

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

202 Main Street or PO Box 40, Melfort, Sask. S0E 1A0

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-4:30pm

Phone: 306-752-1270 or 306-920-7228

Email: crwatershed@gmail.com

Website: www.crwatershed.ca

Fall 2015



The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. (CRVWA) is dedicated to preserving and maintaining the character and integrity of the watershed through education and awareness. We are proud to be a local, grassroots, non-profit organization serving our members:

City of Melfort
Town of Carrot River
Town of Arborfield
Town of Wakaw
RM of Tisdale No. 427
RM of Connaught No. 457
RM of Moose Range No.486
RM of Kinistino No.459
RM of Invergordon No.430
RM of Hoodoo No.401
RM of Fish Creek No.402
RM of Humboldt No.370
RM of St.Peter No.369
RM of Pleasantdale No.398
RM of Nipawin No.487
Melfort & District Wildlife Federation
Tisdale Wildlife Federation
Pasquia Regional Park
Wakaw Lake Regional Park Authority
Resort Village of Wakaw Lake
St.Peter Conservation & Development Authority
Arborfield Conservation & Development Area Authority
Moose Range Conservation & Development Area Authority

Not a member? Not a problem! New members are always welcome to add their voices to protecting our watershed by joining the CRVWA. Contact us for more information.

With harvest activities wrapping up throughout the area, there is the familiar sight of grain bags in many fields. Plastic grain bags have been steadily gaining in popularity as an efficient and economical option to store grain.

These bags are only used once, and when emptied can leave a large amount of plastic waste that can cause significant environmental issues. Burning grain bags is illegal and unhealthy. In 2010, a grain bag recycling pilot

project was launched and continues to operate with 14 collection sites located throughout the province. For more information about grain bag recycling in our area, contact us or visit SimplyAg at www.simplyag.ca.

Grain Bags

Upcoming Livestock Watering Workshop in Arborfield

Livestock producers will have the opportunity to learn more about livestock watering options at a workshop to be held on November 4, 2015 at the Elks Hall in Arborfield. This workshop will include presentations on how to understand water testing results, remote water systems, pumps, firsthand producer experiences with various water systems, as well as information about programming that is currently available to assist producers with water related projects. The cost of the workshop is \$10, which includes lunch, and registration is required. For more information and to register, contact Charlotte Gayler, AAg at 306-920-8166 or crwatershedaegp@gmail.com.



Livestock Water Seminar

November 4, 2015 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Elks Hall, Arborfield, SK

AGENDA:

- How to Read a Water Test
Leah Clark, PAg, Watrous Regional Livestock Specialist
- Keeping #2 Out of Your #1 Water Source: Off Site Watering Systems
Alicia Sopatyk, BSA, AAg, Tisdale Regional Livestock Specialist
- Pumps and Pumping
Brett Cain, North Fringe Industrial Technologies Inc.
- Water Successes and Failures
Morgan and Margaret Leigh, Pleasantdale, SK
- Programs and Projects for Water Systems
Charlotte Gayler, AEGP Technician, Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

Registration \$10, includes lunch.

Registration Deadline: October 30

For more information or to register, contact Charlotte Gayler at 306-920-8166 or Alicia Sopatyk at 306-878-8847.



Trick or Treat? According to waterfootprint.org, it takes 1700 litres of water to make an average 100 gram chocolate bar.

Watering Sites & Economics

By Alicia Sopatyk, BSA, AAg
Regional Livestock Specialist, Tisdale
Regional Services Branch
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Water bodies with direct or uncontrolled access have the highest potential for water quality degradation. Urination and defecation by animals in the water and trampling of the bank, will contribute to sedimentation and bank instability. By controlling access to water sources, where animals can only enter the water at a certain point, bank damage will be limited but water quality remains at risk. Another option is offsite watering which involves transferring water from the source to troughs. This reduces direct contamination and increases the structural integrity of the bank. When deciding how to manage water sites, the key is to find a balance between water quality, quantity, environmental impact and economics.

It is well-known that cattle are sensitive to taste and odour in water which leads to limited intake which potentially reduces feed conversion and productivity. Research has shown that cattle prefer water provided in a trough, and that consumption increases

with pumping and aeration resulting in increased weight gains and productivity. Although animal improvements may not be consistent year to year, water quality and watering site health and lifespan will benefit from off-site systems for years to come.

Below is an example calculation of the cost of a solar powered “all-in-one” system less funding available through the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP). When you compare these numbers to the cost of cleaning out a dugout due to bank erosion caused by animals allowed direct access; it becomes clear that offsite watering is affordable especially with the benefit of healthier, more productive animals

Note that through FRWIP, applicants constructing a new dugout or utilizing existing water sources with direct or uncontrolled access can apply to purchase one solar powered “all-in-one” system per project, up to a maximum of four between multiple projects completed during the program. The systems may be portable. There is no minimum storage capacity required and even though fencing a dugout is recommended and eligible for funding, it is not a condition of funding.



Systems must be purchased from a recognized dealer and be considered new; replacing an existing system is not covered.

Ensuring livestock have a secure water source is beneficial from a production and animal health standpoint, an environmental standpoint, and a consumer viewpoint. For more information

on water systems, contact your local Regional Livestock Specialist or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377. For more information on the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, visit our website, <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/GF2-FRWIP>.

Project Equipment	Cost	Funding Rate	Actual Cost
Solar powered “all-in-one” system	\$9,000	50% up to \$5,000	\$4,500
Dugout cleanout, dry	\$5,000	-	\$5,000



We are here to help producers access funding for farm stewardship and farm water infrastructure projects. Contact Charlotte at crwatershedaegp@gmail.com or 306-920-8166 for details of current programming.

Burger and Fries Farm 2015: The Adventure Continues



On September 24, 2015, more than 60 students from Reynolds and Brunswick Schools in Melfort came out to participate in the Burger and Fries Farm Fall Field Day. This is the second year for this event, which brings students out of the classroom and into the field to learn about agriculture while growing the ingredients for a burger and fries lunch. A spring field day was held in June, where the students learned about seeding crops, planting gardens, dairy and beef production, and what plants and animals need to grow. The fall field day had the students return to learn about harvesting crops, how crops and livestock are cared for and how these agricultural commodities complete the journey from the field to our plate.

There were 6 stations at the fall event:

1. Water Station – At this station, students participated in an interactive watershed model demonstration, and discussed the importance of water in agriculture and our world. Students learned that all living things need water to grow and survive. Students also discussed ways to conserve water and protect our water resources.
2. Farm Animal Petting Zoo – Dale Durell brought an assortment of farm animals from his petting zoo, and the students were able to see, touch and hold some furry and feathered friends. The students learned how the animals are cared for and what products may be produced by the animals.
3. Crop Harvesting Station – Syngenta and Ministry of Agriculture staff spoke with the students about crop production, how

crops are harvested, and watched a demonstration of a plot harvester. Canola, wheat and mustard plots that were planted just prior to the spring event were harvested, and the students learned some of the food products that are produced with these crops.

4. From the Bin to Flour – Parrish & Heimbecker staff demonstrated to the students how wheat becomes flour, how crops are harvested and sold, and discussed the products that are produced from various crops.
5. Farm Safety Station – Farm Credit Corporation staff showed the students how to avoid the danger zones around equipment and discussed the importance of safety at home and on the farm.
6. Beef Station – Volunteers from Beatty 4H Club and Ministry of Agriculture staff discussed beef cattle production and explained how cattle are raised to become the beef that we eat.
7. Garden Harvesting and Fries Station – FarmLink Marketing Solutions staff helped the students to each dig up a hill of potatoes, and each student was able to take home potatoes and other garden produce. They discussed how potatoes become fries, cucumbers become relish, and tomatoes become ketchup. They also learned about a few special ingredients like cauliflower, onions, carrots and peppers. Students were also able to taste and enjoy the fresh picked vegetables straight out of the garden.

Of course, a Burger & Fries Farm field day wouldn't be complete without a burger and fries lunch, sponsored by Prairie North Co-Op and Dow Agro, prepared by volunteers and Gateway Veterinary Services. The students also were able to find various agriculture facts located around the farm, and each student received an Ag More Than Ever T-shirt to keep.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the fantastic sponsors and partners that helped to bring this event together in 2015. Glenda Murphy and her family have graciously hosted the event at their acreage for the past 2 years, and Glenda has put in countless hours bringing this project to life. We truly appreciate all of her hard work and effort. In addition, we would like to thank Prairie North Co-Op, SaskMilk, Dow Agro, Gateway Vet Services and volunteers for providing, cooking and serving the lunch. Thank you to our project partners and sponsors FarmLink Marketing Solutions, Beatty 4H Beef Club, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Syngenta, Farm Credit Corporation, Vital Signs, Dale Durell's Petting Zoo, Wright's Greenhouse, Cervus Equipment, Agrium, Agriculture in the Classroom, Parrish & Heimbecker, Northeast Waste Management and Agriculture More Than Ever. And thank you to the students, staff and chaperones from Reynolds and Brunswick Schools for your participation and support.

We are very excited to announce that the Burger & Fries Farm will be relocating to Gateway Veterinary Services in Melfort for 2016. Stay tuned for details as we write another chapter in the Burger & Fries Farm: An Adventure in Food Production.



Cows get thirsty too! It takes 4 litres of water to make 1 litre of milk.

WATER FACT



Check your toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, the coloring will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. Make sure to flush as soon as the test is done, because food coloring can stain the tank.

AIMM Project at Wakaw Lake

This summer, we launched an Adult Invasive Mussel Monitoring (AIMM) project at Wakaw Lake. With the participation of lakefront property owners, we deployed 13 substrate samplers to monitor for adult invasive zebra and quagga mussels in Wakaw Lake. The substrate samplers are approximately 6 inch pieces of PVC pipe that are partially filled with concrete to provide weight and the firm substrate that is preferred by these mussel species. The samplers were attached to docks or boat lifts and sat on the lake bottom. One of the samplers is attached to a permanent structure and will remain in the water over the winter, while the

remaining substrate samplers were removed from the lake when the property owners removed their docks and will be returned to the water in the spring. We are pleased to note that there have been no adult zebra or quagga mussels reported on any of the substrate samplers to date.

These invasive mussel species originated in the Baltic Sea and entered Eastern Canada through the Great Lakes. Currently, it is estimated that there are approximately 150-200 lakes in Ontario infested with zebra mussels and, in the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan 2012 published by the

Government of Ontario, the estimated cost of these zebra mussel infestations in Ontario is \$75-\$91 million dollars per year. Zebra mussels were found in Lake Winnipeg in 2013. Attempts to eradicate the zebra mussels in Lake Winnipeg have been unsuccessful thus far, and there currently is no known effective control measures for these invasive mussels. Prevention, by implementing a routine of cleaning, draining and drying your boat, motor, trailer and any associated water gear and thorough inspections of all equipment, is the best defense. Early detection also playing a vital role in controlling the spread of aquatic invasive species,

and is the goal of the AIMM project.

We would like to thank our current volunteers for their participation in this project. We are looking forward to continuing this project in 2016, and we would welcome new volunteers at Wakaw Lake to expand the number of substrate sampler locations. We are also looking for other lakes that may be interested in joining this project to introduce AIMM to multiple lakes within our watershed. Please contact the CRVWA office at 306-752-1270 or crwatershed@gmail.com for more information.



Did you know? We are on Twitter and Facebook!

Follow us @crwatershed or www.facebook.com/CarrotRiverValleyWatershedAssociation



If your toilet is leaking, the cause is often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Replacing the flapper is a relatively easy and inexpensive fix that will play for itself in no time!