

## The Cypress Forty Mile Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Partnership “Two agricultural service boards working together on soil conservation and water quality projects”

### Announcement

The Cypress Forty Mile Agricultural Service Board Partnership is pleased to introduce Warren Burgevitz as their new Sustainable Agriculture Conservation Coordinator.



Warren will continue work on the past projects started initially with Gayle Ivanics, P.Ag., to the coordinate the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) program in partnership with the Agriculture Service Boards of Cypress County and the County of Forty Mile. Warren began his new position in November 2004 and has spent time getting familiar with past project activities and accomplishments since the position was created in 2002. Warren has an agriculture degree in Animal Science from the University of Saskatchewan. Since his graduation from university in 1997, Warren has worked in private industry as a ruminant nutrition and management consultant in both beef and dairy and had the opportunity to work with producers in the Lethbridge and surrounding areas, Red Deer and surrounding areas, and most recently in southeastern Manitoba. Aside from his university training, Warren grew up in an agricultural environment. He is the son of Darlene and the late John H. Burgevitz who farmed and ranched south of Medicine Hat near Elkwater in the Tothill/Little Plume district. His brother, Colin, works in Medicine Hat for Green Power Ltd as a heavy duty mechanic. Warren will work from his home office in Medicine Hat and wants producers to know they can contact him if they have any conservation related issues they would like to discuss.

Warren was contracted to organize activities, work with producers, and assist producers and producer groups on issues relating to soil conservation, integrated cropping practices, sustainable grazing and riparian management, and nutrient management issues. Representatives of each Agriculture Service Board meet about three times a year to set program goals. Warren works closely with Cypress Country Agricultural Fieldman Doug Henderson, P.Ag. and Forty Mile Agricultural Fieldman Jon Hood to help make progressive, environmentally sustainable change happen on the farms and ranches of southeastern Alberta. Much of the funding for this program comes from the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) Program.

## **What Partnership?**

In February, 2002, a new step in our environmentally sustainable agriculture program saw the County of Forty Mile Agricultural Service Board and the Cypress County Agricultural Service Board join together to contract the services of a Conservation Agronomist. Information and assistance was provided to help producers with soil conservation and water quality issues, such as direct seeding, integrated crop rotations, and better management practices along waterways. This includes working with the Cypress County Watershed Group to implement riparian area demonstrations along with [Cows & Fish](http://www.cowsandfish.org) (www.cowsandfish.org) riparian health assessments.

This program is funded through the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) program. The AESA program and AESA council grew out of stakeholder consultations that showed a need for targeted programming to address environmental issues in agricultural production and processing. The AESA program addresses the following program priority management issues: nutrient management, sustainable grazing and riparian management, integrated crop and responsible pest management, value-added processing management systems, and greenhouse gas awareness.

## **What is the AESA Program?**

The AESA program facilitates the continued development and adoption of management practices and technologies that make agricultural production and processing more environmentally sustainable. The program addresses technology transfer, extension, information packaging, monitoring, technology development, and evaluation targeting management issues at the farm and processor level. The AESA Farm Based Program is funded by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development in partnership with municipalities and producers groups for local delivery of community based environmental programs. The AESA program supports transfer of new technology and information to farmers, ranchers, and processors for minimizing environmental impacts and monitoring of soil and water quality to trace industry's effect on these resources. The mandate of the AESA council is to identify and evaluate environmental challenges and opportunities facing Alberta's agriculture and food processing industry, encourage the industry to proactively address environmental issues, and provide guidance, advice and direction to the AESA program. For additional information on the AESA program and AESA council check [www.aesa.ca/2004annualreport.pdf](http://www.aesa.ca/2004annualreport.pdf).

The next three years starting in 2005 will see the Cypress Forty Mile Partnership concentrate on nutrient management, sustainable grazing and riparian management, and integrated crop management, which includes responsible pesticide use and soil conservation. Recent activities in 2004 included participation in the Southern Alberta Conservation Association (SACA) Reduced Tillage Conference held in December. For more information on the Partnership's program, if you have questions, or you would like to suggest project ideas, please contact Warren Burgevitz, Sustainable Agriculture Conservation Coordinator at (403) 548-0653 cell, (403) 528-2553 fax or via email at [warren\\_burgevitz@hotmail.com](mailto:warren_burgevitz@hotmail.com). Other information on our program can be found at the Agricultural Services section of the following County websites: [www.cypress.ab.ca](http://www.cypress.ab.ca) and [www.fortymile.ab.ca](http://www.fortymile.ab.ca).

## **Watch for These Upcoming Events and Seminars**

### ***Keeping Farmers and Ranchers Up-to-Date and On the Leading Edge***

#### **Agronomy Update 2005**

**January 18 & 19, 2005, Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge Alberta**

For the latest in agronomic research and industry updates, attend this workshop targeted at producers and extension personnel. Registration fees \$80/person.

**For More info contact Judy Lee at (403) 381-5849 or Ross McKenzie at (403) 381-5842**

#### **Manure Management Planning: The Essentials**

**January 20, 2005, Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge Alberta**

To learn about nutrient management plans and manure regulations, attend this workshop targeted at producers and extension personnel.

**For more info contact Judy Lee at (403) 381-5849 or go to [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca)**

#### **FarmTech 2005 - Alberta's premier crop production and farm management conference plus tradeshow** **January 26-28, 2005 at the Mayfield Inn & Suites, Edmonton Alberta.**

Global perspectives from leading international farmers, 34 concurrent sessions focused on current issues in technology, environment, agronomy and management, interactive "Farmer helping Farmer" workshops, Friday Super-Panels and an agriculture industry showcase of exhibits and special events

**Visit [www.farmtechconference.com](http://www.farmtechconference.com) for conference details or pick up a brochure at the County office**

#### **Alberta Environmental Farm Plans**

**Workshop 1 will help producers identify environmental risks on their farm by using a systemized checklist, with worksheets completed at home.**

**At Workshop 2, the Plan is finalized, after discussions about options to address identified risks. Once a plan is reviewed by a committee of experienced farmers, a Certificate is issued.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is the first step to access funding from the new Canada Alberta Farm Stewardship Program then becomes available for on-farm improvements. Packages will be sent out to past participants and farmers with deemed appropriate farm plans. Also anyone attending workshops will receive a package. There are four application deadlines per year for the Canada Alberta Farm Stewardship Program; Feb 28, May 31, Aug 31, and Nov 30. Program ends March 31, 2008. Details and funding availabilities for the Canada Alberta Farm Stewardship Program will be shared in upcoming newsletters and at Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Workshops.

**Questions about the Canada Alberta Farm Stewardship Program contact 1-800-667-8567**

#### **Locations for upcoming Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Workshops:**

**Seven Persons**

**Part 1 Feb 2, 2005**

**Part 2 Feb 16, 2005**

**10:00 am-2:30 pm**

**Seven Persons Community Hall**

**Registration deadline Jan 31**

**Hilda**

**Part 1 Feb 3, 2005**

**Part 2 Feb 17, 2005**

**Location TBA**

**10:00 am-2:30 pm**

**Registration deadline Feb 1**

**Dunmore**

**Part 1 Feb 7, 2005**

**Part 2 Feb 18, 2005**

**10:00 am-2:30 pm**

**Cypress County Office**

**Registration deadline Feb 5**

**Foremost**

**Part 1 Feb 9, 2005**

**Part 2 Feb 23, 2005**

**Foremost Legion Hall**  
**Registration deadline Feb 7**  
**Bow Island**  
**Part 1 Feb 28, 2005**  
**Part 2 Mar 14, 2005**  
**Bow Island Provincial Building**  
**Registration deadline Feb 26**  
**Registration call Brenda Stryker (403) 867-2103 or email [stryker@albertaefp.com](mailto:stryker@albertaefp.com)**

**Alberta Beef On-Farm Food Safety Seminar**

This four hour seminar will train producers about good production practices on-farm to reduce food safety risks. Ultimately, as a proactive producer, your beef will be certified. This will help to increase consumer confidence and should help sell more beef.

**Date: Friday Feb 4, 2005 10:30 am-3:30 pm**

**Location: Cypress County Office, Dunmore**

**Registration: (403) 526-2888**

For more information on the national beef on-farm food safety program and how to get involved in a producer training workshop or become certified see [www.beefsafety.ab.ca](http://www.beefsafety.ab.ca) or contact Robin Downen at (403) 329-6939 at the Alberta Beef On-Farm Food Safety Office.

Did you know there have been important changes to the Canadian Cattle Identification Program (CCIA). This has been brought on in response to the detection of BSE and need to meet expanding international requirements. For more information call 1-877-909-2333

**Carbon Credits in Agriculture**

**When: Tuesday February 22, 2005, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm**

**Where: Grandstand Ballroom, Exhibition & Stampede Grounds, Medicine Hat, Alberta.**

This luncheon workshop will give landowners information about monetary incentives for carbon storing methods. By reducing tillage and planting trees, CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the air and stored as carbon in the soil and plant biomass. As a result, greenhouse gasses are reduced. Speakers include John Hastie, Chairman of AgCheck Canada, and Don Wharton, Director of Sustainable Development, Transalta Utilities. **Cost is \$20, including lunch.**

**Preregister with the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce online or phone 403-527-5214 ext 221.**

**Custom Manure Applicators Workshop**

This workshop is targeted at custom manure haulers. Topics included are Managing manure nutrients for crop production, understanding crop requirements, how to allocate manure to fields, how to estimate manure volume/weights, interpreting soil and manure test results, beneficial management practices, Safety and Emergency plans- control different losses, manage spills, who to contact, Regulations that apply to Manure Applicators – rules that apply, responsibilities, record keeping, definition of injection, what is adequate incorporation, and Manure Manager Planner – nutrient management strategy – what can the program do.

**Workshop funded in part by the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (AESAs), and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD)**

**Where: Norsemen Inn Camrose, Alberta**

**When: February 25, 2005 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

To register call Dale Chrapko at (780) 632-5452. Registration deadline is February 18, 2005