



Grey  
Wooded  
Forage  
Association

# The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

DECEMBER 2013

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

## Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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### 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.

# Manager's Notes:

By Albert Kuipers



Ever wonder why some guys have highly productive pastures without fertilizer, and lots of other guys seem to have trouble getting acceptable production, even with fertilizer? Well, the secret is out.

It seems that all highly productive pastures and other field crops have one thing in common. They are on soils with high organic matter. Well, this isn't really a secret. This has been around for a long time already.

In fact I recently read a book on building highly productive, fertile pastures that was published in 1955. The author made it quite clear that healthy pastures that support healthy livestock must be high in organic matter. Now, he was talking about dairy quality pasture, like what our friend, Jan Slomp, produced for his dairy cows.

OK, so that brings up the big question and challenge. How can we build organic matter in our soils?

Well, to start with, good grazing management in itself contributes greatly to the building of organic matter in the soil. Every time forage is grazed severely enough, a good portion of the roots slough off and, with the help of our many soil micro-organism friends, add to the organic matter in the soil. Every time forage is allowed to fully recover from grazing, the roots fully grow back, ready for the next graze.

Besides this all important cycle, it is also important for residual un-grazed forage to be trampled, or in some way become in close contact with the soil surface. This allows soil micro-organisms to feed on the residue, and in so doing, convert this plant matter into soil organic matter.

This continuous cycling of roots and plant materials into the soil organic matter pool is important for any

grasslands to be sustainably productive. But now the question remains, how can we help this cycle along to optimize, or maybe even maximize the amount of organic materials being converted to organic matter, or humus, as it is commonly known as.

For starters, grazing at high stock densities, often called "mob grazing", we see production increase dramatically due to this cycling. Now, we're not talking about grazing pastures so severely that nothing is left. Actually, much of the forage needs to be trampled heavily and fouled upon for this to work well.

In this book I was reading, the author didn't really push mob grazing so much as mowing each paddock following grazing. By mowing anything left standing, residual plant material would be laid down against the soil surface, allowing micro-organisms access to the plant material.

Now, many in our part of the country have developed ways of getting organic materials onto the soil surface by means of the winter feeding systems we've come up with. Bale grazing, while giving a small economic boost, returns a lot of what we're used to calling "waste" back to the soil. We've seen considerable boosts in production on pastures where bale grazing was done.

Other systems of rolling out bales or feeding on the land work well too, with maybe a little better distribution of materials than bale grazing. I've seen excellent production results from feeding on pastures.

Swath grazing is another excellent way to build organic matter in soils. Swath grazing is most commonly done with cereals such as barley, oats, wheat or triticale, sometimes in mixtures with legumes. Besides being an excellent organic matter and soil fertility builder, swath grazing can cut winter feeding costs in half, compared to conventional feeding systems.

Besides building organic matter, decaying plant materials also release acids into the soil surface that break down unavailable soil mineral nutrients into plant available forms. This is just one more good reason to get residual plant material in contact with the soil surface.

So, if this brings up questions for you, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd be happy to discuss this with you.

May you have the best Christmas ever and a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.



Livestock Help Line & Resource Team  
 To report livestock care concerns CALL  
**1.800.506.2273**  
 click here for details on ALERT

LivestockTransport.ca



Most likely our youngest reader  
Photo by Melanie Anderson

## Director's Corner

By Chris Sande

Hi Everyone,

I'm Chris Sande, a recycled Director of Grey Wooded Forage Association. My wife Brenda and I operate a cow-calf operation twelve miles northeast of Rocky in the Bingley district. After spending a couple of terms as a Director a few years back, I became very interested in the vast amount of information that is available on improv-



ing methods of forage production and livestock production. I see many benefits to a group approach to solving problems and am looking forward to some new projects and new perspectives that will improve our industry. This winter is starting out to be a challenge for some feeding systems and may be a test for some methods. Good luck to everyone

and hope to see you soon.

Chris



**WATERSHED  
AMBASSADOR**



Red Deer River



**Watershed**  
Alliance



# Watershed Ambassador Breakfast

*Celebrating Watershed Stewardship*

Friday, December 20, 2013

7:30 am to 9:00 am

Quality Inn, North Hill, Red Deer, Alberta

Cost \$15.00 per person



Emily Rowe , Manager of the Confluence Heritage Society in Rocky Mountain House. It is a non –profit organization that has been partnering with Parks Canada at Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site for 30 years. Emily will speak about the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, which is a site along the North Saskatchewan River where 76 years of fur trade occurred. She will talk about what Christmas was like at that time and highlight the Confluence Heritage Society’s mission. Join us for this festive breakfast as we celebrate stewardship. Who knows, if you have been good little watershed stewards, Santa Claus may even show up!

To register for the breakfast:

403-340-7379

[www.rdrwa.ca](http://www.rdrwa.ca)

[ambassador@rdrwa.ca](mailto:ambassador@rdrwa.ca)

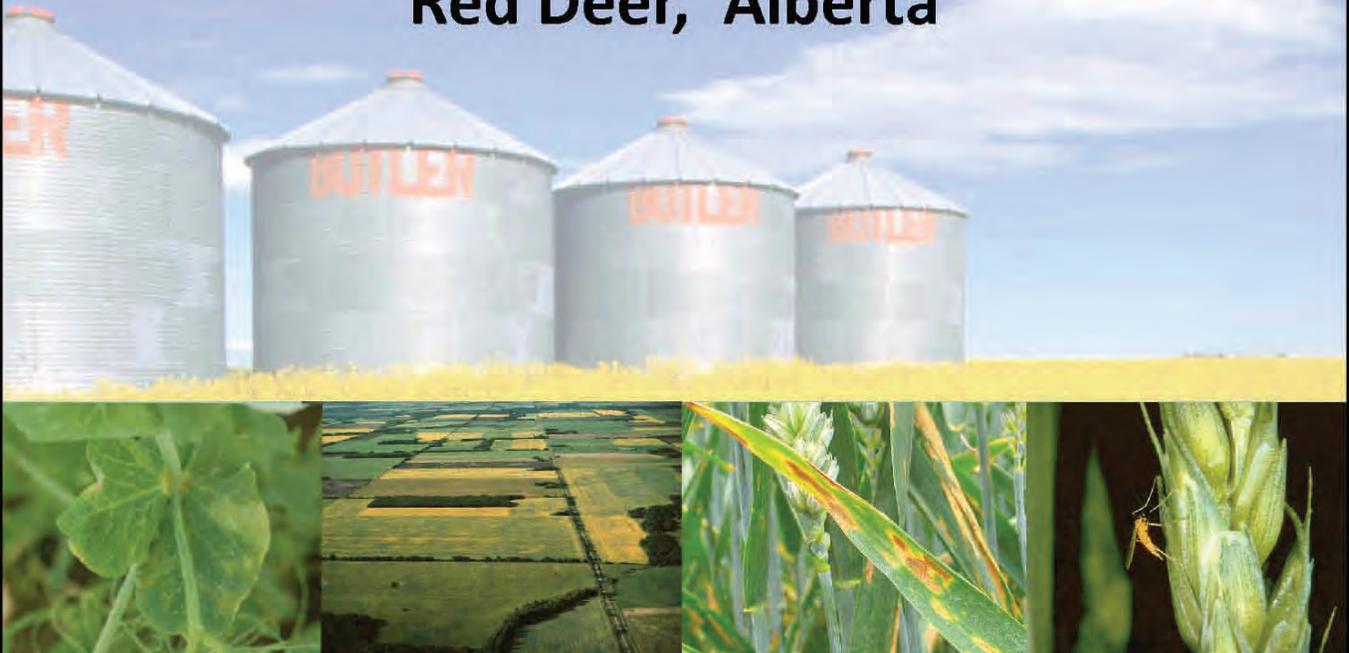


**WATERSHED  
AMBASSADOR**



# **Agronomy Update 2014**

**January 14 & 15, 2014  
Sheraton Red Deer Hotel  
Red Deer, Alberta**



**“Timely agronomic information for  
producers & agronomists”**

**To register or for more information  
call the Ag-Info Centre  
1-800-387- 6030**

**Government  
of Alberta ■**

**Battle River  
Research Group**

# Agronomy Update 2014 Promises to be Another Exciting Soils and Crops Exposition!

The Agronomy Update conference has been a major crop production extension event in Alberta for 20 consecutive years!

Agronomy Update 2014 is at the Sheraton Red Deer Hotel on January 14 and 15, 2014. Grain producers, crop advisors and industry partners will have an opportunity to consult with leading agriculture research scientists about soil and crop issues in Alberta.

Over the course of the two-day conference, attendees will be treated to over 30 presentations. The line-up of presentation topics and speakers this year is impressive.

- There will be an update on faba bean production in Alberta, which includes a faba bean marketing component.
- Soil-related issues like optimal fertilizer recommendations after a bumper crop will be reviewed.
- Plant growth regulator research results will be featured in one of the sessions.
- The impact of fungicide application on cereal leaf disease management will be discussed, along with information on the nature and role of fungicides.
- A province-wide insect update will include an update on cutworm.
- Audience members will learn appropriate methods for taking digital photos of crop pest issues, as well as how to best write a request for diagnostic information.
- There will be a discussion about research results on the number of crop species required in a rotation to sufficiently allow residue breakdown of each crop that harbours disease pathogens before the same crop can be re-grown.
- The most important tools for crop marketing success will be explained, along with advice on how economics and agronomics must work in tandem when making decisions to maintain long-term farm profitability.
- Since more dollars are spent on herbicides for wild oat control than for any other weed, there will be a presentation on delaying wild oat resistance to herbicides.
- A leading research scientist from the University of Guelph will speak about the distribution and control of glyphosate-resistant weeds in Ontario.
- Fresh data from the 2012 growing season will be reported on crop disease concerns such as blackleg and sclerotinia in canola, and root rot in field pea.

- A series of presentations featuring corporate industry representatives speaking about their company's latest pesticide products is always a popular session.

## *Continuing Education Credits*

Certified Crop Advisors and holders of Pesticide Applicator Certificates are eligible to obtain continuing education units at Agronomy Update 2014.

## *Conference Fee*

The cost of Agronomy Update 2014 is \$140 per person if you register before the end of December.

## *Registration*

Phone or fax the Ag-Info Centre:  
Tel: 1-800-387-6030; Fax: 403-742-7527.

## *Payment Method*

Cheque or money order payable to: **BRRG Agronomy Update** and mailed to Box 339, Forrestburg, AB T0B 1N0.

## *Accommodation*

To obtain one of the blocked rooms at the Sheraton Hotel Red Deer, please mention that you are attending the Agronomy Update conference. Contact the Sheraton by telephone or e-mail.

Telephone: 1-800-662-7197 or 1-403-346-2091

E-mail: [reservations@sheratonreddeer.com](mailto:reservations@sheratonreddeer.com)

Other nearby hotels include: Holiday Inn, Super 8, Red Deer Lodge, Sandman Inn, and Black Knight Inn.

We look forward to seeing you in Red Deer on January 14 and 15!

Contact: Neil Whatley, Ag-Info Centre  
310-FARM (3276)





# OTIS AWARD For Being Outstanding In Stewardship

**The Battle River Watershed Alliance recognizes local youth, individuals, and businesses/organizations for being OTIS: Outstanding In Stewardship.**

The OTIS Award is a way to recognize community members of the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds who are Outstanding In Stewardship. Stewardship can be defined as “the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving”. To the Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA), a steward is someone who takes action to make the watershed a better place to live for all life and for the life of future generations.

**The 2013 OTIS Award winners are:**

In the Youth category: Maven Boddy and the Golden Prairie 4H club of Forestburg for their riparian restoration project along the Battle River near Galahad.  
In the Individual category: Mike Black for his dedication to the preservation of the Mount Butte Natural Area at Battle Lake.  
In the Business/Organization category: Lacombe County for their environmental management work.

Lacombe County is striving to be a leader in environmental management. In April 2013, they completed their first State of the Environment Report (SOE). This report provides a snapshot of the current condition of the environment in Lacombe County and the pressures that impact it. Using the SOE



report as a baseline, Lacombe County developed their first Environmental Policy, which was adopted by the Lacombe County Council in July 2013. The next step is to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that focuses on the internal County operations. This document will be shaped by the data found in the SOE, the data gathered by the community, and by balancing the social and economic needs of the community with that of the environment.

Lacombe County will be presented their award by the Battle River Watershed Alliance on December 12 at the county office. All of the OTIS Award winners will be recognized at a special presentation in their own communities.

The OTIS Award is named after the star character in the book series “Otis and Friends: Environmental Adventures”. This book series was created in 2012 by four Ponoka high-school students. The students created Otis and the book series as a way to educate elementary school students on the importance of the watershed and how they can help protect it. Otis and his friends help people take action to create a better watershed through actions such as water conservation and litter reduction. The BRWA was so impressed with the Ponoka students and Otis that they decided to name their stewardship award after the star character. Otis, his authors, and the OTIS Award winners are an example for us all, as we can all do more to be better stewards of our watershed.

For more information on the Battle River Watershed Alliance or the OTIS Award, please visit the BRWA website at

[www.battleriverwatershed.ca](http://www.battleriverwatershed.ca)  
or call the office at 1-888-672-0276.

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

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

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

\* Restricted to members only!

[gwfa1@telus.net](mailto:gwfa1@telus.net)

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



**Additional Information on each winner:**

*Maven Boddy*

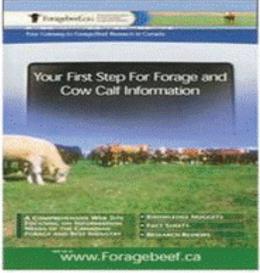
In the fall of 2012, the Golden Prairie 4H club sought to do a stewardship project that would help the Battle River. Through conversations with staff at the Battle River Watershed Alliance they decided on a riparian restoration project. The project would involve riparian area education for the club and community members as well as a hands-on component to plant trees to reduce soil erosion, provide animal habitat and improve water quality.

**What's  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](http://www.foragebeef.ca)

and \$1,000 in the Caring for our Watersheds Contest for her project on how riparian restoration can improve her watershed. Maven and the 4H club used Caring for our Watersheds implementation funds and a Victory Canola 4H grant to cover the costs of the tree planting and riparian health assessments.

The club enjoyed a riparian education day and a canoe trip down the river prior to the field day where approximately 30 4H club members planted over 200 trees and shrubs.

The club also invited local experts to the site to set-up a monitoring project so that they can see how the site changes over time. You can learn more about the 4H club's riparian project during a special presentation at the Forestburg Community Hall on Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 7pm-8:30pm.

*Mike Black*

Mike has been a committed volunteer of the Mount Butte Natural Area for many years. His efforts help protect the land and water around Battle Lake- the head waters of the Battle River, thereby improving the entire watershed. Despite facing adversity from a few local land users, Mike continues to defend ecological stewardship of this important area. Mike leads many interpretive walks at Mount Butte, enhancing public understanding of, and commitment to the area. Mike is an active member of the Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group, working to foster communication between the public, industry, and municipal and provincial governments for the economic, social and environmental health of the area.

Contact: Nathalie Stanley  
Education and Outreach Coordinator  
Tel: 780-672-0276  
Email: Nathalie@battleriverwatershed.ca  
November 25<sup>th</sup> 2013, Camrose AB



# LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS

January 17th-18th 2014

An opportunity to learn, socialize & connect with other farming women



## HANG UP YOUR BOOTS AND COME TO THE 2014 LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS WINTER RETREAT!

### Friday, January 17th

4:00pm to 9:00pm, Olds College

Women in Agriculture & Market Outlook with Brenda Schoepp, Nuffield Scholar, and Alberta Rancher & Consultant.

Supper (we'll even do the dishes!)

Beer Social! Visit with fellow females as you tour the Olds College Brewery and taste their home brewed beer

### Saturday, January 18th

9:30am to 3:00pm, Olds College

Morning Yoga class (optional) with Blissful Energy Yoga 7:45 to 8:30

Breakfast 8:30 to 9:30

DIY Calf Health with daisy the calf simulator - TBA

Funding for the Farm with Jennifer Neden from Alberta Agriculture

Weed Management with Livestock with Mike Roberts from the Waldron Grazing Cooperative

Graze it yourself- group grazing case studies with Grazing Specialist Amanda Halawell from Cows and Fish

### Registration

\$40 includes meals, coffee & snacks  
Register today or for more information contact Mountain View County Agricultural Services at  
Phone: 403.335.3311 Ext 143  
e-mail: lgaudette@mvcountry.com  
or contact your local conservation staff.

Registration closes January 10th

### Hotel Accommodations

Olds Pomeroy Ph: 403.556.8815  
Olds Best Western Ph: 403.559.5900  
Olds Ramada Ph: 403.507.8359.



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

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.



# RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

## Ideas and Opportunities for Growing your Business

*Discover new ways to manage your livestock,  
explore options for marketing your product and  
learn about the challenges and achievements of  
successful ranchers.*

## Conference Schedule

**8:30 to 3:30, Olds College Alumni Centre**

Registration 8:30 to 8:50, Parking is Free

*The Value of the Back End; Manure Management*  
Trevor Wallace - Alberta Agriculture, Nutrient Management  
Specialist

### "HANDS-ON" BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*Beef Information Exchange System (BIXS)*

Holly LaBrie - Difficulty Ranch

*\* bring your own laptop or tablet if you can*

*Analysing Your Forage Quality*

Barry Yaremco - Alberta Agriculture - Beef/Forage Specialist

Grant Lastiwka - Alberta Agriculture - Livestock/Forage  
Business Specialist

*Livestock Handling Demonstration*

Jennifer Woods, J. Woods Livestock Services

### PRODUCER PANEL

*Pros & Cons of Different Calving Times & Strategies*

*(3 producers, 1 panel "expert")*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*What Do Your Consumers Want?*

Theresa Dietrich, People Talking Market Research Services

*Note: Schedule is subject to change*

**February 6th, 2014**  
**Olds College**

## Registration

**\$40 includes lunch, coffee and snacks**

*Student price \$20*

Register today or for more information contact  
Mountain View County Agricultural Services at  
Phone: 403-335-3311 Ext 143  
e-mail: [lgaudette@mvcountry.com](mailto:lgaudette@mvcountry.com)  
or contact your local conservation staff.

**Registration closes January 31st**

## Tradeshow

The Ranching Opportunities Tradeshow is an  
opportunity for producers to meet local organizations,  
businesses, industry groups and other key contacts.

### Hosting Partners

*Olds College, M.D. of Bighorn, Red Deer County  
Kneehill County, Rocky View County, Wheatland  
County, Mountain View County, Alberta Agriculture,  
Foothills Forage & Grazing Association*

### Sponsored by

*The Alberta Livestock & Meat Agency (ALMA)*



# MANAGE AND MARKET WHAT YOU MEASURE



- Beef InfoXchange System (BIXS) Update
- Examples of Useful Information Flow
- Utilizing Beef Herd Management Information
- Using EPDs/Genomics Effectively in Selection
- Profiting from Information and Selection
- Q/A Panel Discussion

## Workshop for Commercial Cow/Calf and Purebred Producers

All meetings—11:00 am to 4:30 pm

Date	Location	Contact
Dec. 10, 2013	Elk Point Seniors Recreation Centre	LARA, Ph. 780-826-7260
Dec. 11, 2013	Veteran Hall	CARA, Ph. 403-664-3777
Dec. 12, 2013	Brooks, Cassils Hall, 190073, Rge Rd 15-5	County of Newell, Ph. 403-794-2336
Jan. 14, 2014	Mayerthorpe Legion Hall	Lac Ste. Anne Cty., Ph. 780-785-3411
Jan. 15, 2014	Leslieville Community Centre	Clearwater County, Ph. 403-845-4444
Jan. 16, 2014	Claresholm Community Centre	MD of Willow Creek, Ph. 403-625-3351

**Registration Fee:** \$20/person

**Registration Deadline:** Space is limited so please register by December 6th for the December sessions and by January 10th for the January sessions, to reserve a seat and lunch

**To Register, call:** Local Agriculture Services, contact shown for each location above





# Join our Ag Tour to ARGENTINA

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> - Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:laura@foothillsforage.com)



## LJB Ranch

**Jim & Barb Bauer**  
 Ph. 403.546.2427 email: [jim.bauer50@gmail.com](mailto: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

Intensive management of pastures can lead to nutrient loss and environmental risks. 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

Inputs are removed or lost through various export pathways.

# AGRI-FACTS

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!

# AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

October 2008 Agdex 420/56-4

## 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

Winter grazing on the prairie works best with little or no snow cover. Supplemental feed is needed if snow cover is too deep and forage yields are low.

In the Parkland and Northern areas, a multi-pass system where the second or third cut or regrowth from pastures is grazed in late fall or winter makes more efficient use of the land and is generally economical. Forage quality of the regrowth is higher than that of the stemmer first growth, especially in the fall or winter. Winter grazing through more than one cut can result in lower quality forage, so stockpiled forage is a better option.

## Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland

Wealthy Rancher Calculator

Canada

## Grazing Notebook

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Alberta