



Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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WINTER 2013

A Message from the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Board and Agri-Environmental Group Plan Committee

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. (CRVWA) and the Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) Committee are non-profit, non-governmental organizations dedicated to preserving and maintaining the character and integrity of the watershed through education and awareness. The CRVWA works primarily to promote urban issues and concerns whereas the AEGP works to promote awareness about environmental issues that co-relate to farming practices. The AEGP works in the area to assist producers with applications to the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP) and to promote the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). However, there are many activities and projects that are coordinated between the CRVWA and the AEGP. These activities work to bring together the understanding of all water and watershed related issues and concerns.

The CRVWA & AEGP are continuing to work together and building our relationship. A joint meeting was held with the CRVWA Board and the Agricultural Committee on December 2, 2013. At this meeting both groups were able to finalize roles and responsibilities to ensure a successful working relationship.

We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for cost shared funding for eligible Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) under the Farm Stewardship Program through Growing Forward 2. Sarah Nye, the Carrot River Watershed AEGP Technician, is available to come to your farm and assist you with your applications. Do not hesitate to contact Sarah if you have any questions or wish to set-up a time to complete an application.

The CRVWA Board has approved our Strategic Business Plan and Communication Strategy at the January 20th Board meeting. This will allow for a more consis-

tent and precise vision for future projects and activities that relate to the CRVWA and the AEGP.

The CRVWA is working to increase education and awareness for youth within our watershed. We are willing to visit schools and youth groups to deliver watershed presentations focusing on watershed activities and source water protection. In conjunction with watershed presentations we are hosting a poster contest for students in grades 5-7. We will also be supplying educational books to all schools within the watershed focusing on recycling, the water cycle, watersheds, pollution and outdoor activities.

The AEGP is still looking for producers who utilize grain bags as a storage option that are interested in having their grain bags recycled. The AEGP is organizing a grain bag and twine recycling day, where the grain bag roller will be brought to the watershed to roll up the grain bags and take them for recycling. Producers are encouraged to store empty bags in a dry easily accessible area until collection day. The date and location of the collection day will be announced once it is determined that there is enough producer interest in taking part in the collection. There will be no cost associated with this service to producers, only their time and transportation to the collection site. Recycling grain bags is a great way to dispose of bags in a manner that is environmentally friendly,

as burning them releases harmful carcinogens into the air and is illegal. Please contact Sarah at 306-920-8166 to express your interest in participating in a collection day.

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Annual General Meeting will be held at the Kerry Vickar Center in Melfort on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 1 pm. We will be contacting all of our members to personally invite them to attend our AGM.

If you would like more information on the CRVWA or to become involved with watershed activities, contact Jessica Hutton, Watershed Manager, at 306-752-1270.

If you would like more information about the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group or upcoming projects, contact Sarah Nye, AEGP Technician, at 306-920-8166.

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association "Groundwater, Below the Surface" Poster Contest

Poster theme: "Groundwater, Below the Surface"

Poster contest open to all students grades 5-7

One entry per person

Poster must be on a single page 8.5"x11" piece of paper and be 100% hand drawn

A separate cover sheet must accompany each entry with the following information:

Contestant's name

Parent/Guardian's name

Contestant's address and phone number

Contestant's grade and age

Full name and address of the school

Full name of the teacher

Entry Deadline: March 3, 2014

Local Winner announced: March 10, 2014

Mail all entries to:
Carrot River Valley
Watershed Association
Box 40
Melfort, SK.
S0E 1A0

Drop posters off at the
Carrot River Valley
Watershed Association
office located at 202
Main Street in Melfort



Local Prizes:

1st – Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Backpack full of prizes, 10 punch swim pass and bowling pass

- The student's poster will then be judged against the other watershed's top winners for the chance to win the Provincial Grand Prize- an Outdoor Recreational Package valued at \$1000.00.

2nd – Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Backpack full of prizes and 10 punch swim pass

3rd – Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Backpack full of prizes and bowling pass.

Provincial Grand Prize:

Outdoor Recreation Package valued at \$1000.00 courtesy of Sask Watersheds

For more information contact Jessica Hutton at 306 752 1270 or email crvwa2011@gmail.com.

Canada has about 25% of the world's wetlands, the largest wetland area in the world. Up to 70% of Canada's wetlands have been lost and up to 50% of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900.



Remote Winter Watering Options

By Jeremy Brown, PAg
Water Security Agency

Many livestock producers are winter feeding livestock away from the yard these days. This more extensive method of management can be used to reduce costs, improve herd health, and better utilize nutrients. One common challenge that producers face when choosing wintering sites is access to drinking water during our harsh prairie weather.

In some instances, producers can select sites where animals can access existing water bowls or have access to power to keep things thawed. A number of producers have had success with allowing livestock to lick snow for their water requirements. However, some producers prefer to provide water. There are also often periods in early winter where snow is not available, yet freezing temperatures make summer watering points risky (or just a pain).

Fortunately, there are now a number of economical and fairly reliable options for remote win-

ter watering. Every situation is unique, but in many cases, a suitable system can be installed. An added bonus for producers is that there are currently grant programs that will pay for roughly half the cost of such systems, so it is a good time to get set up for the future.

Most of the various options utilize either a well-insulated trough with drinking holes, or a smaller bowl that drains back when the animals are not drinking. The pumps can be powered by solar, wind, or the cattle themselves. There are many different approaches and combinations that are working well, both commercial setups and homemade versions.

One example of a satisfied cattleman is Lloyd Malenfant of Meota. Lloyd installed a shallow well with a track-hoe and added a Frost Free Nose Pump in 2003. The top portion of the well casing was insulated with Styrofoam, and a concrete pad poured around the well head. He found that the cattle were very easy to train to pump their own water, and has had virtually no problems with this

system. The one pump has been adequate for up to 100 cows, although it would be fairly simple to add a second pump on this well, notes Lloyd.

Ken Greening runs cows near Vawn. In the fall of 2010, he installed two wet wells adjacent to existing dugouts, and set up solar powered pumps to fill insulated troughs with small propane heaters. He reckons that each one used approximately \$100 worth of propane over the winter. He was fairly pleased with these systems, and recommends providing some wind protection if possible to help keep the system ice-free.

These are just two examples of some innovative ways to provide drinking water to livestock during the bitter cold.

If you are interested in finding a winter waterer that may work for you, contact your local Agriologist, technician, or retailer. There are also some useful publications, such as *Livestock Watering Systems in Saskatchewan: Producer Experiences* which is available from many agency offices in the province.



Environmental Farm Plans

Environmental Farm Plans are a great self-assessment tool to incorporate into your farm as they are designed to make you, the producer, more aware about environmental risks of certain farming practices and provides an opportunity for you to alter your farming practices to be a better steward of the land. By completing the Environmental Farm Plan workshop, you will develop an action plan for your farm that identifies management practices you

can implement that possess a decreased risk to the environment, increasing your awareness of environmental issues, improve your knowledge of being a steward of the land and your role in protecting the environment, as well as improving the public perception and demonstrating that farmers are making every positive effort in becoming better stewards of land and are caring about their effect on the environment.

Environmental Farm Plans are necessary

to access some of the cost shared funding available through the Farm Stewardship Program.

If you are looking at applying to the Farm Stewardship Program and have not completed your Environmental Farm Plan, or are interested in doing an Environmental Farm Plan for your farm please contact the Environmental Farm Plan representative Morgan Leigh at 306-752-2534 to find out when the next Environmental Farm Plan workshop will take place



Freshwater lakes and rivers, ice and snow, and underground aquifers hold only 2.5% of the world's water. By comparison, saltwater oceans and seas contain 97.5% of the world's water supply.

The Farm Stewardship Program and Eligible Beneficial Management Practices

Applications are now being accepted for cost shared funding through the Farm Stewardship Program under Growing Forward 2. Eligible producers could receive financial assistance for the implementation of eligible Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).

<u>Eligible Improvements</u>	<u>Cost Share</u>	<u>Project Funding Limit</u>
Land Management Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)		
Protecting Riparian Areas	75%	\$50,000
Creek & Stream Crossings	50%	\$20,000
Protecting High Risk Erodible & Saline Soils	50%	\$5,000
Shelterbelt Establishments	\$600/mile	\$5,000
Livestock Site Management BMPs		
Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities	60%	\$50,000
Fencing to Protect Surface Water	50%	\$10,000
Farmyard Runoff Control	50%	\$10,000
Precision Farming BMP		
Variable Fertilizer Rate Technology	30%	\$7,500
Irrigation Management BMPs		
Irrigation Management Planning	50%	\$2,000
Irrigation Equipment Modification	30%	\$10,000
Manure Management BMPs		
Manure Storage Assessments	30%	\$50,000
Manure Application Equipment & Technologies	30%	\$30,000
Pest Management BMPs		
Integrated Pest Management Information Collection & Planning	30	\$5,000
Native Plant Re-Establishment	50%	\$5,000
Erosion Control Management BMPs		
Multi-Producer Erosion Control Management	75% - Phase 1 50% - Phase 2	\$500,000

Please contact the CRW AEGP Technician, Sarah, at 306-920-8166 for more information or to book an appointment today!!

Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)

The FRWIP program is another cost-share program that is available under Growing Forward 2. Applications are being accepted now. This program focuses on the development of water infrastructure for agricultural purposes to meet the needs of farmers, ranchers, value added agricultural business and First Nations bands. It also has cost shared funding opportunities for both district and non-district irrigators to increase their irrigation size.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost Share</u>	<u>Project Funding Limit</u>
On-Farm	50%	\$60,000
Well Decommissioning	90%	\$10,000/project
Agri-Business Development	50%	\$150,000
Non-District Irrigation Development	50%	\$1,000/irrigable acre developed to maximum \$150,000
Community Well	2/3 of eligible costs	\$150,000
Irrigation District In-Fill	90%	\$7,000,000/Irrigation District

Eligible Projects Include:

- Small Diameter & Large Diameter On-Farm Wells
- Shallow Buried Pasture Pipelines & Deep Buried Pipelines
- Deep Buried Pipelines that Connect to an Established Municipal Water Source
- Dugouts & Dugout Expansions (Minimum 1/3 Size Increase)
- Relocation of Existing Water Systems (For Environmental Purposes)
- Protecting Existing Wells & Well Head Protection
- Permanent Fencing to Exclude Livestock for Water Source
- Well Decommissioning

Contact your CRW AEGP Technician today to schedule an appointment if you are interested in utilizing any of these cost shared funding opportunities!!

Water Conservation at Home

Water Conservation is something that everyone can do, conserving water can help to prevent pollution in nearby lakes, rivers and ultimately our local watershed, in addition to saving money on utility bills. Here are some tips and trick to help you conserve water at home!

- Check faucets and pipes for leaks, even a small drip can waste up to 20 gallons of water per day.
- Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators. Low-flow shower heads are inexpensive and an easy way to conserve water. Also, all household faucets should be fit with aerators.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, there is no need to keep the water running. Just wet your tooth brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
- Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads. Dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water usage. For smaller loads it is important to remember to adjust water levels. When replacing dish washers and clothes washers look for energy star rated machines, these machines use less water and less energy.
- When washing dishes by hand, do not leave the water running for rinsing. If you have a double-basin, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them following washing.
- Keep a bottle or jug of drinking water in the fridge. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful.

For more tips and tricks to conserve water please call the CRVWA Office at 306-752-1270 or email crvwa2011@gmail.com

A watershed or drainage basin is a region that drains into a specific body of water, such as a river or lake. All the land, air, plants and animals within its borders are considered part of the watershed. Each watershed has a unique mixture of land and water habitats they include: wetlands, rivers, lakes, forests, grasslands and farms as well as towns and cities.



Watershed Education and Awareness



The CRVWA has developed a presentation that is aimed to increase participation in environmental stewardship. This presentation is interactive and implements a watershed model. We are interested in delivering presentations to classrooms and youth groups. The presentation is designed to show students how land, water and human activities are interconnected and affect one another. This presentation features common pollutants and identifies Beneficial Management Practises (BMP's) that can be implemented to reduce pollution impacts caused by human activities. Students will be actively involved in the presentation; they will be asked to apply nutrients, make it rain and apply BMP's.

The CRVWA is hosting a poster contest for all students within our watershed in conjunction with the other 9 watersheds within Saskatchewan. The

theme of this year's poster contest is "Groundwater, Below the Surface". The poster contest is open to all students in grades 5-7 and all posters must be 100% hand drawn. There are local prize packages for the top three winners within the watershed and the 1st place winner's poster will be judged against the other top winners across the province for an Outdoor Recreation Package Valued at \$1000.00 courtesy of Sask Watersheds.

The CRVWA with assistance from Eco-friendly Saskatchewan have procured mini watershed models and education books that will be provided free of charge to schools and youth groups within our watershed. Mini watershed models will be given as a gift to schools and youth groups that invite us to do presentations or partake in workshops hosted by the CRVWA. Educational books will be given to all schools within our watershed either through mail or hand delivered. We would like to thank Eco-friendly Saskatchewan for assisting us in increasing watershed education.

For more information on school and youth presentations or our poster contest contact the CRVWA office at 306-752-1270 or email crvwa2011@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ag Update will take place in Melfort at the Kerry Vickar Centre on February 6, 2014. The CRWAEGP will be present and have a booth with information on the Farm Stewardship program and the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure program. Stop by the booth for information on the cost shared programs, or to ask any questions that you may have on the cost shared funding opportunities available.

The South Saskatchewan River Agri-Environmental Group is hosting an Invasive Plant Control Workshop in Birch Hills on Wednesday February 26th from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm. They will be having speakers in to discuss various topics on Invasive Weeds including early detection and rapid response of invasive species, the invasive species control program, the Weed Act, and weed management plans. To register for the workshop, please call Leah Tallis at (306)254-4463 or Kerry Lowndes at (306)463-4942.

There will be an Environmental Farm Plan Workshop in Melfort on Thursday, February 13, 2014. For more information contact Morgan Leigh at 306-752-2534.

Thank you to our Members!

Town of Carrot River
Town of Arborfield
RM of Tisdale #427
RM of Connaught #457
Tisdale Wildlife Federation
Pasquia Regional Park
Arborfield Conservation &

Development Area Authority
Moose Range Conservation &
Development Area Authority
RM of Moose Range #486
Town of Wakaw
RM of Kinistino #459
City of Melfort

Wakaw Lake Regional Park
Authority
Resort Village of Wakaw Lake
RM of Invergordon #430
RM of Hoodoo #401
RM of Fish Creek #402
Melfort & District Wildlife

Federation
St.Peter Conservation &
Development Area Authority
RM of Humboldt #370
RM of St.Peter #369

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Municipalities, Communities, and Special Interest Groups: Become a CRVWA Member Today!
Have a voice in source water protection.



Contact Us

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association
Mail: PO Box 40, Melfort, SK, S0E 1A0
Office: 202 Main Street
Open Weekdays 8:30am-4:30pm
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Changing to low flow faucets, shower heads and toilets will lead to a significant reduction in water usage. For example, a five minute shower with a standard shower head uses 100 litres of water whereas a five minute shower with a low-flow shower head uses less than 50 litres of water.