



Agricultural Services

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Why's of Agriculture: Harvest is wrapping up, so what keeps farmers so busy this time of year?

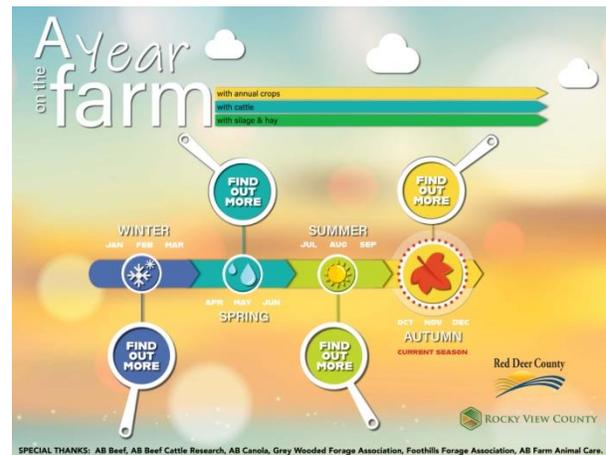
By Aimee Delaney, Ag Relations

They say the works not over until the cows come home. Well the cows will be coming home, if they aren't home already, but the honest truth is that sometimes the work never really ends. Whether you have children or cattle, live in town or on a farm there can be a lot going on throughout the year that keeps you more than busy enough.

The summer sure felt like a busy time. Kids were out of school and parents were looking for things to keep them busy that doesn't involved sitting inside all day playing video games or watching TV. Now that the fall has set in and the kids are back in school, things don't seem to be much slower. If anything things are ramping up to be even more busy with early mornings, afterschool sports and other extracurricular activities, homework, and some spare time if you can find it.

Similar can be said for our local farms. We may think that because the fall harvest is coming to a close our local farmers must have more time on their hands. Unfortunately that's not always the case. Many farming operations are busy year round and the tasks they have can change from season to season. As harvest wraps up field work and preparations for next year are beginning. For farms with livestock fall is a time where calves are being weaned from their mother cows and marketing the cattle so they can be sold to auction needs to be done right away if we want to make sure we're ready for BBQ season next year.

To help draw those parallels from our non-farming lives to those who do farm, we've partnered up with Rocky View County to put together a tool that helps explain the happenings over a years timeframe of what really happens on local farms, when it happens, and what we should be aware of as neighbours to agriculture. Starting out with a few of our main local commodities like cows/calf operations, annual crops operations and haying/silaging operations, A Year on the Farm is now available at www.rdcountry.ca/629/A-Year-on-the-Farm, and I welcome anyone interested to check it out!



Each month we'll dig into a new 'Why' or in this case 'What' of agriculture. If you have an agricultural question you'd like me to dig into let me know at adelaney@rdcounty.ca