



Grey Wooded Forage Association

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

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The Newsletter This publication is a sixteen page paper presenting articles on GWFA projects and happenings and many other forage and livestock related items that may be of interest to forage producers. This is also an advertising opportunity for agricultural service businesses to show what they have to offer. 16,000 copies of this paper are printed and distributed twice annually, April and November, and are mailed to members and the rural public in West Central Alberta in April and November. The Western Star publishes the Spring and Fall Newsletters for us.

The Blade This monthly publication is an important vehicle for regularly getting event announcements and information to the members. *The Blade* has grown over the past few years from four pages to 12 pages.

We have been working at developing *The Blade* into a publication that is of high enough value that people want to be GWFA members just to get it. We're

getting feedback that we're on the right track.

Grey Wooded Forage Association publishes this paper in house, prints 500 copies and mails them to members. Several copies are also used to keep in touch with our partners, potential event sponsors and service providers as well as placing a few in strategic locations where people can pick them up as examples of what the forage

Printer and Printing Services GWFA has a large printer, capable of printing *The Blade* effectively 'in house'. We also provide printing services to ARECA and it's member organizations and to GWFA members.

GWFA serves members who farm in: **Clearwater County, Mountain View County, Red Deer County, Lacombe County and Ponoka County**

We often work together with various county ag services and rural extension staff to deliver sustainable grazing management courses and a wide variety of other events. The West Country Agricultural Tour, which we put on together with Clearwater County and the Clear Water Landcare every summer, is a long standing tradition. A big highlight for 2011 was the Land EKG workshop we had west of Bowden. GWFA also coordinated Charlie Orchards Alberta tour, which included four other Land EKG workshops in Alberta.



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Mission Statement

Approved May 2012

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

GWFA is currently conducting demonstration projects including:

Late Fall Frost Seeding of Forages - In late November, 2009, we seeded Red Clover, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Cicer Milkvetch & Kura Clover into stubble with Harald's John Deere 750 zero-till drill. The latter two legumes have a reputation for being hard, or slow, to establish. In 2010 we saw that all of these legumes had germinated well, including the Kura Clover and Cicer Milkvetch. Red Clover was the only one to have any significant production in 2010. In 2011 the Kura Clover, Cicer Milkvetch and Birdsfoot Trefoil had difficulty competing with the volunteer plant communities present. Red Clover, again, was very competitive.



ESN 46-0-0 Compared With Regular 46-0-0 - ESN time release 46-0-0 was applied next to regular 46-0-0 and a control strip with no fertilizer application on a perennial pasture. Yield cages were set up and yield clips were taken. In 2010 we found that ESN fertilizer produced more forage than regular fertilizer, which produced more forage than no application. In 2011 we found that the ESN treated strips produced less forage than the straight 46-0-0 treated strips.

2011C-3D Fencing Project - Partnered with Ponoka County & PowerFlex Fence Canada, at Warren Bloomquist's, east of Ponoka. He has major losses because of deer in his swath grazing fields. We consulted with Rob Davidson of PowerFlex Fence Canada to design the fence. He donated all the high tensile wire we needed and 150 PowerFlex fence posts.

We constructed the fences around the swath grazing field and around a grain storage bag in November, 2011 and have been monitoring the site since then. So far, few deer have been seen in the area, probably due to the balmy weather. In February we had a workshop which included a tour of the two sites.



Calcium, Phosphate and Milk Treatments at Doug Seland's Organic Dairy -

New for 2011 - Variations of a mix of GSR Grow calcium, soft rock phosphate, liquid fish, sugar and milk were sprayed in strips on +/- 75 acres in late June. The land was seeded to alfalfa and English Ryegrass (Perennial Ryegrass) just prior to treatments. As this was the establishment year, no data was collected. Since the forages grown here will be used for organic dairy production, no chemical fertilizers or herbicides can be used.

Ag Canada Bale Grazing Nutrient Distribution Project at Doug Skeels' Pasture - Moisture and temperature sensors and recording transponders buried in strategic locations under and near round bales at 3", 9" and 18" of depth. Lots of soil samples were taken in these areas for baseline information. Bale sampling and feed testing were done in December, 2011 and bale grazing was started on January 7th, 2012. Data will be collected from the transponders and more soil sampling in spring and summer to track movement of nutrients in the soil. Information gleaned from this project will have many uses, including the development of bale grazing nutrient management BMPs.

