



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

OCTOBER 2013

Box 1448, 5039 - 45 Street, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T-1B1,
Phone: 403 844 2645, Fax: 403 844 2642, Email: GWFA1@telus.net or
GWFA2@telus.net, Website: www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

In this issue:

- Coexistence Plan for Alfalfa Hay in Eastern Canada - Planning for Choice - Pg 5
- Foragebeef.ca - New Publications Added - Pg 6
- Fall Harvesting Alfalfa - Pg 7
- DLF-TRIFOLIUM Acquires The Pickseed Group of Companies - Pg 8

Upcoming events:

- Silvopasture Workshop on October 22, 2013 - Pg 2
- Local Foods Workshop on October 24 & 25, 2013 - Pg 3
- Clearwater County's Cattlemen's Day on November 20, 2013 - Pg 5
- Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Conference & AGM - Pg 9
- FFGA Ag Tour to Argentina on Feb 11 to Feb 25, 2014 - Pg 10



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2013 CFGA Conference & AGM
Dec 9th, (Tour) 10th & 11th (Conference), 2013

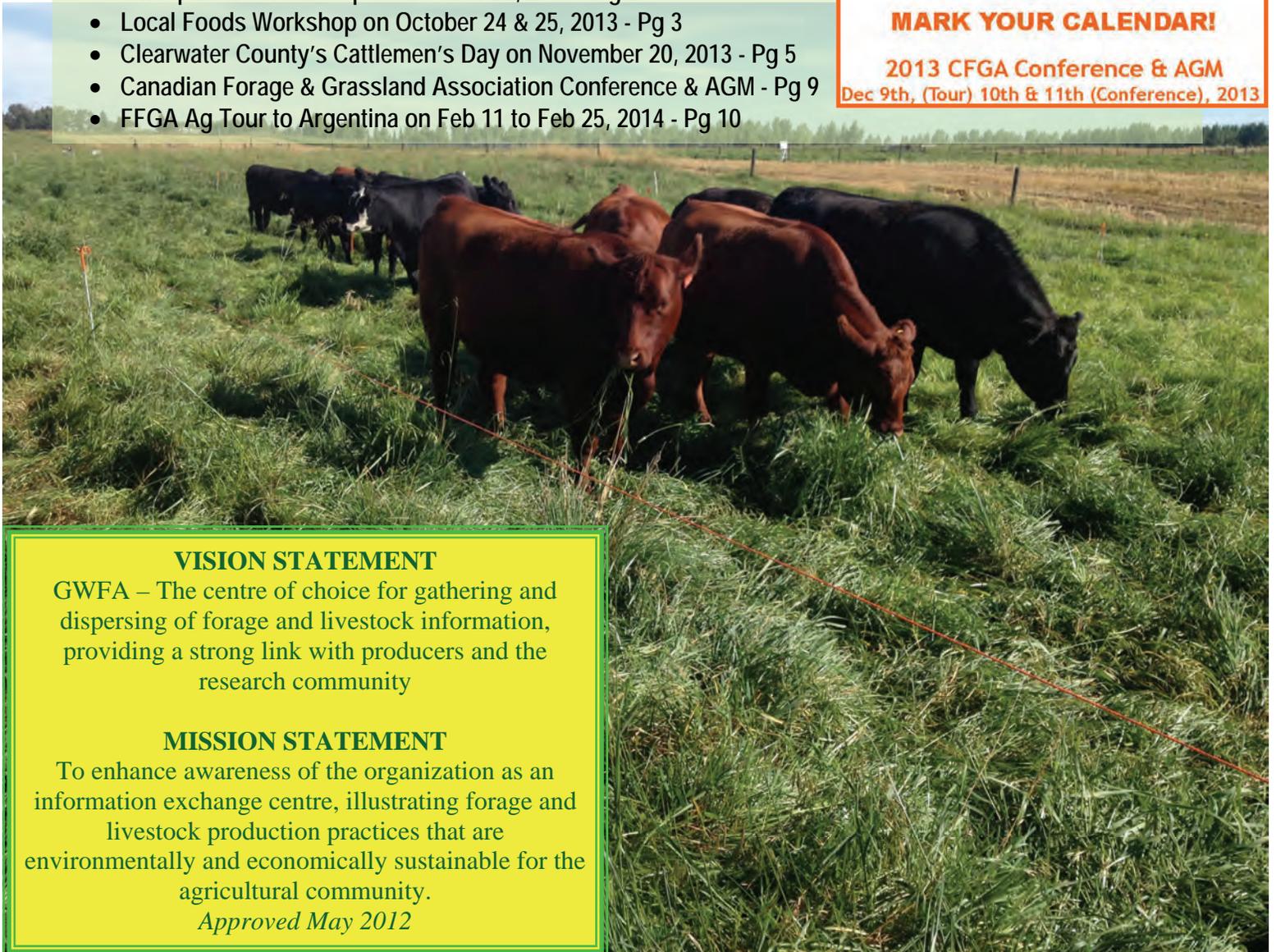
VISION STATEMENT

GWFA – The centre of choice for gathering and dispersing of forage and livestock information, providing a strong link with producers and the research community

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance awareness of the organization as an information exchange centre, illustrating forage and livestock production practices that are environmentally and economically sustainable for the agricultural community.

Approved May 2012



Silvopasture Workshop

October 22, 2013

Will be held at the Raven Community Hall

Registration Deadline: October 18th, 2013

Topics of discussion will include:

- Management of cattle grazing in woodlots
- Value and management of forage in forested stands
- Benefits of grazing cattle in a partially forested pasture
- How to process wood harvested in woodlot
- Protection of forested riparian areas

Schedule

5:00pm - Registration

5:05pm - Brief talk on silvopasture and the tour area

5:15pm - Depart to Glenn Mainland's property

5:30pm - Arrive at property, tour grazed mixed-wood stands and riparian area, comparing stands with different grazing pressures

6:15pm - Sawmill demonstration

6:30pm - Head back to Community Hall

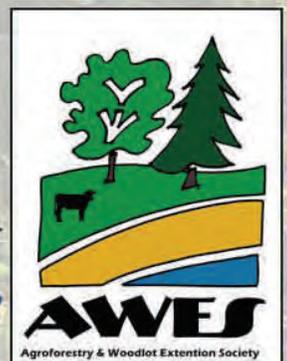
6:45pm - Dinner

7:00pm - Discussion of timber and forage value and management in silvopasture

8:00pm - Wrap-up and Door prizes

For more information and to register please call:

- Gary Lewis at Clearwater County: 403-845-4444
- Ken Lewis at Red Deer County: 403-342-8653
- The GWFA Office: 403-844-2645



Local Food Workshop

Featuring **Joel Salatin**
October 24 & 25, 2013
Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre
Olds, AB



Joel Salatin: *Ballet in the Pasture at Polyface Farm, Local Food to the Rescue, Relationship Marketing and evening presentation Watch Where You Step*



Doug Weatherbee, the Soil Doctor:
Soil Health & Production and Healthy Soils breakout session



Breakout Sessions: *Grass Finished Beef, Pasture-Raised Poultry, Healthy Soils, Challenges of Going Organic, Livestock Processing Regulations, Reaching Your Regional Market, Marketing Options and Strategies.*

Cost: \$150.00/Person
\$100.00/Student

Workshop includes Keynote addresses, breakout sessions, tradeshow, banquet and evening speaker!

Contact Albert Kuipers for more info, to register or for sponsorship opportunities!

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2013

Please call (403) 844-2645, or email Albert at gwfa2@telus.net



Manager's Notes:

By Albert Kuipers



Greetings, forage and livestock enthusiasts. This time of year as harvest wraps up, I get thinking about feed quality and meeting the needs of the critters we love so much.

One thing comes to mind as being incredibly important to make sure you have right. That is making sure you have the right mineral package balanced with the feed and water you have. This is especially important if you've been experiencing increasing problems with scours, pneumonias, weak calves and increasing death losses.

Now, it doesn't matter whether you're using baled feed, silage, swath grazing or stockpiled grass, a properly balanced ration, including minerals, is highly important for your livestock and your pocket book.

Many times I've told the story of how I saved the ranch I was working for my whole year's salary by ration balancing and implementing a proper mineral program. Calf mortality was dropped from over 20% to 6% in one year and to 3% the following year. Vet and medicine expenses dropped way down as well. Managing that 250 cow herd became like a paid holiday after that, even through calving season.

So, what this comes down to, the time and cost of getting samples of your feed and water analysed and the time and money it takes to balance rations and put together the right mineral package, would be your cheapest input for your feeding program.

The weather gave us extra challenges in putting up high, or even adequate quality feed. Our growing season was, for the most part, cool and wet. Grass grew like a son-of-a-gun. My friend, Barry Yaremco pointed out earlier this year that nutrients in forages get diluted when there's lots of fast growth.

The fact that a lot of hay got thoroughly washed before it got baled didn't help either. Those of you who waited till the rain quit in mid August ended up with very mature hay, also reducing quality.

So, what this comes down to is this, have a talk with an animal nutritionist, get your feeds tested and work with your animal nutritionist to put together the right mineral program for your needs.

Don't know who to talk to? You can get the help you need from pretty much anywhere you can buy customized livestock minerals. Often the feed tests are free for customers, so



talk to them before you get your feed tested. [Help Line & Resource Team](#)
To report livestock care concerns CALL
1.800.506.2273
[click here for details on ALERT](#)

LivestockTransport.ca



Director's Corner

By Kristen Ritson-Bennett



Greetings Grey Wooded Members! It is a great pleasure to introduce myself to those involved with the association! My name is Kristen Ritson-Bennett. I am serving my first term as a board member for Grey Wooded Forage Association. My husband, Andrew, and I live west of Innisfail. We are a busy team! My husband practices Veterinary Medicine in Innisfail and I am a ruminant nutritionist with Blue Rock Animal Nutrition where we manufacture custom mineral products. In addition to our full time jobs, we farm out by Markerville. We recently picked up a flock of rare Black Welsh Mountain Sheep – it has been very interesting to say the least! It seems as though every spare moment is spent fencing!

I am very excited to be a part of such a great association! I only hope that I can give as much as I have taken away from the meetings and discussions that I have had with mem-

bers. Grazing and nutrition are my passions, I strive every day to learn something new about both! Most recently we participated in the West Country Ag Tour. It was a great day with lots of opportunity to get to know some of the folks from Clearwater County! I also attended the Allan Savory talk in Calgary this summer. There was a great discussion on desertification and restoration of the world's grasslands and how livestock can play a role in correcting this. I came away from that talk inspired and felt that we can make a difference on our own places – one acre at a time. Ultimately, it is up to us to take responsibility for our land. With that being said, collectively, we can play a significant role in enhancing our water supply, improving the quality of our grasslands and food security. GWFA's mandate is to facilitate the exchange of information that can help us achieve these goals. Between the grazing schools offered, discussions with members and comparing notes we can all become better grazers and grass managers!

I am always up for a chat about grass or cows! Feel free to stop by Blue Rock's plant in Innisfail (The Old Hereford Test Center) anytime, we have great coffee! We are genuinely excited to be a part of this amazing agriculture community in Alberta. I look forward to meeting everyone that is a part of this great association! See you soon!

Coexistence Plan for Alfalfa Hay in Eastern Canada - Planning for Choice

Ottawa, September 9, 2013 - After almost a year of work by stakeholders along the alfalfa hay production chain in Eastern Canada, a Coexistence Plan for Alfalfa Hay has been developed too as a proactive measure to help prepare farmers should a decision be made to commercialize genetically modified (GM) alfalfa for hay production in Eastern Canada. A key outcome of this plan is the establishment of a set of suggestions for best management practices to allow all alfalfa hay production systems to be successful.

While the process was facilitated by the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA), the fundamentals of the Coexistence Plan were developed by a value chain group which included academics, forage specialists, alfalfa producers, and their cus-

tomers. The group reviewed and researched alfalfa hay production systems and the biology of alfalfa in Canada and the result is a comprehensive, science based document which includes suggested best management practices (BMPs) for farmers. The BMPs are simple and practical and were developed based on a thorough assessment of alfalfa production and biology in Eastern Canada.

Based on several key principles that can help all alfalfa hay production systems to be successful, the Coexistence Plan gives producers the choice to pursue many opportunities in diverse domestic and international markets.

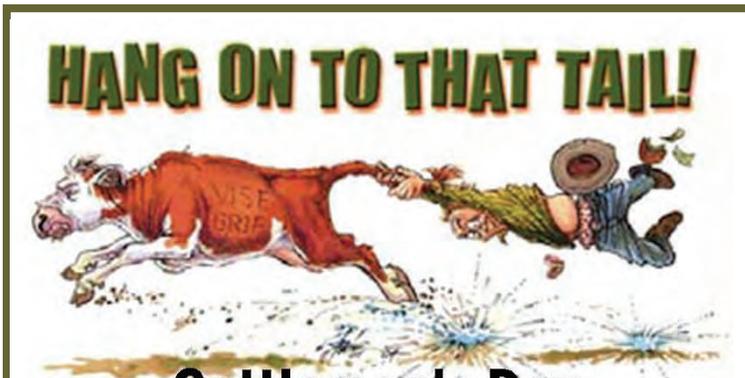
The Coexistence Plan does not advocate for or against the commercialization of GM alfalfa. Nor does it favour one production system over the other. The plan strives to anticipate the future and identify practical and clear practises that can help all hay production systems to be successful in Eastern Canada. This will require good communication and mutual respect between neighbours who choose different production approaches, whether it be organic, conventional or through biotechnology.

The Coexistence, including the Best Management Practises Checklist, along with reports from the development process, can be found on the CSTA website at <http://cdnseed.org/facilitating-choice-through-coexistence/>

-30-

For more information:

Canadian Seed Trade Association
Patty Townsend, CEO: 613-277-0622
ptownsend@cdnseed.org



10th Annual **Cattlemen's Day**

Wednesday, November 20th, 2013
10:00am to 4:30pm at Dovercourt Hall

This always popular event will have a quality line-up of guest speaker/presenters who will cover a number of topics with a particular relevance to agricultural producers throughout Central Alberta. The morning's topics will feature speakers with a focus on tools and techniques for drying down and harvesting high moisture forage. Following the presentations various forage bales harvested with different tools will be unrolled for participants to view and compare.

In the afternoon Ann Dunford will give her cattle and grain market report and predictions, followed by two sessions on dealing with livestock predation. The afternoon agenda will wrap-up with a highly informative presentation on effective farm succession planning. Come and join us for a good hot meal, lots of snacks with coffee breaks, great company and a lot of new information to take home to the farm.

Pre-registration is required so give us a call at Clearwater County Agricultural Services and Landcare at 403-845-4444.

'Like' Grey Wooded Forage Association on Facebook and enjoy viewing our latest photos and hear about upcoming events!

facebook

Contact us to read 'The Blade' online on our new website:

www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

*Email us for a username/password and enjoy reading 'The Blade' anywhere!

* Restricted to members only!

gwfa1@telus.net

New publications added!

Good day, forage and beef people! Note the following fine works by the finest of the bunch! Foragebeef.ca has been able to add the following publications for your review and benefit.

Forwarded by Gordon Hutton, Crop Business Development Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, [Enteric methane emissions and nitrogen excretions from beef heifers fed sainfoin or alfalfa](#) has been added to the [Climate Change – beef](#) folder. This work was done by Y.-H. Chung, E.J. McGeough, S. Acharya, T.A. McAllister, S.M. McGinn, and K.A. Beauchemin of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge Research Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada and O.M. Harstad of the Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway.

The work done by Jenalee M. Mischkolz and Eric G. Lamb from the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan and Michael P. Schellenberg from the Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Swift Current, and published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science, 2013, 93: (3), 425–433, “[Early productivity and crude protein content of establishing forage swards composed of combinations of native grass and legume species in mixed-grassland ecoregions](#)” has been placed into the [Forage Establishment](#) folder.

The work done by R. E. Karamanos of Viterra Inc. of Calgary Alberta and F. C. Stevenson of Saskatoon Saskatchewan, and published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science 93: 151-160 in 2013, “[Nitrogen fertilizer product and timing alternatives exist for forage production in the Peace region of Alberta](#)” has been placed into the [Fertility for Perennial Stands](#) folder.

Forwarded by Barry Yaremcio of Alberta Agriculture’s Ag Info Centre, the [Forage Adaptation Chart](#) constructed by the Forage and Pasture Specialists of Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives has been added to the Species folder into the [Grasses](#), [Legumes](#) and [Natives](#) subfolders.

Forwarded by Stephanie Kosinski of Alberta Agriculture’s Ag Info Centre, [Identification of Common Seeded Plants for Forage and Reclamation in Saskatchewan](#), [Common Plants of the Western Rangelands - Volume 1: Grasses and Grass-like Species](#), and [Common Plants of the Western Rangelands - Volume 3 : Forbs](#) have been added to the Species folder into the [Grasses](#), [Legumes](#) and [Natives](#) subfolders and [Common Plants of the Western Rangelands - Volume 2: Trees and Shrubs](#) has been added to the [Forest Grazing](#) folder.

Work done by Dr. Bart Lardner, WBDC Scientist and Kathy Larson, WBDC Economist and Leah Pearce, WBDC Research Technician, the factsheet [Swath Grazing CDC SO-1 Oat and](#)

[Red Proso Millet with Beef Cows](#) has been added to the Extended Grazing Season folder into the [Using Swath Grazing](#) subfolder.

Forwarded by Bryan Doig, Provincial Feeds Specialist and Regional Forage Specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture in North Battleford, [Hay Storage for Round or Rectangular Bales Plan 7601](#), [Hay Storage 7601 Blueprints](#), [Hay Storage with Trusses Spaced 8 Ft. Plan 7602](#), [Hay Storage 7602 Blueprints](#) all from the Canada Plan Service have been added to the [Hay Storage](#) folder.

The work done by B. J. Awda, S. P. Miller, Y. R. Montanholi, G. Vander Voort, T. Caldwell of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, M. M. Buhr of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, and K. C. Swanson from the Department of Animal Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota and published in the Can. J. Anim. Sci. (2013) 93: 185-192 “[The relationship between feed efficiency traits and fertility in young beef bulls](#)” has been placed into the [Nutrition and Reproductive Efficiency](#) folder.

The work done by William E. May and Guy P. Lafond of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Indian Head Research Farm, Saskatchewan, Lorne H. Klein of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Weyburn Saskatchewan, Jody T. McConnell of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Sherrilyn M. Phelps of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and published in the Can. J. Plant Sci. 87: 739–752 in April of 2007, “[Suitability of cool- and warm-season annual cereal species for winter grazing in Saskatchewan](#)” has been placed into the Extended Grazing [Using Annuals](#) folder.

Some of these publications are research papers and some are factsheets. Check them out on Foragebeef.ca.

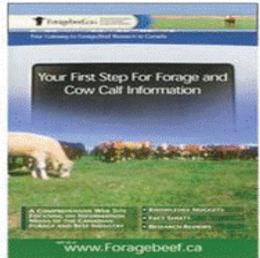
By Ken Ziegler, Alberta Ag-Info Centre

What's New on Foragebeef.ca?

See Front Page News
New information on forage beef issues from across Canada

New and Improved Swath Grazing Manual Available Soon!
Summarizing research done by Western Forage/Beef Group and Others

Coming Soon!
Greenhouse Gas Research Summary as it affects the forage beef industry



www.foragebeef.ca

Fall Harvesting Alfalfa

A question that we've been receiving lately at the Ag Info Centre pertains to the cutting time of alfalfa with interests of harvesting an excellent quality feed yet not hurting the stand. Below is an excellent article written by Mark Johns a previous forage specialist that addresses the issue of cutting time and stand longevity. I hope this factsheet will offer you insight into this important topic.



Is there a critical fall period when alfalfa should not be harvested?

Alfalfa should not be cut 4-6 weeks before the first killing frost (about -5°C). Shorter days, cooler temperatures, and drier soils trigger the plant to slow growth and begin storing root reserves for the winter and growth the following spring. If alfalfa is cut during this period and begins to regrow it will need to use root reserves. If a killing frost occurs before root reserves are restored (10" or bud stage), then the plant may not have enough reserves for the winter and spring regrowth.

Will I injure my newly established stand if I cut it now? Wouldn't it be better to cut the older ones?

Actually a newly established stand of alfalfa is less likely to be injured than an older stand (3 years and older). Younger stands are healthier and are free of the crown and root diseases. The available nutrients are also higher in younger stands and improve winter survival. However, if you do harvest a stand during the critical fall period, do not repeat this practice the following year.

Can fertility improve winter survival?

Fertility is a very important part of winter survival. Alfalfa can fix nitrogen, but it will still require large amounts of the other nutrients. Potassium (K) helps protect the plant tissues from freezing, plays a role in storing winter reserves, and improves resistance to diseases. Phosphorus (P) will help establish strong root systems and promote vigorous spring growth. The most efficient way to provide these nutrients is at the time of establishment.

What other factors affect winter survival?

Variety, fall **moisture** conditions, and **soil pH** will all have a role in winter survival.

Not all alfalfa varieties are the same with regard to winter hardiness. Remember that rapid growth and yield will usually come at the cost of winter hardiness.

Soil pH is also important. Alfalfa is best adapted to a soil pH of 6.5. Stands grown in slightly acidic soils (less than 6.0) will be

at a greater risk for winter injury and should not be harvested during the critical period.

Wet field conditions in the fall will reduce the amount of dormancy and increase injury from ice sheeting and frost heaving. Dry soils are actually better insulated and hasten the onset of dormancy which will improve winter survival.

Which is the safest way to harvest alfalfa in the fall without injuring the plant?

The best solution is to wait until just before or after the killing frost. Alfalfa is difficult to dry under these conditions so it is advised to ensile it. If you can, leave a 6 in. stubble and some uncut strips to help trap snow. Alternatively, you could try and move up your first cutting date (again you may have to silage it to beat the weather) so that your second cut will fall just before the critical period.

Should you have any further questions on this important topic, feel free to call us at the Ag Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276)

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 federal-provincial-territorial initiative



Lindsay, Canada & Roskilde, Denmark July 22, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

DLF-TRIFOLIUM Acquires The Pickseed Group of Companies

DLF-TRIFOLIUM A/S, the Danish world market leader in temperate grass and clover seed, and Tom Pick and Martin Pick have signed an agreement for the acquisition of Pickseed Canada and Pickseed USA, including Seed Research of Oregon, by the DLF-TRIFOLIUM Group.

Pickseed, founded in 1947, is a North American leader in the development, production and distribution of turfgrass and forage crops seeds. In addition, Pickseed is active in international markets. Pickseed employs 150 people and has a turnover of over 100 million CAD. Pickseed has eight locations including offices, warehouses, plants, research and distribution facilities across Canada and Oregon. Pickseed operates under the Pickseed, Mapleseed, Seed Research of Oregon and TurfOne brand names.

“We are very happy to announce the sale of Pickseed to DLF-TRIFOLIUM. We felt that it was important to sell to an entity that would have a good cultural fit with Pickseed. We are confident that DLF-TRIFOLIUM as a dedicated turfgrass and forage crop seed company will be able to carry forward and develop the Pickseed business and legacy,” says Tom Pick and Martin Pick.

“The addition of The Pickseed Companies Group is a major strategic step forward for the DLF-TRIFOLIUM Group,” says Truels Damsgaard, CEO. “Pickseed is a true turfgrass and forage crop seeds company, and it has a strong organization with dedicated employees. We have a common understanding of the products and everything entailed in this segment of the seeds industry. We are looking forward to developing the Pickseed business in North America, and to further develop a strong platform to promote DLF-TRIFOLIUM

forage products in Canada, and to bring the Pickseed product potential through the DLF-TRIFOLIUM global network,” says Truels Damsgaard.

The acquisition remains subject to the satisfaction of closing conditions, and has an expected closing date in August 2013. The parties shall not disclose any financial details of the transaction.

The DLF-TRIFOLIUM Group is a market leader in the research, development, production and distribution of turfgrass and forage clover and grass seed. DLF-TRIFOLIUM is owned by 4,000 Danish grass seed growers and has subsidiaries or sales offices in Denmark, Sweden, UK, Netherlands, France, Germany, Russia, Czech Republic, China, New Zealand, South America and the US. DLF-TRIFOLIUM employs 650 people and has a turnover of 335 million Euro.

Executive Assistant, HR Associate Pamela Koolhaas | Direct: 1 705 880 3264 | Mobile: 1 705 341 7716 | E-mail: pkoolhaas@pickseed.com

PICKSEED CANADA INC. | 1 Greenfield Road | Lindsay ON | Phone: 1 705 878 9240 | Fax: 1 705 878 9249 | www.pickseed.com

Communications Manager Stig Oddershede | Direct: +45 46 330 371 | Mobile: +45 4030 3248 | E-mail: so@dlf.dk
DLF-TRIFOLIUM A/S | Ny Østergade 9 | DK-4000 Roskilde | Phone: +45 4633 0300 | Fax: +45 4632 0830 | www.dlf.dk

Please call **GWFA Manager, Albert Kuipers** at **(403) 844-2645** or your local County Agricultural Services staff if you would like to complete an Environmental Farm Plan. **Your EFP is required** to apply for funding to the Environmental Stewardships Plan Program of Growing Forward 2.

Alberta EFP
Environmental Farm Plan





2013 Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Conference & AGM

Dec 9th (Optional Tour)

December 10th & 11th

Pomeroy Inn & Suites at Olds College, Olds, Alberta

When:

Monday December 9, 2013 at
8:00 AM MST to
Wednesday December 11, 2013
at 5:30 PM MST.

Monday, Dec 9th - Tour,
Tuesday, Dec 10th and Wednes-
day, Dec 11th - Conference &
AGM

Where:

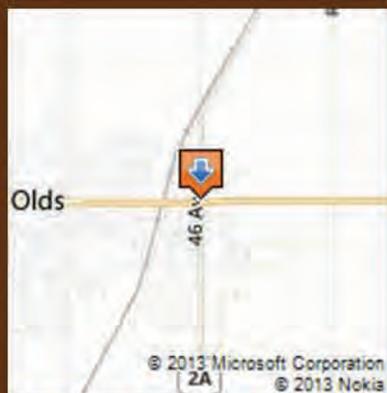
**Pomeroy Inn & Suites
at Olds College**
4601- 46th Ave, Olds, Alberta
Phone: 1-855-800-8815
Email: gm@PomeroyOlds.com

Room Rate is \$129-\$149 + taxes
Reserve before Nov 10th, 2013
Limit of 50 rooms

Alternate rooms available across
the street at the Best Western
1-866-460-7440.

www.bestwestern.com
4520 - 46th Street
Olds, Alberta
T4H 1P7

Room Rate is \$101 until Nov 25th.



Dear Forage Enthusiast,

We are pleased to be hosting our 2013 CFGA conference & AGM, this time in the well known agriculture community of Olds, Alberta (home also of Olds Agriculture College who is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year).

Our theme is "Taking Forages Mainstream - Challenges, Pitfalls and Opportunities" so we've engaged speakers to give their perspective, as well as researchers, industry and producers to help us identify what must be done to move forages forward as a main crop. We want YOU to share your opinion at our conference, see a little of Alberta via our tour and liaise with those representing the various sectors of the forage and grassland industry!

For more information and to register please go to

www.canadianfga.ca

FREE SHUTTLE

Olds is located approximately 1 hour north of Calgary on Hwy # 2. Alberta Agriculture is providing a free shuttle to and from the Calgary Airport and Olds Hotel.

Please provide your itinerary during the registration process or email to Morgan Hobin at mhobin@gprc.ab.ca

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

We've got some great opportunities for recognition at our conference and throughout the whole year on our website. As well, regular Conference invitations will be going out and sponsor logos will be placed in the side bar on this page as received. View our Sponsorship Invitation on the CFGA Website.

Thank you very much for your attention and response. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,

Corie Arbuckle
Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
c_arbuckle@canadianfga.ca

204-254-4192



Join our Ag Tour to ARGENTINA

Feb 11th - Feb 25th 2014

Registration Deadline: Sept 16, 2013

ARGENTINA HIGHLIGHTS

- Angus Stud Ranch
- Liniers Market, one of the largest beef auction markets in the world
- Cabana Santa Ana - 'criollos' horse breeding ranch of the Argentinean horse
- Visit largest Argentinean Export Port - Parana River
- Grain/Livestock Farms
- Rosario Livestock Market
- Hereford Ranch
- Cattle Processing Plant
- Agriculture Associations and Co-operatives
- INTA Co-op and Research Station
- Buenos Aires City Tour
- Traditional Market - San Isidro and Tigre
- Tango Show & Dinner
- Formula One World Driver Champion *Juan Manuel Fangio* Museum
- Shopping – Buenos Aires
- Mar del Plata Beach
- Traditional Gaucho BBQ & Folklore Show



Price

4,702.59 plus \$592.41 taxes = **\$5,295.00**/person double occupancy

\$6,327.00/person based on single occupancy

Contact

Laura Gibney for more details and full itinerary (403) 652-4900
laura@foothillsforage.com



LJB Ranch

Jim & Barb Bauer
 Ph. 403.546.2427 email: jim.bauer50@gmail.com

Offering Electric Fencing Solutions by:

This publication is made possible by funding from Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development & Alberta Environment and Water via the Agriculture Opportunities Fund (AOF).



**!!!Don't miss any issues of The Blade!!!
Join Grey Wooded Forage Association
Or renew your membership!**

**2013 –2014 Memberships are available now for \$20.00
and run from April 1,2013 to March 31,2014
For more information phone 403-844-2645**

Become a part of an enthusiastic group of people who are
exploring ways to turn grass into \$\$\$.

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

Members benefit by:

- Receiving discounts on Controlled Grazing Courses, seminars, tours, farm calls and consulting on grazing management, pasture rejuvenation, feed production (annual forages) and more.
- Receiving *The GWFA Newsletter* in Spring & Fall and *The Blade* monthly.
- Receive up-to-date information on G.W.F.A. activities via The Blade.

Please mail the portion below with a cheque for \$20.00 to:

Grey Wooded Forage Association
Box 1448
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
T4T-1B1

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Renewal _____ or New Member _____
Canada Post _____ or Email _____

Name..... 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: _____

AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

October 2004 Agdex 420/52-4

Beef Ration Rules of Thumb

This factsheet can both guide producers through a feed test and help them understand the results.

With a feed test in front of you, look at the following rules and compare them to the feed test. Remember, these are rules of thumb, which means they hold true most of the time, but variations in management and cow type will affect the end result.

These rules of thumb should not be considered a replacement for balancing rations with proven software, but rather an aid to understand the feed and where it fits in the management.

Energy
Energy gives the ability to use the building blocks for growth and other productive purposes. Learn one of the six measures for energy and stick with it. Using Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) per cent, the Rule of Thumb is 55-60-65. This rule says that for a mature beef cow to maintain her body condition score (BCS) through the winter, the ration must have a TDN energy reading of 55 per cent in mid pregnancy, 60 per cent in late pregnancy and 65 per cent after calving.

AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

August 2009 Agdex 130/536-1

Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

Intensively managed pastures are subject to environmental and soil risks. Nutrient management is essential to maintain soil health and environmental risks. Nutrient management includes the following:

- Soils and pathways
- Inputs and outputs

Several pools of nutrients include organic matter, growing plants, shoots, plant litter, living animals including large herbivores, above and below ground invertebrates (beetles, worms) and soil microbes, and the atmosphere.

Nutrient cycles develop as nutrient pathways from one pool to another. The processes and pathways are different for various systems, but nutrient balances over the cycles. Balances are made up of inputs, outputs and losses of nutrients in the pasture system.

Inputs = outputs + losses

If losses are removed or reduced, there is a net gain in the system.

Pasture Planner

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Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

September 2008 Agdex 420/56-3

Agronomic Management of Swath Grazed Pastures

Feed, feeding, cow management and manure disposal can account for up to two-thirds of the total cost of production in a cow-calf operation. Systems that can extend the grazing season and reduce these costs are of great interest to cow-calf producers. One of these systems is swath grazing.

Many factors come into play to determine forage quality, quantity and unit cost of production in a swath grazing system. Some of these factors, such as weather, are beyond the producer's control.

Stock-poisoning Plants of Western Canada

W. MAJAK, B. M. BROOKE and R. T. OGILVIE

These publications are available to our members by phoning or emailing the GWFA office!

Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland

Richards, R. G. (2004). *Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland*. Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development. Edmonton, Alberta.

Canada

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Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

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Agronomic Management of Stockpiled Pastures

Stockpiling pasture is a form of deferred grazing. The producer stockpiles the forage grown during the spring and summer for use when the pasture is in short supply or when cows need fall or winter feed. This practice can mean savings for the producer:

- harvesting, hauling and feeding costs associated with winter grazing
- to be removed from feeding

Stockpiled forage for pasture can mean savings for the producer.

Species selection

Species selection depends on the system being used. Ideally, in cut-and-graze or multi-pass rotational grazing systems, a species used for stockpiling should be able to do the following:

- regrow rapidly following early harvests to provide at least 2,000 kilograms (kg) of forage per hectare (1,785 lb./ac) for good fall grazing
- maintain high quality following fall frosts

If grazing is to occur after snowfall, forage mass needs to be higher as grazing efficiency is reduced and grazing losses increase. Using an erect species makes it easier for cows to get at the feed under the snow.

In a single-pass system, a species that maintains its quality as it matures is a good choice.

Alberta