



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"



APRIL | 2016

Box 1448, 5039-45 Street, Rocky Mtn. House, AB. T4T 1B1
Phone: 403-844-2645 | Email: Ginette - GWFA3@telus.net
Website: www.greywoodedforageassociation.com



In this Issue:

Page 4 - ALUS Program

Page 6 - Riparian Management

Page 7 - Healthy Land Healthy Futures Seminar & AGM (May 14)

Page 8 - Coop Feeds Bison Feed

Page 9 - Range Monitoring Article

Page 10 - Sanfoin Story Keeps Getting Better

Page 12 - Determining A Reasonable Crop Land Rental Rate

Page 14 - Salinity Causes and Cures thank you poster

AGM Info
Inside

Memberships
are Due!

Photo Credit: Ken Ziegler

Mission Statement

To promote environmentally and economically sustainable forage and agricultural practices.

Vision Statement

The community is engaged in regenerative agricultural production methods.

Message from the Chair

By Ken Ziegler

Greetings everyone from the Board and Staff of Grey Wooded! Trusting you are all well, that your calving is either almost done, well on the way, just starting, or right around the corner. More importantly, that everyone around your home place is healthy, wealthy and wise....



For those of you that are used to the early morning starts, I suspect you've been enjoying the promise of spring with the earlier sunrise and the ongoing chorus of all the love stricken birds. The natural world around us continually seems to take life seriously with good intention of raising another crop of young ones to replace the ones of last summer.

Of particular note for those of you that enjoy our newsletter is the upcoming Annual General Meeting and Seminar. It's right around the corner and scheduled for Saturday, May 14th for those of that also work out during the week. Notice the theme of the day and the slate of speakers that we've got

coming.

There's an increasing movement within society for everyone to care for the ecosystem. That's especially encouraging for all of us that place value on the care of the land and all that grows on it. The exciting part is that society is wanting to pay us for some of these "ecosystem services"! The challenge is for us to tap into this surging interest and learn how to manage our land better and to benefit from the programs that are becoming available.

Check out the agenda within the pages of this Blade and make sure to set the day aside to attend. I suggest that you'll be pleased with the conversations that you can be a part of on May 14th.

That said, enjoy this version of the Blade and I look forward to connecting with many of you within the next few weeks. Stay safe and take a moment to savour the season as you go about your days.

Ken



STOCKMANSHIP SCHOOLS

with Richard McConnell & Tina Williams of Hand'n Hand Solutions

Join Richard and Tina as they present their two-day Proper Stockmanship Schools in two locations in Alberta.

All sessions are taught in a classroom setting using lecture, Q&A, and many videos.

JUNE 13&14, 8:30am-5:30pm Red Deer County Office
JUNE 16 & 17, 8:30am-5:30pm Airdrie Agriculture Centre
\$60 for members/\$80 non-members
Stay tuned for more information or contact your local Forage Association or Organic Alberta.



LONE STAR RANCH & SALES



6709C Golden West Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta T4P 1A7

Phone: 403-356-9319

Cell: 403-391-9314

Fax: 403-347-1939

Email: lonestarranchsales@gmail.com

"We are here when you need us"

**Morand Cattle Handling Equipment
Hi-Hog Cattle Handling Equipment
Mar-Weld Sheep and Goat Handling Equipment**

Gallagher Dealer and Repair Center

Western Canadian Repair Center
Full line of electric fencing supplies and equipment, weigh scales, load bars, and RFIC readers.

Miraco Livestock Waterers

Designed with clean out plug and completely rust-free. All sizes available for any size of operation.

Promold Dealer

Solar pasture water systems, bunk feeders, fence line feeders, mineral feeders, calf feeders, calf shelters, stand alone panels, and windbreaks.

Our expanding product line now includes:

- CCIA Tags
- Cow Cam Monitoring Cameras
- Hot Shot Livestock Prods
- Tru-Test Equipment on request

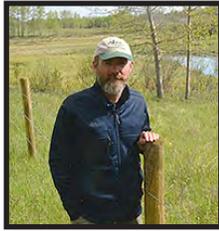
Calving supplies are arriving early March!



ALUS Program Introduction

By Ken Lewis

ALUS is a community-led, producer-delivered program that pays farmers and ranchers to grow increased ecosystem services on their farms and ranches. Ken Lewis will be presenting a seminar on ALUS at our AGM on May 14th.



Ecosystem services are things that humans benefit from. A few examples are water storage and water filtration, carbon sequestration and pollinator habitat. Farmers and ranchers can grow increased ecosystem services on their operations when they adopt environmentally beneficial agriculture management practices (commonly called "BMPs").

Ecosystem services have real economic value to society. The ALUS Program is a mechanism that transfers some of that economic value to the farmers and ranchers that produce these services. That transfer of value comes in two forms: Cost-sharing on BMPs, and annual payments made to producers, for ecosystem services delivered.

Ken's talk at the Seminar & AGM on May 14th will

explain how the ALUS Program works in Red Deer County. We'll learn the numbers involved in their program so far, and look at a couple of relevant examples of ALUS in action.

Ken's been working for Red Deer County since 2007. He comes from a long-time family in the Little Red Deer River watershed in Mountain View County, and currently lives in Red Deer with his wife, son and daughter.

Thanks,

Ken Lewis

Article on a donation from Grain Farmers of Ontario, to one of the ALUS Programs in that province: <http://blackburnnews.com/agrimedia/agrimedia-news/2016/04/07/alus-program-in-lambton-gets-gfo-support/>

Article about ALUS in the Alberta Farm Express: <http://www.agcanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/AFE160328.pdf>

Nuffield Scholar Tim Smith discusses Ecological Goods and Services (including ALUS): <http://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2015/10/05/its-time-to-reward-ranch-stewardship-says-alberta-nuffield-scholar/>

Quoting from their Election Platform available at: <http://www.pcmnitoba.com/platform>

Manager's Notes

By Ginette Boucher

Greetings, for most of you calving season is well on its way and with the beautiful weather we couldn't ask for anything better. Winter has been extremely mild and managing your feed resources into spring will be an extremely important task. West Central Forage Association have invited us to collaborate with them in their Drought management seminar coming up on April 19th, it would be a great event to attend if you can make it. We will provide details for your information following this event.



We continue to communicate with Albert to stay up

to date on his health condition. As it stands there is no improvements or progress. Albert is currently on short term disability until mid June; at this time, his claim will be reviewed by Blue Cross. If there are no changes in his condition his status will likely change from short term to long term disability. Let's continue to pray for his recovery.

We have made most of our capital purchases with the funding the Agriculture Opportunity Fund has provided for capital expenditures. Our secan is 10' x 20' and is located behind our office space on the Foothills Livestock Coop property. This has been a great help to clean up our crowded office space

and will reduce our annual storage cost. Thank you for those who assisted in this office move. Most of our computers and related equipment have been ordered and are currently being configured for the network. Thank you to Agriculture Opportunity Fund for providing the much needed capital expenditure funding.

Our Seminar & Annual General meeting date and location has been changed. The date will be May 14th and the location is Lacombe Memorial Centre. Please mark your calendars. We have a full page poster in this publication of the Blade. The membership fees are due effective April 1st. Please send in your membership renewal form along with your payment, be sure to indicate if you want a printed or digital copy of the Blade.

After our recent publicity meeting, we have developed our annual program based on the needs assessment that circulated in late December. This would be considered our 2016 / 2017 extension plan:

- April, Salinity workshop, Drought workshop
- May AGM, ALUS (Alternate Land Use Services) workshop in Red Deer County
- June Stockmanship School, and Hay in a Day workshop
- July, Riparian School & Electric Fencing 101 workshop, & ALUS Field Day Red Deer County
- August, Pasture walk, & Electric fencing 404 advanced
- September, Nutrition workshop, Blue Rock Animal Nutrition
- October, Chaff grazing, Ponoka County
- November, Cattle Handling tour in Bearberry (West of Sundre)
- December, Carbon Sequestration & Climate change, Ponoka County
- January, Winter Watering Systems Tour
- February, Winter Electric Fencing
- March, Soil Health Workshop

These events have been planned based on the assumption of a normal year. Should mother nature

put a curve ball into things and send us into a back up plan our extension activities will likely change to accommodate mother nature. Please continue to communicate with us your needs and we will work towards assisting you in our program delivery.

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry are providing some Enhanced Funding dollars to assist with manpower for the next two-years. This will enable us to hire one additional full time staff. Several applications have been received and are being reviewed for the posted position. Interviews are planned for the week of April 18th. We are waiting to hear from the STEP program regarding funding for the summer staff position; as soon as we hear we will be interviewing for this position.

Our Salinity Workshop Causes & Cures was a great success. It took place on April 7th at Coburn Hall East of Didsbury. Twenty-seven producers attended; we learned about various types of saline seeps including invisible saline areas, how they are formed & why, how to manage them through the use of alfalfa, and several other plant species adaptable to saline areas. We learned about the recharge and discharge areas and how to lower the water table with the use of plants to manage salinity. The responses from the evaluation forms was very positive. We thank Mountain View County for the partnering opportunity to put on this event and our sponsors Farmer's Edge & Big Deal Galloways. We also thank Karin Lindquist of the Ag-Info Centre for doing her presentation on forages, specie types and establishment, Jack Payne of Farmer's Edge for teaching us about causes and cures, and Russel Horvey of Big Deal Galloways for discussing how forage production improves soil salinity. Some of the power point presentations will be available on our websites soon for your reference. A part two of this event would be worthwhile having. Thank you to all the producers who attended.

Best Regards,

Ginette

Riparian Management

By Grant Lastiwka - Foragebeef.ca

With our AGM just around the corner, we decided to do this "copy and paste" on Riparian Management. Although its wise for us to manage all of our land from an environmentally sound perspective, this is especially so along our riparian areas.

Notice the announcement and agenda for our AGM and Seminar set for May 14th and plan for a stimulating day. Please come!

Riparian areas are extremely productive parts of a grazing program. However, because riparian areas are also important areas for protecting water quality, they are very sensitive to uncontrolled grazing. With proper grazing management cattle, grass and streams can coexist in a long-term sustainable ecosystem.

A riparian grazing plan must meet the needs of each specific riparian area, be compatible with the entire ranch operation and have the commitment of the operator/manager to achieve riparian objectives.

Healthy riparian areas trap sediment, build and maintain streambanks, store flood water and energy, recharge the aquifer, filter and buffer water, reduce and dissipate stream energy, maintain biodiversity and create primary productivity.

Vegetation plays a critical and complex role in filtering and slowing runoff, capturing sediments during flooding and building the capacity for storing and releasing groundwater and maintaining streamflow.

Unhealthy riparian areas contain weeds, low forage production, damaged shrub growth, down cutting and erosion of the channel, slumping banks, soil exposure, low water table and decreased storage capacity with few fish or wildlife present.

Early and mid-summer use can be detrimental to riparian areas unless grazing is limited in duration and frequency so that plants can recover.



Grazing can work well when grazing duration is managed to minimize browsing, rubbing and trampling of shrubs and small trees.

Fall and winter grazing can work when forage is sufficient for grazing through the snow, when enough residue is left to slow the water flow from next spring's runoff, when supplemental feeding sites are far enough away from the riparian area and cattle are discouraged from resting there.

The easiest riparian zone to deal with is one that is large enough to be fenced and used as a separate paddock where control of livestock entry and exit is possible.

Rest from livestock grazing is needed to reestablish a healthy stand of shrubs in degraded riparian areas. Shrubs grow rapidly when riparian areas are protected.

In cases of uncontrolled access, cattle will concentrate in a riparian area because of water, salt, hot weather and shade, better forage or animal habits.

Healthy riparian areas can be a safety net during drought where riparian areas are often the only green place remaining.

Wanted: Person to manage rotational grazing of cattle on pasture 1 mile west of Rocky. Call Jim at 403-288-5270.

Healthy Land... Healthy Futures Seminar

A review of programs available to fulfill our land value

32nd Annual General Meeting
Grey Wooded Forage Association

May 14th 2016, 1:00-7:00 pm

Lacombe Memorial Centre

\$25/person – member, \$40/person – non member

*Dr Edward Bork-U of A,
“Environmental Goods and Services-Receiving
Economic Recognition”*

*Blake Hall-Rancher, Red Deer County,
“The Value and Practice of Land Care”*

*Ken Lewis-Conservation Coordinator, Red Deer County,
“The ALUS Program”*

*Kevin Ziola-Producer, Red Deer County,
“How we’ve benefited from ALUS on our farm”*

*Paul Watson-Director, Alberta Agriculture,
“The Environmental Farm Plan”*

Please register by May 10th:
@ GWFA 403-844-2645 and leave a message
or email gwfa3@telus.net



Co-op Feeds® Bison Feed

An animal's body allocates incoming nutrients according to a hierarchy; needs for maintenance must be met before needs higher up, such as growth and reproduction, can be met. If basic nutritional requirements are not satisfied, reproduction is the first to suffer. This is why Co-op Feeds provides life cycle feeding for bison, ensuring nutritional needs are met at every stage of life. The Co-op Feeds bison feeding program is as follows:

CO-OP BISON PASTURE RATION (93569) is a high fiber ration designed to extend forage supply while providing vitamins and trace minerals. It can also be used to background calves.

CO-OP BISON WINTER RATION (93548) is to be fed to mature bison during the maintenance period (late fall and winter). It is built to match the change in metabolism bison encounter in winter months so as to maintain condition and deliver vitamins and minerals to the wintering herd.

CO-OP BISON FLUSH RATION (93705) is designed to elevate the plane of nutrition to prepare bison for breeding season. Feed CO-OP BISON FLUSH RATION 3-6 weeks prior to breeding season to provide energy, vitamins, and minerals for cows. This ration can also be fed to bulls prior to breeding season.

CO-OP BISON CREEP RATION (93544) is designed to supplement dam's milk, extend pasture, and stimulate rumen development while getting the bison calf used to consuming feed. BISON CREEP RATION is to be self-fed until two weeks prior to weaning.

CO-OP BISON RECEIVER200 RATION (93543) is designed to be fed to bison calves (~200 kg body weight) during the stressful weaning and receiving period. CO-OP® BISON RECEIVER200 RATION is a balanced ration that will provide protein, energy, vitamins, & minerals to help start

bison calves on feed & get them growing. CO-OP® BISON RECEIVER200 RATION contains yeast to help improve feed consumption and organic trace minerals, including selenium, and higher vitamin E to support immune function. This feed is designed to get calves off to a healthy start.

CO-OP BISON BACKGROUNDER RATION (93682) is to be fed to weaned bison calves that have been fully adjusted to concentrate feed, until they are yearlings. CO-OP BISON BACKGROUNDER RATION is designed to meet the nutrient requirements of growing calves while maintaining a reasonable rate of growth.

CO-OP BISON FEEDLOT GROWER (93701) should be self-fed to bison yearlings until 60 days prior to market. CO-OP BISON FEEDLOT GROWER is designed to support growth of yearlings without laying too much finish too soon.



CO-OP BISON FINISHER/HEIFER FINISHER (93555/93554) is to be fed to bison which were previously fed a concentrate ration for 60 days prior

to slaughter. CO-OP BISON FINISHER contains energy to develop finish on animals in a cost-effective manner. CO-OP BISON HEIFER FINISHER addresses the unique challenges posed by finishing females and maintains muscle deposition in the final phases of finishing without laying too much fat too soon.

CO-OP BISON PREMIX is a balanced blend of macro and trace minerals plus vitamins and is to be fed to all classes of bison. This product is available as a loose mineral (97270), a block (92721), or supplemented with organic trace minerals (97274) for feeding during times of high mineral requirement such as weaning, pre-breeding and breeding, calving, or situations of poor water quality.

Range Monitoring

By Kelly and Jill Burkhardt

What is on your fall To-Do list? Harvest? Second (or third) cut hay? Bringing cattle in from pasture? Preg checking cows? Fall is not when one would normally think about range management, yet by doing a few simple measures of the rangeland in the fall, you can plan better for the coming spring.



In the spring, before the cattle went on pasture, I placed a range cage in one of my poorer doing pastures. The cages I use are approximately 40 inches tall by 72 inches wide and are a pyramid shape. The cages restrict cattle from eating in that spot, for that year. This pasture is very hilly with clay pan soils, has a history of heavy gopher population, and in the drought of 2002, was grazed relatively heavy. I felt this would be the best place to place my cage to see how much potential grass has to grow. For this particular cage, my plan is to keep it in the same location and use it as a monitoring spot. I am also planning on clipping the forage and raking litter from inside the cage and from a spot outside near the cage. From the clippings, I hope to see how much the pasture is capable of producing under cattle exclusion conditions (inside the cage) and under grazing pressure, and the litter will give me a measure of what is left-over to provide mulch and bare ground cover.

Monitoring is a very simple task that anyone can do. With smartphones, it is made even simpler. It involves going out to the same point every year and taking a few photos, going home and printing that photo, dating it, and putting it in a binder with your range notes. On each pasture I take two photos: one directly of the ground and a second one of the general landscape. The spot you chose

to monitor in each pasture should be random or as close to random as possible. In my one pasture, my one monitoring spot is the 2nd hill from the internet tower; on another pasture, it's 20 paces to the south from the 13th post heading west from the water pen (very random). If you have an area of concern in your pasture, then do a separate monitoring point there as well. I have a few areas of heavy gopher use, and do separate photo monitoring points on those spots. Over time you can see changes in the pasture, both good and bad, helping you determine your next years' grazing plan.

In the fall after the cattle make their last rotation through a pasture I like to go walk through the pasture, observe what I see, and take notes. This fall, I made some observations about the field where the range cage is. For example, the south end of the pasture had more use (this is the part of the field closest to the water pen). I noticed the difference of the grass height on the in-side of the cage versus the outside. When you place an object in the middle of a pasture the cattle are automatically drawn to



it, or so it seems; use around the cage was a bit higher than the rest of the field. Finally, I noticed the north end of the field did not have a lot of use. While walking around I also note any "new" weeds that have popped up over the summer. This helps plan for next years weed control plan (spray, handpull, mow, etc). The notes I take on field use, help me to get a mental picture of how the cows grazed the field, and if there is anything I can do next year to either decrease utilization in the heavier used areas, or increase utilization in the lighter used spots. As well, while looking at utilization,

take into consideration current watering locations-both natural and troughs-to plan for pasture rotations into the coming year.

...continued on next page...

With everything on your fall "To-Do" list fall range work may be just another task to some. By taking some time to do some simple and quick fall range monitoring and note taking can pay off come next year's grazing season.

Kelly & Jill Burkhardt



A promotional advertisement for CO-OP. At the top, a red banner contains the text "For All Your Livestock Needs" in white. Below the banner is the CO-OP logo. The background is a photograph of several brown and white cattle in a field. A yellow starburst graphic on the right side of the image contains the text "GWFA Silver Sponsor". On the left side, a list of services is provided: "• Bulk and Bagged Feed", "• Animal Health", "• Livestock Equipment", "• Twine", and "• Fencing Supplies".



Rocky Mountain House Co-op Home Centre
4323 45th Street, Rocky Mountain House, AB.
Phone: 403-845-2844 Fax: 403-845-6570
Toll Free: 1-855-845-4166

Sainfoin Story Keeps Getting Better

By Surya Acharya

Sainfoin is a marvel when it comes to eliminating bloat, but earlier varieties were outcompeted by alfalfa.

Sainfoin is prized because it prevents bloat when seeded with alfalfa, but it has taken years of work by Agriculture Canada forage breeder Surya Acharya to develop a hardy variety.

It's been neglected for years, but sainfoin is poised to come into its own, with the first new variety that regrows quickly after cutting or grazing due to come onto the market in 2015.

In rotational grazing trials at Lethbridge last year, sainfoin-alfalfa pastures produced more than 400 kilograms of beef per hectare with no bloat over a 100-day grazing season.

In trials across Western Canada, the new variety of sainfoin, Mountainview — developed by Agriculture Canada forage breeder Surya Acharya — dramatically outperformed the older variety, Nova, in pure stands and mixed with alfalfa. And it persists well in grazed alfalfa-sainfoin stands.

"It fits all the criteria cattle producers have for a reliable option for bloat-free alfalfa grazing," says Acharya. "The rapid regrowth of Mountainview, and its ability to compete with alfalfa make it very different from earlier sainfoin varieties. I think cattle producers will like this variety."

Sainfoin is a forage legume like alfalfa, but it is generally slower to regrow after cutting for hay or grazing. It's very palatable, and all kinds of animals eat it readily, even its coarse-looking (but hollow) stems. Its upright growth habit makes it easy to cut for hay and it cures faster than alfalfa.

But sainfoin's greatest advantage is its high concentration of condensed tannins that prevent

bloat in cattle and other ruminants, even when it forms just part of the pasture. As little as 20 per cent sainfoin protects cattle on alfalfa pasture — giving high gains without the constant risk of losing animals to bloat.

In Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development trials at Lethbridge some years ago, cattle did really well grazing alfalfa with some sainfoin. But even in the course of a single grazing season, grazing eliminated virtually all the sainfoin and the cattle were at risk of bloat by late summer.

The traditional advice was to graze sainfoin before it flowered or to wait until it was at least 50 per cent flowering, so it shed some seed for pasture renewal. Even when it was cut for hay, it usually produced just one cut, typically after flowering. Some ranchers grazed the aftermath. But mixed in a pasture with alfalfa, sainfoin wasn't able to compete. Its regrowth was just too slow and it was overwhelmed by the faster-growing alfalfa.

Many people would have set aside the dream of high gains without the bloat risk from alfalfa, but Acharya took up the challenge of developing more competitive sainfoin. He's always considered forages other than alfalfa unfairly neglected and says focusing on alfalfa — often called the "queen of forages" — meant missing out on the advantages of other forage species.

"Alfalfa is so productive and so widely adapted, it gets all the attention," he says. "It's the only forage species with a worldwide trade. People say other legumes can't produce even 75 per cent of alfalfa's yields, but multi-cut types of sainfoin outyield alfalfa."

However, there is a challenge to using the two together. Sainfoin has much bigger seeds than alfalfa, so you can't simply seed a mixture of the two. Acharya advises seeding alternate rows of

alfalfa and sainfoin by using two planter boxes with alternate runs blocked, or making two passes. In grazing research trials, sainfoin effectively protected against bloat when planted in alternate rows, and prevented bloat to a lesser extent when planted in strips with alfalfa.

A seeding rate calculator (such as the one in the Decision-Making Tools section of Ropin' the Web) is required to achieve equal numbers of alfalfa and sainfoin plants. And, don't forget the inoculant, a different one for each species.

Sainfoin has one trait that might be considered a drawback. Every species of animal — from cows and deer to hamsters and rabbits — loves it. Some researchers have had trouble with wildlife congregating in their sainfoin plots. Bees also thrive on sainfoin.



Sainfoin has traditionally been grown in the brown and dark-brown soil zones. Mountainview has done very well in trials across the Prairies, on dryland and under irrigation. To encourage cattle producers to look at sainfoin-alfalfa pastures, Acharya and

other researchers held a train-the-trainer session for applied research groups last summer. This year, he'll be doing the same with industry people to spread the word.

Acharya's team is also testing sainfoin as a way to rejuvenate alfalfa stands without losing a year's production. They'll apply glyphosate and then seed sainfoin in strips of the old forage.

A limited amount of Mountainview sainfoin should be available from Northstar Seed in Neepawa, Man. in spring of 2015. Seed is expected to be more widely available in 2016.

Surya Acharya

Determining a Reasonable Crop Land Rental Rate

By Dean Dyck

With spring approaching, many landlords and tenants are reviewing their crop land rental arrangements to see whether they are fair and reasonable.

Determining an equitable rate is not easy. Often, people use what others are charging or paying in the local area. Following this approach does have pitfalls because the rate may not be reflective of the soil productivity on the farm or there may be a difference between what was rumoured and what was actually paid. Changes in prices and yields from year to year affect profit and the renter's ability to pay.

In Alberta, cash rent and crop share are the two predominant crop land rental arrangements. Cash rental is common because the lease is simple, the rent is fixed and the land owner does not have to make any operating or marketing decisions. The tenant has more control over cropping decisions and can benefit from higher profits.

A useful method to estimate a cash rent is called a "crop share equivalent" or the rental rate that would be received from a typical 75:25 crop share lease. Computing the rate using this method requires estimates of long term average yields in the area and realistic prices for the coming year. A suggestion is to use Crop Insurance yields and insurable prices. Then apply a discount of 25% for variability in weather, yields and prices since the tenant is assuming all of these risks. The formula is: $(\text{yield} \times 25\%) \times \text{price} \times 75\%$. Complete this calculation for at least four major crops grown in the area and take the average.

Another simple method is a percentage of gross returns. Compare cash rents in your area over the past five to ten years and compare to gross returns

of the crops that were grown. In many areas, cash rent is approximately 20 to 24 percent of gross returns.

Crop share rentals are becoming less common because many land owners do not want to take the risk of price or yield. These leases are typically 75% tenant: 25% landlord; if fertilizer and chemicals are shared, then the lease shifts to 66% tenant: 33% landlord.

A general rule of thumb is "calculate, then negotiate". Tenants should know their cost of production and calculate the potential profit before

establishing a fair price. While money plays a role, other factors will come into the negotiations such as land quality, location, compatibility, communications, and honesty. Once a price and terms have been agreed, the most important thing you can do is put the agreement in writing. This single act would eliminate the majority of

disagreements that occur.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry publishes a comprehensive guide to establishing, negotiating and writing a land lease called "Leasing Cropland in Alberta". It is available through the Publications Office.

If you have any questions about crop land rental rates, give us a call at the Ag-Info Centre. Our phone number is 310-FARM (3276).



Dean Dyck, P. Ag.

Farm Business Management Specialist



NO TIME, EFFORT OR DAYLIGHT WASTED.



*In-stock inventory only. Certain substitutes available — see in-store for details. Discount calculated from standard retail price. Offer expires June 30, 2015. © 2015 UFA Co-operative Ltd. All rights reserved. 130545

What you need to get the job done. Save 12% or more when you buy a one-mile fencing package at UFA.

Package includes:

- Four bundles of 4.25" fence posts – 6' or 7'
- One bundle of 3.5" fence posts – 6' or 7'
- 16 rolls of barbed wire
- Two 30-lb pails of fence staples

Visit your UFA Farm & Ranch Supply store for all your fencing needs.



UFA.com

Clearwater County Upcoming Events:

Backyard Birds with Myrna Pearman

Wednesday, April 27. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Ag Services and Landcare meeting room. Build your own bird house to bring home! Cost is \$20 per person. Due to limited space, please pre-register with Ag Services and Landcare by Monday, April 25th (403) 845-4444.

Beaver in the Landscape Workshop

Wednesday, May 4 at Kevisville Hall. Call Gary or Chelsea at 403-845-4444 for details.

Annual Weed Workshops

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 25 at Everdell Hall and Wednesday June 1 at Crammond Hall from 5:00 to 7:30pm. 10% discount on range and pasture herbicide for attending. Free supper and guest speakers included.



Another Successful Event

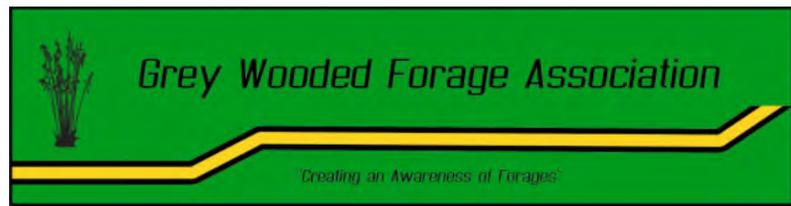
SALINITY CAUSES AND CURES

COBURN HALL | APRIL 7, 2016

Thank-You to our sponsors:



Big Deal Galloways



**Thank-You to the Producers who
attended and assisted in making
this event a success!**

Thank-You to our speakers:

Karin Lindquist of the Ag-Info Centre

Jack Payne of Farmer's Edge

Russel Horvey of Big Deal Galloways

Grey Wooded Forage Association

2016/2017 Memberships

*Memberships are available now for \$20.00
and run from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017*

For more information phone 403-844-2645

Membership is open to anyone interested in forage production and grazing management
in an economically and environmentally sustainable way.

Membership benefits:

- Receive discounts on Controlled Grazing Courses, seminars, workshops, tours when discounts are offered.
- Farm calls at \$100/visit and free consulting by phone, email or office visit on grazing management and any other forage production questions, effective immediately.
- Receive *The Blade* monthly via a link sent to you by email each month.
- Receive a printed copy of *The Blade* in the mail monthly for a \$10/year printing and postage fee, in addition to the \$20/year membership fee, effective July 1, 2015
- Receive up-to-date information on GWFA activities via The Blade, the website and by email.

Please mail the portion below with a cheque for \$20.00, or \$30 (\$10 printing & postage fee added) to:

**Grey Wooded Forage Association
Box 1448, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B1**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: Renewal _____ or New Member _____ Your preference: Canada Post _____ or Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Company Name _____ Mobile Phone _____

Address _____ Fax _____

Town _____ Prov _____ Email _____

Postal Code _____ **Confirm Email** _____

Please give us an idea of what area of forage production you are interested in:

Controlled Grazing & Pasture Management: _____

Growing Annual Forages for Extended Grazing or Swath Grazing: _____

Growing Annual Forages for Silage or Greenfeed: _____

Growing Hay: _____ Ration Balancing: _____

Soil Biology: _____ Pasture Rejuvenation or Renovation: _____

Low Cost Cow/calf Production: _____

Environmental Sustainability: _____ Economical Sustainability: _____

COMMENTS: _____



powered by **Altech**

Perfect for high fiber winter diets!

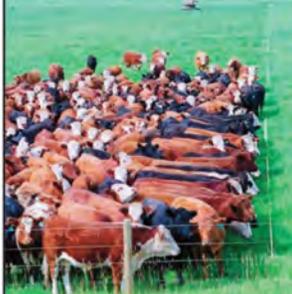
Ask us about our Rumolix Lick tubs and fiber digestion.

Rebekah Ricketts

Sales & Nutrition Consultant | Ph: 403-741-9714

4747 - 60th Street | Red Deer, AB

emf-nutrition.com

GALLAGHER
Looking for Gallagher Energizer Repair? You found it!

LONE STAR RANCH & SALES
is Western Canada's Gallagher Repair Centre!
Also carrying a full line of electric fencing supplies, weighing and tag reading equipment.

Toll free: 1-855-391-9314
Red Deer, AB.

Alberta Ag-Info Centre

310-farm

Phone 310-FARM (3276) toll-free to contact Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, or visit one of our field offices across the province for your agricultural information needs.

Canada *Alberta* Government **Growing Forward**
A natural approach to rural solutions

Sundog Solar

www.sundogsolarwind.com

3D Fencing Project Sponsors

Is your annual compensation review coming this year?
It is time to start planning.

I can help. Give me a call.



Gilchrist Consulting
587-989-4180
www.gilchristconsulting.ca

LJB Ranch

Jim & Barb Bauer
Ph. 403.546.2427 email: jim.bauer50@gmail.com
Offering Electric Fencing Solutions

Now handling Tru-Test scales and RFID Wand readers!

speedrite **TRU-TEST** **PasturePro**

Foragebeef.ca Technical Information for the Canadian Forage Beef Industry

Published by:

Little Tree
DESIGNS
www.littletreedesigns.ca

