# The Blade

Monthly Newsletter of the *Grey Wooded Forage Association*

December, 2018


# Merry Christmas and All the Best in 2019!

*From the Grey Wooded Forage Association Board of Directors*

Back row, left to right: Secretary Deb Skeels, Chair Gil Hegel, Directors Benz Rufenacht and Greg Campkin
Front row, left to right: Directors Dallas Jenson and Jess Hudson and ARECA Rep, Ken Ziegler
(missing: ex-officio director Maria Champagne)

Contact us:
Box 1448
5039-45 Street,
Rocky Mtn. House, AB. T4T 1B1
403-844-2645
www.greywoodedforageassociation.com
Office - GWFA3@telus.net
Extension - GWFA5@telus.net
Contact our office to be added to our digital mailing list

Published by:
*Brenda Kossowan*
Cover Photo:
*Brenda Kossowan*

## *In This Issue:*



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The Grey Wooded Forage Association is a member of the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta

## Enough Character…Just send Cash

*By Jess Hudson, GWFA Board of Directors*

That was a bumper sticker I received last year, and though funny, it is also kind of true. We are told that adversity builds character and we in Agriculture have certainly been building some character these last few years, and who couldn't benefit from more cash?

We are in this industry because we value our independence, enjoy the land and animals, and admire the beauty of Mother Nature. Mother Nature can be amazing or she can be harsh. If you have been around a few years, you will have experienced both ends of the spectrum. She can show us instantly who's in charge and we are humbled in her midst. For example, we all survived the hardest winter in Alberta last year since '74 they say. (Don't know if that was 1874 or 1974!) Then spring was non-existent and we went straight to summer. Everyone experienced the driest summer and shortest grass, followed by a constant battle between winter freeze and summer thaw when we should have had harvest weather. I wish I was joking, but our area has received most of its moisture the last couple years from large hail stones or drifts of snow. BUT, we have also witnessed beautiful sunsets, the sky absolutely full of majestic geese, fat calves in the fall and a much better harvest than we even expected.

So, if you've worn out a saddle or two, you know that "This Too Shall Pass." We have survived harsh and extreme weather patterns before – as have those before us. They have had courage and not only survived but also prospered. How might that have happened? What are some tools that might be advantageous when weather, markets or policy seem against us?

I believe, in Agriculture, we survive and prosper by being flexible, optimistic and proactive. Having Faith keeps us sane, and so does having some Fun! Hard work mixed with continued learning allows our businesses to evolve. It is imperative to set goals, review existing goals and stay the course.

We must build strong relationships with family, friends and community. To survive now, we must think globally and try new things while honoring traditions of the past.

The last year or two have been challenging for many in this industry, in all sectors - forage, grain and livestock. This is a time to share each other's victories and support each other in times of crisis – whether big or small. We are not alone in this diverse industry and we need to support each other. The vast diversity is what makes our agricultural industry so unique and it can be a real strength. (In an ecosystem, diversity creates long-term sustainability.)

Furthermore, adverse conditions can bring people out of their comfort zones. This is not always a bad thing; it is how new varieties are developed, new policies are developed, discoveries are made, and systems are examined and altered to meet ever-changing conditions and demands.

So people in Agriculture have definitely built some character; however, it is a guarantee that the sun will come up, the rain will fall down, and new life cycles will begin again.

This is revitalizing and reassuring! Remember that the people in your family, community or business are your greatest asset.

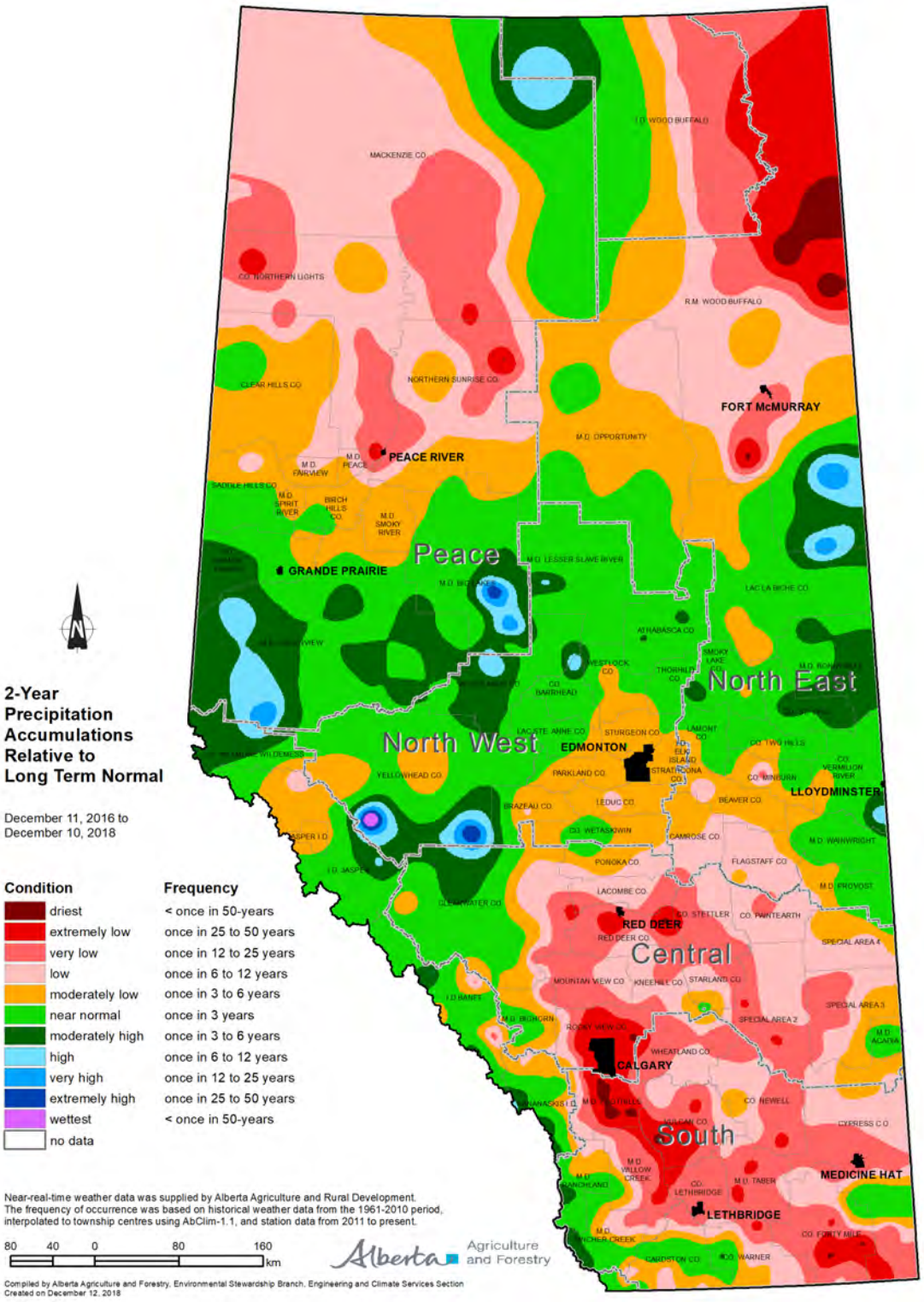
Stay Healthy, Stay Happy and Live with an Attitude of Gratitude.

# COMING UP

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jan 15-22 | Various sites | Cow-Calfenomics |
| Jan. 19 | Airdrie | Ladies Livestock Lessons |
| Feb. 7 | Olds College | Ranching Opportunities |

***Pease look for posters inside this edition of* The Blade**

***Courtesy of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, here is an updated precipitation map to help with some of your decisions.***




Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

# Office Report

*By Brenda Kossowan*

Looking back is an essential step in planning ahead.

With an especially tough year now behind us, producers in this part of the province now have a bit of time to look at how things shook out and how to best prepare for whatever lies ahead.

The team of producers who operate the Grey Wooded Forage Association decided earlier this year to focus more resources on hosting events as a means of sharing the information gathered through our research programs and also to encourage more producers to get involved.

It has been encouraging to see farmers and ranchers from across Central Alberta taking an active part in the various events we have hosted, either on our own or in partnership with other groups. Some of the most important information shared at any of these events is the information producers share with each other. That is truly the foundation upon which GWFA builds its research and extension efforts.

Since early May, when the 2018/19 board was installed, GWFA has hosted pasture walks at three farms in the Rocky Mountain House area, including a tour of Past President Amy Leitch's goat ranch, a Kura clover plot at ARECA representative Ken Ziegler's farm and a classroom seminar with grazing guru Jim Gerrish followed by a pasture walk on the operation Secretary Deb Skeels runs with her husband, Doug.

Later in summer, we joined Clearwater County and Performance Seeds in hosting the West Country Ag Tour, which featured a visit to a cover crops project just outside of Rocky Mountain House. That short trip provided a wealth of outstanding information about options available for producers who are looking for ways to maintain a healthy soil base while keeping their animals well fed. Presentations from the tour were published in the September edition of *The Blade.*

Next up was a pair of Feed What You Need workshops, originally set for Rimbey and Innisfail in October, but postponed to a single session in November because of good weather. Farmers who had been pushed off their fields by heavy snow in September were going hard to rescue what was left of their field crops. The November session, held at Arbutus Hall just outside of Rocky Mountain House, offered alternative feeding strategies for livestock producers whose hay supplies had fallen far short of what they would need to bring their animals through the winter in good shape.

For those who were unable to attend one of the FWYN sessions offered by GWFA and other associations during the fall, you can find a copy of Beef/Forage Specialist Barry Yaremcio's presentation on our website. The link is posted on the home page and will take you to a second link that will bring up the actual presentation. Any questions can be directed to Barry at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Ag-Info Centre by calling toll-free to 310-3276.

GWFA also joined three fellow associations at the Canadian Forage and Grazing Conference in Calgary in mid-November, followed a week later by co-hosting the 2018 Water & Ag conference at Crossfield with the associations and counties that form the Red-Bow Partnership.

Coming up, Red-Bow partners are hosting additional seminars in Airdrie and Olds in January and February respectively. Please see the posters in this edition of The Blade for details.

In closing, please join me in sending wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to our Ag Field Specialist, Greg Paranich, who has been off work since mid-November after experiencing a medical emergency. Greg expects to be back in full swing during the next few weeks.

Best of the Season to all!


**GWFA Secretary Deb Skeels and Chair Gil Hegel taking a break on the trade floor during the 2018 Canadian Forage and Grazing Conference in Calgary. GWFA shared a booth with the Foothills Forage and Grazing, North Peace Applied Research and West-Central Forage Associations.**

# ladies

## LIVESTOCK LESSONS

Hosted by the Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership

JANUARY 19TH

2019

AIRDRIE

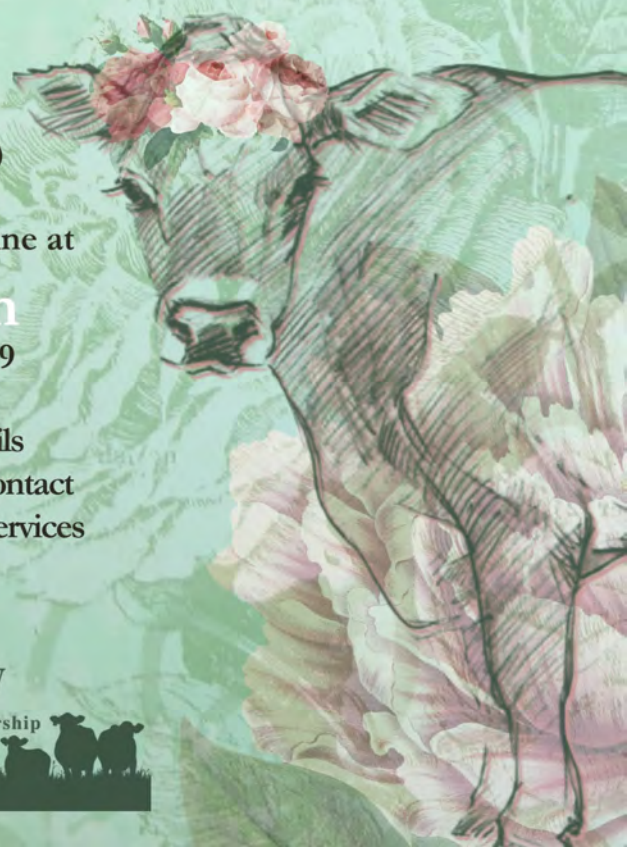
## SAVE THE DATE & REGISTER TODAY

Apple Creek Golf Course (near Airdrie)
$50 (includes lunch, coffee, & snacks)
View the event agenda and pre-register online at

**www.redbowag.com**

Registration Deadline: January 14th 2019

For more information or for registration details visit our website www.redbowag.com or contact Daniela at Mountain View County Agricultural Services
Phone: 403-335-3311 Ext 204
Email: darcher@mvcounty.com



Thank you to our Sponsors:
Simonin Law

RED BOW
Agricultural Partnership

## AMAZING GRAZE!

*Forage program now underway from Ducks Unlimited Canada and Nutrien Ag Solutions*

Hay and high-quality grassland for grazing was hard to come by this past year in some parts of Alberta, but the answer for next year may be found with the 2019 forage program from Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Available to farmers in Alberta, the DUC/ Nutrien Ag Solutions forage program offsets the cost of Proven® Seed forage varieties when producers convert cultivated land to hay or pastureland and receive a rebate of $100 per 50 lb. bag of forage seed.

The response to this year's forage program has been very positive for several reasons, says Craig Bishop, DUC's regional forage lead.

"Highly productive hay and pastures are foundational to profitable and sustainable beef," says Bishop.

"With ever-changing pressures on the cattle sector, healthy forage is a staple for healthy herds and gains.

Partnering with Nutrien Ag Solutions, an industry leader, allows producers to reduce their risk by utilizing top-quality forage seed with extra monetary incentives to reduce costs.

This is key, especially when every dollar counts to the bottom line for the farm and ranch community."


In addition to helping cattle producers and their herds, more seeded forage acres benefits waterfowl. Research shows that the level of waterfowl nesting and success is significantly higher in areas of perennial cover or grasslands than in cultivated fields. It also helps with other conservation measures such as wetland restoration.

"The link between wetlands, associated grasslands and waterfowl productivity is well understood," says Bishop.

"Initiatives like the DUC/Nutrien Ag Solutions forage program ensure that farmers also receive the benefit from increasing their forage base."

The DUC/Nutrien Ag Solutions forage program is best suited for producers in the parkland and prairie regions.

Anyone interested in the program or who wants more information should contact their local Nutrien Ag Solutions retailer or DUC conservation program specialist.

They may also call Craig Bishop at 403 607 5805 or email c_bishop@ducks.ca.

The Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership Presents

FEBRUARY 7 - 2019

# RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.redbowag.com

$50 registration fee (student rate $30)
Includes lunch, coffee and tradeshow
Register by February 1st, 2019

Contact Daniela at Mountain View County for more information:
Ph: 403-335-3311 Ext. 204
or darcher@mvcounty.com

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

RED BOW
Agricultural Partnership

Olds College Alumni Centre
8:50 AM to 4:30 PM (8:30 Registration)
* Free Parking

For the current agenda and list of speakers visit www.redbowag.com

**Offsite Watering Systems:**
*The benefits & economics*

**Hybrid Vigour Scoring**
*Demonstration*

**Livestock Transportation & Handling**

**Animal Health:**
*Pain mitigation & Antimicrobial Resistance*

**Producer Panel:**
*Data sets & new technology*

**Spring Forward into Grazing Management**
*Managing pasture after drought*


WWW.REDBOWAG.COM

# The Cows are Calling:

## *Motivations for Management-Intensive Grazing Practices among Alberta Beef Producers*

*By Erika Heiberg*

In the summer of 2016, I set out to understand why management-intensive grazing (MIG) is gaining ground among farmers in Alberta. Through interviews, pasture walks, and endless cups of coffee shared around kitchen tables, I learned why these farmers have changed from conventional agricultural methods to ones grounded in agroecology.

MIG is considered a modest rotational grazing system. However, the term MIG is favoured because it focuses not only on the rotations, but the management.

For some, MIG is not only a grazing system, but a form of grassland management driven by three main goals: lifestyle, financial, and environmental (Gerr*ish 2004, 13-14)*. This makes MIG a whole systems approach to grazing, and an alternative practice to conventional feedlots or continuous grazing systems for beef cattle.

To understand how MIG can fulfill these different goals, I used a theory known as Repeasantization. In response to an economic squeeze on agriculture, farmers opt for cost reductions on their farms, which results in practices with fewer inputs and lower commodification of labour. This repeasantization is defined by a search for greater *autonomy* from political and economic forces using two categories of practice:

- *Co-production*, where nature and humans work together to develop, and in turn change how each other acts, reacts and grows; and
- *Diversification* of enterprises and income, both on and off the farm.

MIG focuses on building land productivity, integrating animals with the landscape, and low input production. As such, I argue that the farmers I interviewed have gone through a process of repeasantization.

### MIG and Diversification

All of the farmers I interviewed had diversified using MIG. They took a single enterprise – beef production – and integrated it with the production of forages and other crops. However, in many ways this was merely a point of departure for this study; as I got to know more and more farmers, it became clear that MIG linked a very diverse group of people. While many farmers in Alberta hold an off-farm job, I focused mainly on the ways farmers diversified on-farm.

Some farmers had a mixed farm, which allowed them to integrate their different enterprises and build upwards to expand their production, rather than building outwards. That way, farmers could produce more with what they already had. I met one farmer who talked about how his beef cattle would graze a paddock down, and then his chickens could come in and eat once the grass was shorter, and bee hives were always one step ahead to pollinate.

Others opted for value-adding practices and focused solely on beef, by increasing the value through production, marketing, and story-telling. Farmers would produce grass-fed and -finished beef, or adapt their production system to earn a premium through natural or organic markets. Both types of production follow certain guidelines, and certifications (Organic, VBP+, No Hormone, etc.) show to consumers that these farmers produce more than 'just beef'.

And some farmers generated extra income by communicating MIG knowledge to others. They worked as seed or equipment distributors, grazing consultants, or Holistic Management Certified Educators.

### Co-production: Working with Nature

By utilizing MIG practices, these farmers worked with nature as a partner, and an active agent in their production system. The more they worked with their natural systems, the more farmers found that their practices adapted to how nature responded. This allowed them to increase their carrying capacity and decrease their inputs.

When MIG is used appropriately, carrying capacity improves over time, resources are made stronger, and the production system becomes more efficient without needing a 'reboot', and they co-produce with nature to create a production system that uses limited external inputs. Farmers did this primarily by using their animals to fertilize the land, harvest the crop, and plant the seeds that had been mixed into their mineral.

### Autonomy in Agriculture

Profitability is the most voiced reason for decreasing input use. Artificial inputs have been revolutionary and powerful in agriculture. However, all of this 'power' costs farmers money and autonomy. The development of hybrid corn demonstrated this, as farmers gained better yields but lost control and power over their seed base. In contrast, the farmers I interviewed use their local knowledge and expertise to decrease their need for inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, decrease their need for off-farm income, and increase their autonomy in making financial decisions.

The various layers of narratives and explain these farmers encompassing understanding of agriculture. They start with the soil, which builds the base of their livelihood. As they build on their foundation, they increase their capacity and integrate their enterprises. By expanding upwards rather than outwards, they produce more with less, opening space for more farmers to come in; for more neighbours and greater community.

These farmers have experienced gains financially, environmentally, and socially. They have created a lifestyle and livelihood with which they are satisfied. MIG may not be the answer for everywhere, but for the Alberta landscape it seems to work.

*(Master's Thesis summary – completed November 2017)*

# Cow-Calfenomics

## Sharing Knowledge for Profitability

| Date | Location | Venue | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 15, 2019 | Vermilion | Vermilion Regional Centre | 9 a.m. registration<br>9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. session |
| January 16, 2019 | Westlock | Hazel Bluff Community Hall | |
| January 17, 2019 | Olds | Olds College - Student Alumni Centre | |
| January 22, 2019 | Lethbridge | Lethbridge College – Garden Court Room<br>(Parking in Garden Court area and lots labeled SPP) | |

**The agenda this year will cover:**

**Future Opportunities** - Market Outlook

**Industry Case studies** - Interactive Opportunities

**Lesson Learned on Profitability** - Local Producers

**Business Planning** – Financial Aspects

**Cost of Production** – Tools & Benchmarks

**New Cereal Varieties for Forage**

### How to Register

All participants are requested to register prior to Wednesday, January 9, 2019. The registration fee is $35 and includes lunch. Registration for students and young producers (those under 25 years of age) will be sponsored by the Alberta Beef Producers. To register please call the Ag-Info Centre at 1-800-387-6030.

Alberta Beef Producers · AFSC · Farm Credit Canada · ARECA · Alberta

# The Case for Preserving Western Canada's Grasslands

*By Jeremy Pittman, reprinted with permission from Canadian Geographic, July, 2018*

I grew up on a farm in rural Saskatchewan. We grew mostly wheat and lentils and raised some pigs. There were always small pieces of grassland nearby – I remember my grandfather pointing them out and telling us how they used to call them "prairie wool."

But, by the time I was born, much of the grasslands – aside from those found in marginal agricultural areas or "out in the hills," as we used to say – had been converted into croplands. I don't think any of us realized the extent to which we had modified the temperate grassland ecosystem.

When I was in Grade 4, my class raised money to protect a small piece of the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil as part of a school project on environmental sustainability. It wasn't until I was much older that I realized Saskatchewan's own temperate grasslands also needed protection.

The temperate grasslands that once covered much of western North America – in the United States and Canada – are one of the most imperilled ecosystems in the world.

A 2017 report by the World Wildlife Fund (https://www.worldwildlife.org/projects/plowprint-report) found that we are actually losing more temperate grasslands annually than we are the Amazon Rainforest. These grasslands are key to the survival of many species of mammals, plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. A few have weathered the changes and adapted, but there are some that have proven more vulnerable to the onslaught of land use change.

***"If done properly, cattle ranching can play an important role in the future of species at risk conservation and biodiversity protection on the Prairies."***

These are the 'species at risk' – a legal term in Canada referring to species that we must protect or risk losing forever.

The list of species at risk for the grasslands is quite long, but includes the swift fox (*Vulpes velox*), greater sage grouse (https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/endangered-sage-grouse-makes-small-comebacksaskatchewan-and-alberta) (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), and Mormon metalmark butterflies (*Apodemia mormo*). These species require grasslands for food and shelter, and the advance of the plough has literally turned their homes upside down. Imagine moving from a mansion in the suburbs to a cramped downtown apartment; that's what cropland agriculture has done to these species, and if we don't act soon, even the "downtown apartments" may disappear. To save these species, we must save their homes, which are the scattered patches of temperate grasslands that remain.

However, we're in luck, because many of these grass patches are already protected, in their own way, by the hardworking ranching families who have managed these lands for more than a century.

On the Prairies, a farmer is someone who grows crops such as wheat, lentils, canola, flax, chickpeas, oats, barley, and rye.

Ranchers, on the other hand, raise cattle. They rely on large pieces of intact grass to feed their animals.

These tracts of pasture are often the same places where we currently find species at risk, which is no accident.

Pastures can provide excellent habitat for species at risk, if managed properly – and many of them are.

Many of the same practices adopted by ranchers to deal with drought – the worst nemesis of people living in the Prairie provinces – also provide co-benefits for species at risk. These practices include things like leaving enough grass behind for future years and resting pastures of native prairie for years at a time. Taking it a step further, ranchers can also manage their lands in such a way as to intentionally produce habitat for species at risk. These practices include things like deferring grazing to times when species are less vulnerable, herding cattle with range riders to improve control of grazing, or luring cattle with water or salt licks to areas needing grazing pressure.

These practices produce a mix of vegetation types and heights on pastures, which mimics the kind of heterogeneous grassland habitats in which many species thrive.

Cattle, in a sense, can take on the ecological role of the bison, which once roamed the temperate grasslands throughout North America. The vast herds of bison essentially disturbed the grasslands for centuries, and the temperate grassland ecosystem evolved in light of the bison's disturbance. Bison grazed and trampled the prairie here and there, leaving behind a tapestry of vegetation that wasn't too short or too tall for many of the other species found there. Ranchers can achieve comparable results by managing their cattle in ways that produce similar landscapes to those left by the bison.

Cattle ranching and species at risk can go hand-in-hand, and there are a number of exciting new programs emerging to bring the two together. For example, Parks Canada and the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association recently announced the creation of a grass bank project. Grass banking, in this case, involves allowing ranchers to graze public lands in Grasslands National Park for a reduced fee, provided they can produce habitat on their own lands as well. The project essentially provides two benefits for species at risk: cattle grazing on Grasslands National Park helps produce habitat, and existing habitat outside the Park on privately managed lands is preserved and monitored. The South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc., a collaborative partnership of ranchers,

*(Continued on Page 13)*

## Finding synergies in agriculture and biodiversity *(continued from Page 12)*

government, environmental non-government organizations, and industry, is charged with setting and monitoring the habitat targets for different species at risk. If habitat targets are reached, the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) program, which is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada, provides results-based incentives to the ranchers.

This project demonstrates the type of collaboration necessary to conserve species at risk, protect temperate grasslands, and support local livelihoods – key components to ensure that future generations of species at risk, and future generations of ranchers, can enjoy the prairies.

These projects also demonstrate the environmental benefits of cattle production, which receive little attention outside of the Prairies conservation community. It's true that we need to be mindful of the environmental impacts of beef, specifically the carbon footprint of beef production, but – if done properly – cattle ranching can play an important role in the future of species at risk conservation and biodiversity protection on the Prairies.

Finally, these projects also demonstrate a policy paradigm shift in Canada. The shift centres on recognizing the role of agriculture in biodiversity conservation and finding synergies between the two. I believe these synergies are important to find and highlight because they help us ensure that both food production and wildlife thrive on certain parts of Canada's vast landscape and that wildlife conservation is not just something that occurs in protected areas, but everywhere.



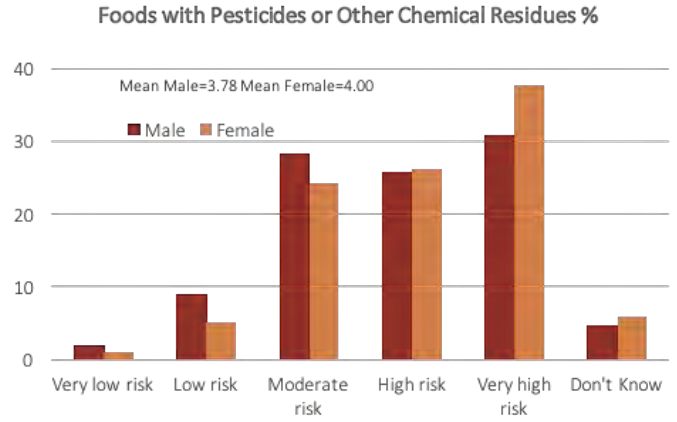
**Hearty congratulations**
**From Grey Wooded Forage Association**
**to**
***Nora Paulovich*,**
**manager of**
**North Peace Applied Research Association**
**upon your induction into the**
**Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame.**
**As noted during the ceremonies, Nora has been a tireless leader and volunteer in more than 20 years with 4-H.**
**She is an equally dedicated and tireless worker within the agricultural research community.**
**Well Done, Nora!**

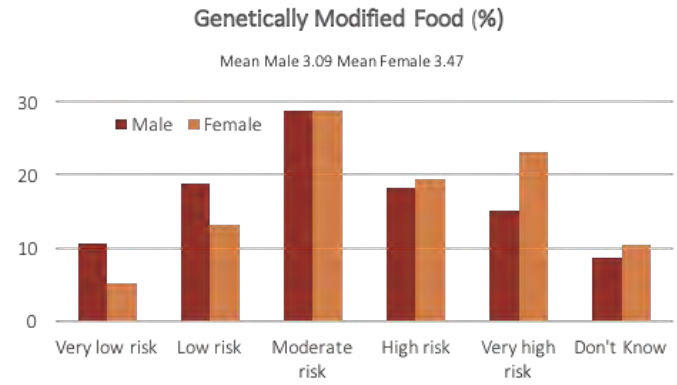
# Food Risks and Genetically Modified Food

*By Ellen Goddard, University of Alberta Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Services*

Recently, (November 2018), the PEW Research Centre produced a report (Public Perspectives on Food Risks), which identified gender differences in public perspectives. We were curious about that aspect of our own research so we went back to a national survey conducted in January 2017[1] and had a look. In fact, there are statistically significant differences in the public perceptions of a number of food risks in Canada that are very similar to the ones identified by the PEW Research Centre. Here are some examples of different perceived food risks by sex in Canada.

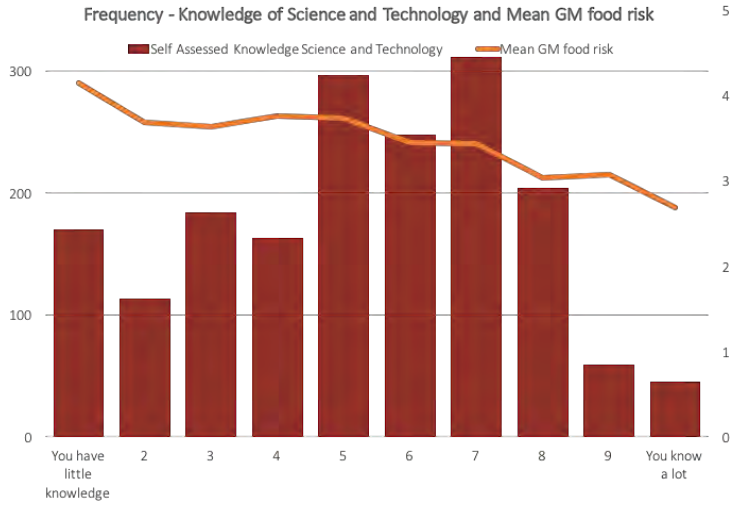
We asked consumers: "How do you rate the health risks for consumers of regular consumption of (1) foods with pesticides or other chemical residues; and (2) Genetically Modified Food? (see headers in the following charts)"



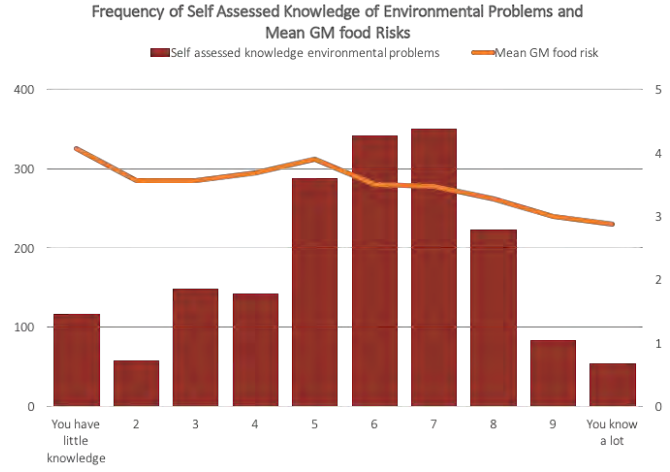




The differences in responses between males and females is statistically different in each case. This is particularly interesting given that females still do predominantly more household food shopping than males.

The PEW research showed that people who were more knowledgeable about science were less likely to oppose GM foods. That, too, was something we investigated in our 2017 national survey of 1,800 Canadians. In that survey, we asked people to self-assess their knowledge of science and technology on a scale from 1 (know very little) to 10 (know a lot). The frequency of responses at each level of the scale and the average perceived human-health risk of GM foods for each group of respondents are shown in the following figure. There is a clear negative relationship between self-assessed science and technology knowledge and perceived risk of GM foods.



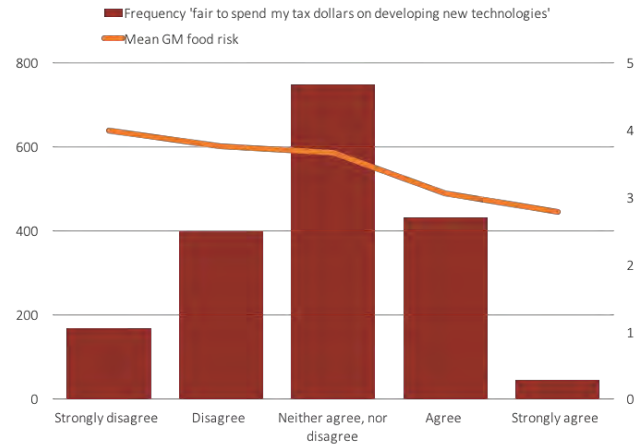

Given that the second rationale for concern about GM foods often concerns unexpected environmental externalities, we also looked at self-assessed knowledge of environmental problems (again, on a 1 to 10 scale) and perceived GM-food risks by groups.




Although the trend is somewhat less clear than for knowledge of science and technology, there is clearly a negative trend for the higher self-assessed knowledge of environmental problem scores from 6 through 10. So, as with the PEW research, higher knowledge of science and of the environment (which do not appear to be perfectly correlated) suggests more acceptance of GM foods, indicating perhaps a better understanding of inherent trade-offs with higher knowledge. *(Continued next page)*

## Food Risks and GM Food *(Continued from Page 14)*

A number of other studies have suggested that there might be issues of fairness in markets and sectors that influence people's assessments of the risks of GM foods. In our research, we assessed a number of different aspects of fairness including the fairness of producer and consumer prices. To illustrate the concept of fairness and perceptions of GM food risks to human health, below are the answers to: 'When it comes to new technologies in agriculture, it is fair to spend my tax dollars on developing these technologies.' We used a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).




Again, there is a clear downward trend in the perception of GM food risks to human health with stronger agreement that taxes should be spent on the development of these new technologies in agriculture.

Why is any of this important in the continuing debate on GM foods, particularly in the context of moving forward with new genetic technologies, such as gene editing and gene drives? First of all, some of the same arguments that discouraged the adoption of GM technologies are beginning to rise in the context of the newer genetic technologies. Second, perhaps it is becoming much clearer what the role of science education (particularly from elementary school through high school) may be in encouraging understanding of the trade-offs between acceptance of newer genetic technologies and serious global food production and climate change issues.

Interest in science and technology is likely developed at an early age and, without that interest and follow-up throughout their lives, results suggest that people are more likely to oppose the use of genetic technologies in the food space (although they likely all own and use smart phones).

Food is different and raises a host of different concerns than do some other technologies in our daily lives.

As demonstrated in another of our studies, cultivating an interest in science and technology across the population may reduce the perceptions of the human-health risks of GM foods (and likely of the outcomes of other genetic technology approaches).

*[1]The 2017 survey was conducted in order to better understand the public's interests in science, technology and animal agriculture as well as willingness to purchase different meat products.*

# *Grey Wooded Forage Association*

2018/2019 Memberships

Memberships are $40.00 and run from April 1 to March 31

*Memberships are open to anyone interested in forage production, grazing management and environmental sustainability*

For information call 403-844-2645

**Membership Benefits:**

- Receive discounts on courses, seminars, workshops, and tours
- Receive The Blade
- Receive Environmental Farm Plan delivery
- Free Equipment Rental (deposit required)
- Access to the GWFA library
- Access to our Member Facebook Group
- A chance to network with like minded producers
- Free Farm consultation service (phone, email, and in person in the office)
    - Farm calls are $0.55/km travel each way
- Receive an Annual Report

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*Please fill out and mail the portion below with a cheque or e-transfer of $40 to:*

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

Renewal_____ or New Member_____

Name/Company Name:_____

Address: _____

Town/City:_____

Province & Postal Code: _____

The Blade: Email_____ Canada Post _____

Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please print clearly

How would you describe your occupation

- Beef Producer
- Sheep/Goat Producer
- Dairy Producer
- Annual Crops
- Forage Producer
- Other _____

How many head of livestock are you managing?

Beef Cows/Heifers:_____
Dairy Cows:_____
Feeders:_____
Ewes:_____
Does:_____
Other:_____

How many acres are you managing?

Pasture:_____
Hay:_____
Crop:_____
Other:_____

What topics are you interested in learning more about?_____

_____

How can GWFA better serve you?_____

_____

_____