food. For further information, please contact Dianne Nellis, Chief Administrative Officer at 780-864-3760.



Woking Christmas Tree Light Up

On Saturday December 5, the hamlet of Woking will celebrate the season at their Christmas Tree Light Up in Town Square (main street). Join us at 3:00 p.m. for hot chocolate, treats, sleigh rides, and a visit from Santa!

First Aid/CPR/AED Training

Free training seminars for First Aid, CPR, and AED will be taking place at the dates below.

Nov 26 & 27 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Nov 28 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

AED training is taking place only during the seminar on Saturday the 28th. For more info including locations of seminars or to register, contact Bill Mortland at 780-864-0782.

Now Renting

WOKING COMMUNITY HALL

After recently receiving a facelift of renovations, the Woking Community Hall is now available for rent. For bookings call:

Norma 780-774-2552
Pam 780-933-2542
Email wokingwillingworkers@gmail.com

Freshen Up Your Furnace

As the temperatures drop, it is very important to clean and service your heating system before winter.

- Vacuum out summer dust build up.
- Check thermostat and ignition system.
- Check condition of belts and bearings.
- Check operation of fan and motor.
- If using wood heat, have chimney cleaned.

These simple steps can help prevent a fire or mechanical failure when you need your furnace the most.

Weed and Pest Appeal Committee: Members Needed

The Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta require the yearly appointment of an appeal committee to render decisions on appeals of weed or pest notices that are issued by the County.

The County is looking for four ratepayers with an interest in the legislative process to put their names forward or be nominated for this committee. To be considered for this committee, please forward your name, address, phone number and a short summary of your interest in this committee to "Weed and Pest Appeal Committee, c/o Amy Kaut" at the address at the bottom of this page. Applicants may also fax their information to 780-864-2008 or email it to akaut@saddlehills.ab.ca.

The deadline for application or nomination is noon on December 4, 2009. For more information on the duties and role of this committee, please contact the Manager of Rural Development, Amy Kaut, at 780-864-3760.

Wildlife Damaging Stacked Hay

COMPENSATION OPTIONS FOR PRODUCERS

With winter on its way, livestock producers are thinking about their options to keep wildlife out of their stack yards. The best solution is prevention, through fencing, dogs and hunting. However, if depredation is occurring, producers may be eligible for the Wildlife Damage Compensation on Stacked Hay program, which is facilitated by both AFSC and Fish & Wildlife. There is no premium paid in order to be eligible for this program; however, only stacked hay that is being protected will be considered for compensation. Compensation is determined by multiplying the quantity of damaged feed by the crop insurance high price option.

In order to file a claim under this program, contact your local Fish & Wildlife office as soon as possible after depredation has occurred. A Conservation Officer will inspect the damage and provide recommendations to prevent further damage.

If the stacked hay is sufficiently protected and monitored, the claimant may then contact AFSC to be considered for compensation.

For more information on this or other compensation programs, contact your local AFSC office at 780-864-3896 or Fish & Wildlife at 780-864-4101.

Community Closet

The Rural Roots Sustainability Society has started a Community Closet at Fourth Creek Hall. Once a month, feel free to bring any clean, gently used clothing items to the hall for others to pick up and take home. And if you're looking for some clothing items yourself, come and browse the selection and add some items to your closet for free!

The next Community Closet date is November 30, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. See you there!