



# WHAT'S NEW

## In Mountain View

March 13, 2008

[www.mountainviewcounty.com](http://www.mountainviewcounty.com)

Mountain View  
COUNTY

### Gopher it!

*Take early action to reduce Richardson ground squirrel populations*

The Richardson ground squirrel, or the gopher as its more commonly known, is back. While ground squirrels generally hibernate for up to eight months of the year, they have already started to make an appearance in parts of Mountain View County. Therefore, in order to avoid a severe ground squirrel infestation similar to the one which afflicted Saskatchewan in 2007, Mountain View County is participating in the Emergency Registration for 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate. Strychnine, which has been approved by Health Canada for the emergency control of severe infestations of Richardson's ground squirrels, is one of several options available to producers when it comes to controlling "gopher" populations.

Cultural control of ground squirrels has shown limited success. The growth of tall vegetation has been shown to have an effect on ground squirrel populations and movements, pushing squirrels out of tall vegetation stands where their range of sight is obstructed, to more open grass fields. Once ground squirrels have been removed from a crop area, re-invasion can be substantially slowed by destroying their old burrow systems through deep tillage. This would indicate that overgrazing could intensify an existing problem.

Chemical Control options are the most widely used and likely will be the most cost effective for large infestations. The two most common acute poisons registered for ground squirrels are strychnine alkaloids and anti coagulants. In Canada, "Ready To Use" (RTU) Strychnine baits are legally bound by a maximum concentration of 0.4 %.

Chemical baits are most effective when applied early in the season. Once an alternate food source has been established ground squirrel consumption of bait will be limited. Repeated baiting with the same bait during the same year is generally unsuccessful. Baiting should be done thoroughly and correctly the first time. Always carefully read and follow all label directions for products used.

Non-chemical control options include Exit®, shooting (which has proven to be perhaps the most effective method of control), and Anhydrous Ammonia.

For further information contact the Agriculture Department at the county office 335-3311.

### Dump the dot

*Don't use the decimal in township, range roads*

Township and Range Road numbers are changing throughout Mountain View County. As a part of our transition to the rural addressing system, the County is flicking the decimal off of all its rural road numbers.

What does that mean? Whereas Township and Range Roads used to have "0" or "-" or "dots" within the numbering system.- for example Twp Rd "32 04", "32-4", or "32.4"- these punctuations and/or numbers have been removed to accommodate our rural addressing program.

So using the above example, instead of Township Road "32.4", you would now live on Township Road "324". Just lose the decimal- it's that easy.

The County will be phasing in these changes over the next few months, so if you have any questions, please give us a call at 335-3311.

### Did you know?

In 1979, Strathcona County was the first to develop a rural address system to assist emergency services in quickly locating residences and developments in rural areas. The rural address system also provided a convenient method for motorists to locate residences and rural businesses without the clutter of directional signage at major highway intersections. The Strathcona County address system provided the basis for the rural address system, which is presently used across the province. Courtesy- Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation

**Please be advised-**  
**The Mountain View County Office will be closed**  
**Good Friday, March 21 and Easter Monday, March 24.**

### 2 % Liquid Strychnine Emergency Registration

Mountain View County Agricultural Service Board has decided to participate in the Emergency Registration for 2% Liquid Strychnine for bona fide farmers only.

To qualify for product use, producers must have a severe infestation defined as:

- **Four (4) holes per square meter over a hectare of pasture, or;**
- **A 30 per cent loss in crop over a 25 foot wide strip.**

A maximum of two cases (48 bottles) will be allocated per producer- this is equivalent to four- 12kg pails of mixed bait (one bottle of concentrate is mixed with 1Kg of grain). Price is \$160 per case (24 bottles), or \$7 per bottle plus GST.

Be prepared to provide all legal land locations you plan on applying bait to, with a total number of acres to be treated. Farmers must sign a 'Use Agreement' and provide a map of the application site (Mountain View County will provide aerial photos for mapping). Random follow up inspections will be conducted to ensure safe use of the product.

Distribution of product is scheduled for the following dates:

**March 14, April 18, May 16, June 13 (pending distributor's ability to supply)**

**To place orders contact the Mountain View County  
Agricultural Services Department at 403-335-3311 Ext. 179**

**Emergency Registration expires July 30, 2008**

### Recreation and Culture Funding is now available...

**Cremona and District Recreation Board is now  
accepting applications from organizations  
to fund Recreation and Culture projects  
in the Cremona and Water Valley area for 2008.**

**Applications forms are available online at  
[www.mountainviewcounty.com](http://www.mountainviewcounty.com), the Mountain View  
County Office or the Village of Cremona office.**

**New for 2008 all applications must be mailed to:  
Mountain View County, Bag 100, Didsbury AB, T0M 0W0.  
For further information contact Michelle Honeyman,  
Manager Community Services at 335-3311 ex.181**

**Deadline for applications is May 9th 2008.**

**CALL BEFORE YOU BURN.**

**1-888-999-3822**

**KEEP FIRE DISPATCH INFORMED.  
BRING A PHONE SO YOU CAN BE REACHED.**