

ESB NEWS

Welcome to ESB News

This is the first edition of the Environmental Stewardship Branch (ESB) News and will be an additional resource from ESB approximately every second month. This newsletter will highlight information, projects and resources that are new or upcoming within ESB, highlight ESB staff and provide a list of upcoming events, conferences and webinars. We hope that this focused information sharing will be useful to you and your clients.

Carbon Levy Facts & Myths

Wondering what the real facts and myths are when it comes to the carbon levy and how farmers will be affected? [Mike Hittinger](#) has tackled these misconceptions and highlights what one really needs to be aware of. This fact sheet looks at these following items and other common questions being asked.

- Carbon levy rates are charged directly on the cost of heating and transportation fuels
- Albertans will not pay a carbon levy directly on their electricity bill
- The added carbon levy for diesel of 5-8¢/L represents about 1% of the freight bill
- Determining whether or not the added cost is appropriate for the product or service being provided

[Click here](#) to read the Alberta's Carbon Levy and Farmers – Facts and Myths fact sheet. For additional information be sure to look at [Climate Change and Agriculture](#) and [Carbon Levy - FAQ for Producers in Alberta](#).

Challenges with Used Agricultural Plastics

Finding cost-effective, environmentally friendly ways to manage used agricultural plastics remains a serious challenge in Alberta. With the increased usage of agricultural plastics such as grain bags, twine, net wrap and silage bags, understanding available disposal options to producers is important piece for future extension practices. Surveys with Municipalities and Municipal Waste Authorities were completed in 2015 and fact sheets were created to summarize the key findings. For further information on the topic, please contact [Scott McKie](#).

- [Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipalities](#)
- [Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipal Waste Authorities](#)

Dealing with Crop Residue

Keep watch for the soon to be available fact sheet “Dealing with Crop Residue”. Information in this fact sheet will help weigh options to make the best decisions on the farm in regards to the unharvested crops and excess residue remaining on the fields. For further information, please contact [Blaine Metzger](#).



Agricultural Apps Coming to Your Phone Soon!

Looking to do more with your phone on-farm? Check out the [Manure Calculator](#). Environmental Stewardship partnered with the University of Nebraska to include Alberta nutrient book values and the ability to select Canadian measurement units for the soon to be released update. Currently the app calibrates manure spreading equipment and amount of manure being applied to the field, determines the amount of nutrients applied in the manure and estimates the value of using manure. Cost to download this app is less than \$2 and can be found on [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).

The Manure Management Record Keeping app (funded by *Growing Forward 2*) is in creation phase and the project group includes Alberta Milk, Alberta Pork, Alberta Beef Producers, Natural Resources Conservation Board, Intensive Livestock Working Group and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. The focus of this app is to create a tool for better manure business management decisions. This app will provide a convenient decision making while automating the collection and retention record keeping information. Additionally, this app will be tested by farmers and custom applicators throughout the development to help assess function and relevancy to the industry.

For further information on either of these apps, please contact [Laura Thygesen](#).

Staff Profiles

- Shivani Tarksis is back from maternity leave and resuming her role as Confined Feeding Operations (CFO) Program Coordinator and can be reached at 780-427-3908. Shivani will be on a reduced work schedule for the first few months working Monday through Wednesdays.
- Kimberley Dacyk will now be working as the Energy Extension Coordinator. Kim's new role will include developing and delivering a communication plan for energy management on farms. She will also be helping with the On-Farm Energy grant administration and can be reached at 780-415-2358.
- Walter Dunnewold is new to the GF2 Energy Management team. Walter will be helping with the On-Farm Energy Management Program's performance reporting by quantifying the carbon savings that the program's grant projects have led to. Walter can be reached at 780-644-1196.



Coming Events Calendar

Looking to connect with staff and update your resources from Environmental Stewardship? Take a look at the list below and see if you are able to stop by one of our booth locations, listen to a webinar or attend a conference with ESB staff part of the conference presentations.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website has a large list of events around the province and is one of the most visited areas of our website. Coming Events Calendar can be found [here](#). If you have an event you would like to advertise on Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website, please send all the event information to duke@gov.ab.ca.

Events:

The New and Improved Soil Information Viewer

- Webinar, Feb. 22

Getting the Most from Nutrient Management

- Lethbridge, Feb. 23, 2017

Climate Like Never Before

- Webinar, March 1

Ag Expo & North American Seed Fair

- Lethbridge, March 1 - 3, 2017

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

- Red Deer, March 7 - 10, 2017

AAMDC Spring Trade Show

- Edmonton, March 20, 2017

