



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"



JANUARY 2015

Box 1448, 5039 - 45 Street, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T 1B1,
Phone: 403 844 2645, Fax: 403 844 2642, Email: GWFA1@telus.net,
GWFA2@telus.net, or GWFA3@telus.net

Happy New Year to All of You!

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Due to a major printer malfunction, we had to cancel our December issue of The Blade. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you and we hope your Christmas was awesome.

Sincerely, GWFA staff

Upcoming events:

- Forage & Crop Agronomy for Profit! Forshee Hall - Pg 2
- Farming Smarter in Calmar! - Pg 5
- The Tale of Two Generations...How To Make A Successful Ending! - Pg 11
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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.

Approved May 2012

GWFA Staff photo

Save the Date!

Forage & Crop Agronomy for Profit

February 17, 2015 at the Forshee Hall

- County Updates!
- How Soil Works & Understanding Soil Tests!
- Managing for Success!
- Herbicide Resistant Weeds and How to Beat Them!
- The Bottom Line - What can I make or save?



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Manager's Notes:

By Albert Kuipers

For the past three years we have been conducting a 3D Fencing project at Warren Bloomquist's farm out east of Ponoka. Rob Davidson, of PowerFlex Fence Canada helped us with the design of the fence and donated a pile of fencing supplies and loaned us a 21 joule fence energizer to power it up. Shayne Steffen, Manager of Agricultural Services for Ponoka County and his trusty sidekick, Justin Babcock supplied us with fence posts, a post pounder and a whole lot of sweat equity.



Those of you who may have been following the progress of this project in our annual reports of the past three years may recall that we successfully kept the deer out of Warren's swath grazing in through the first winter, but had a bit of a wreck the second winter. We recovered from that with some maintenance and improvements to the fence and successfully kept the deer out of the swath grazing field through this past winter, even though it was a tough winter.

After much discussion in our Projects Committee meetings, we decided to put the 3D Fencing system to test where elk have been the main problem.

We located two outfits in the Sundre area that were having significant elk damage to their winter hay supplies. Otto Seidel witnessed up to 75 elk at a time and Darryl Murphy witnessed up to 140 elk making a mess of their feed supplies. Both Otto and Darryl agreed to be cooperators for the project.

My trusty assistant, Ginette, then got to work rounding up supplies and sponsorship for the project. Thanks to her hard work, most of the supplies for the project were donated. Steve Cannon, of LoneStar Ranch & Sales in Red Deer donated two Gallagher fence energizers, complete with solar panels and batteries. He also supplied us with an awesome aluminum energizer/solar panel stand, the high tensile wire, spinning jenny, insulators and tighteners. Jim Bauer, of Anchor JB Ranch, supplied us with a pile of Pasture-Pro composite fence posts and the "cotter pins" to fasten the wire to the posts. The Rocky Mountain House Co-op and West Frazer supplied the wooden fence posts, PowerFlex Fence Canada provided an energizer and Sundog Solar provided a solar panel and regulator.

Signs for the two sites were made by "Signs by Jan" and sponsored and installed by Mountain View County. Kokanee Heavy Truck Sales provided a generous cash contribution to help with some of the purchased supplies and expenses for the project.

Ginette and I, with the help of our cooperators, Otto and Darryl, built the fences around bale yards at the two locations. We were fortunate that the weather was decent for the week we were working at the sites, even though it had been cold already. A good cover of snow kept the ground from freezing, so we had no trouble putting posts in, except where vehicles had travelled.

Fence construction consisted of erecting a 4 wire, high tensile electric fence about 4 feet high. An additional one wire



GWFA Staff photo

fence was built outside of that, 3 feet from the 4 wire fence and 3 feet high. Gates were built to have the same configuration. Once the fences and gates were built, fence energizers and ground fields were installed. We also flagged the fence and attached foil cups with scents to attract cow elk.

We sure appreciate all the help we got with this project. Now we're waiting for elk to test the fence, doing some occasional maintenance to the fences and keeping the elk attractant scents fresh. We want their first experience with the fences to be with their noses. Might give ol' Rudolph some competition.

3D FENCING PROJECT PROTECTING FEED FROM ELK

PROJECT BY:



COOPERATOR - Otto Seidel



3D FENCING PROJECT PROTECTING FEED FROM ELK

PROJECT BY:



COOPERATORS

Darryl Murphy Renee Poirier



GWFA Staff photo

Western Canadian Cow-Calf Survey (WCCCS)

Determining Productivity and its Link to Profitability

In January 2014 a meeting was convened during the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference to discuss producers' claims that they had moved their calving start date to May and had seen reduced conception rates. Kathy Larson with the Western Beef Development Centre was part of that meeting because of her experience collecting production data from producers when calculating cost of production.

WBDC's cost of production study has a very small sample size (typically 20-30 producers) and yes, some production data is collected, but details on breeding season start and end dates, cow:bull ratios, and number of open cows are not. The reality is we do not have current benchmarks on cow-calf productivity. So when producers raise questions about reduced conception rates related to time of calving, the benchmarks we have are 16 years old and the industry has changed significantly since then.

But that is about to change with the resurrection of a study last conducted in Alberta in 1998.

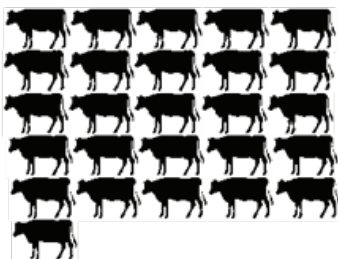
The Western Canadian Cow-Calf (WCCC) Survey is being rolled out across western Canada this fall, starting with the provincial cattle association district meetings from British Columbia to Manitoba. The survey was developed through a joint effort between the Provincial Producer Associations, the Provincial Ministries of Agriculture, Canfax, the Beef Cattle Research Council and the Western Beef Development Centre. In addition to being handed out at the District meetings, you are likely to also see the survey being handed out at events throughout the winter, such as Brandon AgDays, Agribition, Cow-Calfenomics, or the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference.

The questions have been revamped and expanded somewhat from the 1998 survey, but for the most part we are still asking the same questions on productivity and management practices of cow-calf producers. Questions like:

- What were your start and end dates for your 2013 breeding season?
- How many cows calved on your operation in 2014?
- How many 2014-born calves were weaned
- When do you provide trace mineral to your cows?
- Do you creep feed?
- Do you pregnancy check?

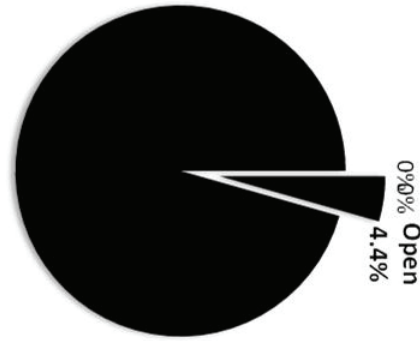
From the survey responses we can generate production performance measures for the industry.

From the 1998 survey we learned that the average cow:bull ratio was 26:1, the average wean weight was 576 lb,



Avg. cow-to-bull ratio: 26:1

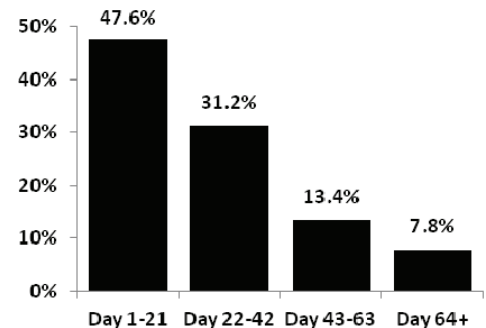
the average breeding season length was 93 days, and the average conception rate was 95.6%. We also learned that on average 48% of cows calved in the first 21d of the calving season, that 30% of operations quality tested their forage, that less than 50% of operations pregnancy checked. That was 16 years ago, how do you think we fair now?



Avg. Conception Rate: 95.6

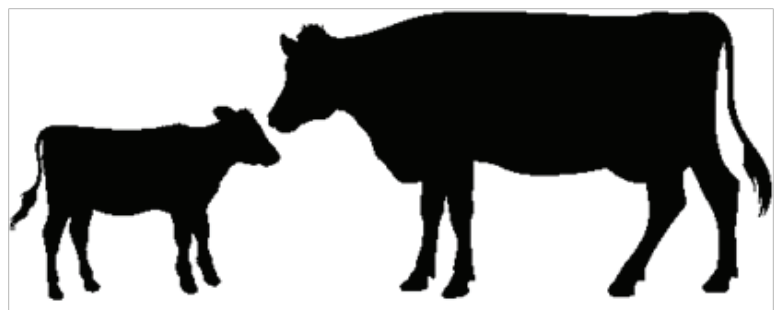
Results from the WCCC survey will identify where we have strengths and where we can make improvements on our production practices and performance measures. We can also use the survey findings to guide research and extension to improve the productivity and profitability of cow-calf producers.

There is an online version of the survey on Western Beef's website: www.wbdc.sk.ca/wcccs.htm. The survey is 58 questions long and should take between 30 and 45 minutes to complete. The website also has additional information about the WCCC survey. For those completing a hard copy, or paper surveys, paid postage labels are included with the survey or available for download from the WBDC website.



Avg. Calving Distribution

On the last page of the survey, survey respondents can ask to receive a complimentary report summarizing their production measures based on their survey responses. This allows for comparison with the benchmarks.



Avg. Wean Rate: 85.6%

The production benchmarks will be summarized by region, province and herd size and will be ready for sharing in Spring 2015.

Over 1,700 producers participated in the 1998 survey. With a bit of friendly competition between the provinces, we should easily surpass that number. Which province's producers will get the bragging rights on highest conception rate or highest wean rate? Fill out the survey to help us find out.

If you have any questions about the survey, provincial contacts are below, or visit www.wbdc.sk.ca/wcccs.htm.



<i>British Columbia</i>	<i>Alberta</i>	<i>Saskatchewan</i>	<i>Manitoba</i>
Clint Ellison BC Ministry of Agriculture Ph: 250-260-4613 clint.ellison@gov.bc.ca	Barry Yaremicio Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development Ph: 403-742-7926 barry.yaremicio@gov.ab.ca	Kathy Larson Western Beef Development Centre Ph: 306-930-9354 klarson.wbdc@pami.ca	Ben Hamm Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Ph: 204-425-5050 benjamin.hamm@gov.mb.ca

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How I Use Stockpiled Grass on my Ranch

By Iain Aitken



I'd like to follow up on fellow director Kristen's article on stockpiled grass in the October Blade. As Kristen correctly pointed out there can be significant feed value and yield loss by retaining stockpile grass beyond fall, but I have also found worthwhile opportunities for later utilization. The greatest benefits for us have been realized through putting a system together holistically that matches the cattle's nutritional needs to the seasonality of the forage resource. Getting more in tune with natural cycles has led to healthier, more productive cows with lower inputs.

We use stockpiled grass for two purposes beyond the traditional fall grazing period. The first use is post weaning, when our late April/May calving cows nutritional needs are at their lowest point of the year. We find if they are weaned by mid November they will usually gain weight until the end of the year. We have grazed as late as February but often the snow gets deeper, the weather colder and the cows further along in their gestation, meaning they only maintain condition at best beyond New Year. For grazing through deep snow we are more concerned with volume than quality as the cows have to be able to fill themselves easily or they will quickly lose interest in grazing. For this reason we often winter graze bush pastures that were un-grazed all summer.

Our most important period utilizing stockpiled grass starts around 10th April and lasts until late May. This allows us to stop feeding six weeks before the new season grass is ready to graze or sufficient to sustain the cows. This also coincides with our calving season, which begins around April 15th. The biggest benefit of stockpiled grass is that it gives an ideal calving environment. With a clean, dry bed and the warmer weather we find the calves get up and suckle far quicker than winter calving systems. It also gives the cows more space to calve and keeps them away from corrals that are often still muddy at this time. We use the "Sandhills calving method"



GWFA Staff photo

whereby we move the pregnant cows onto a new pasture every week or ten days leaving behind the pairs born in that time period. Separating the calves by age like this and never having new calves born into a contaminated environment virtually eliminates scours and other calf illness.

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Photo by Iain Aitken

Although we keep our highest quality stockpile for spring use, the feed analysis often indicates it won't meet the needs of early lactation cows. We find, however, that the combination of the cows selecting the best of the available old grass in combination with the first shoots of the new season grass to be adequate. Calving when we do we don't worry about the cows los-



Photo by Iain Aitken

ing a little condition at this time as we know the huge surge of high quality June grass is just around the corner. I don't have scientific proof, but I have come to believe that the "quality" of rising condition prior to breeding under this system leads to better conception rates than the commonly suggested importance of



Photo by Iain Aitken

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



condition score at calving time. We typically have around 84% of our cows calve in the first cycle. When we ran sheep in Scotland the quality of flushing/increasing ewe's condition was an important part of our management strategy to optimize conception rates and lamb numbers, so I don't think it should surprise us that this may be applicable to cattle also.

Another important piece of the puzzle is having the type of cow that thrives under this system. I say type, rather than breed, as there are cows in most breeds that will manage in this system. Some breeds definitely have a higher percentage of the type that will thrive and that is partly body type/partly fleshing ability. As always with cattle genetics, though there are trade-offs - if you winter graze cows on banked grass you will likely cull the heaviest milking cows out of your herd as opens. The implications and economics of this have to be considered.

One final thing I should mention is that winter/spring stockpiled grass isn't generally of high enough quality to support young animals that are pregnant, or still growing. In the spring we always feed the first calf heifers right through to green grass. Also, at weaning some of these first calf heifers aren't carrying enough condition to do well on winter stockpile, so we put them straight onto hay or silage.



Dear GWFA Members and Friends,

I'm sending this to some friends and contacts in the forage community. This summer we bought a new property at Belmont, Manitoba which offers us a chance to expand our operation. If any of you know someone in the grazing community looking for a ranch in a good grass growing area already developed with electric fences, water pipeline etc, please feel free to pass on this link to our listing.

<http://canadiancattleranches.com/medicine-river-ranch/>

*Thank you,
Iain Aitken*



Agricultural Research and
Extension Council of Alberta
www.areca.ab.ca

Managing Prosperity on the Beef Farm

By Richard (Rick) Dehod P.Ag., Farm Financial Specialist



Beef farmers are survivors. The last ten years have not been good to your cash reserve or to that of your peers, due to high feed costs, low margins and a litany of other factors. Now the markets are offering an opportunity to repair the damages and look ahead to a bit of prosperity.

We have seen a lot of beef producers leave the industry and with that, a significant decrease in Alberta's beef cow herd. We hear that, even through this period, some farms have still been able to produce positive margins. This is because those operators have worked on the business part of their operation. Managing their costs, raising good cattle and finding a good market for their calves has allowed them to stay.

Now there is an opportunity in the foreseeable future to make some money in the cow calf industry. What do you invest those positive margins in? After speaking to the senior Alberta Agriculture's Beef Specialists, Risk Management Specialists and industry, here is their and my advice.

- **Know your business costs**, with a goal of reducing those costs, if feasible, not only when the farm is losing money, but during the good years when margins improve. It's never a good time to get sloppy in managing costs.

There are three kinds of costs. There are unnecessary costs, which should be cut mercilessly; and borderline costs, which require good management skills to determine their effects on your operation. Then, there are the necessary costs which can't be cut, as doing so would negatively affect your profit. But they can be managed and tweaked to create efficiencies.

A problem has been a combination of limited cash flow and where to invest those few dollars. We have all tried to make do with less, but saving pennies (nickels) can cost you dollars at the same time. The key point is to consider the quality of the item you are investing in and not just the price.

Visit ARD's Agriprofit\$ Beef Economics page at [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/econ12883](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/econ12883). This is a great resource to analyze and benchmark your own costs of production.

- **Invest in your farm's technology, grazing systems, feed systems and handling systems.** When cash is tight, investment in these items can be seen as borderline expenses. We know that large retailers of beef are looking at Sustainability on the

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farm. How Sustainable is your farm or ranch? Maybe this would be a good time to:

- ✓ Seed those marginal lands that were broken up for grain and oilseed production back to pasture or hay land. New stands will be more productive.
- ✓ Use some profits to replace fences, cross fence pastures, or fence riparian areas.
- ✓ Review your environmental plan and use profits to correct deficiencies,
- ✓ Improve your handling system – if you're handling more stock, make it safe for them and you.
- ✓ Improve technology - Traceability technology adoption, Beef InfoXchange System (BIX 2.0), On-farm Water and Energy Management, smartphone, etc.

There are many Growing Forward 2 programs now open to farmers and ranchers that address the areas above. Using your profits can lever program funds to improve your farm's competitive advantage into the future. Find these programs at <http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/GF2Search/index.htm?role=Farmer-Rancher-Producer>

• **Herd Health is an important part of the ongoing operations.** Sometimes, when funds were tight, a vaccination protocol may not have been followed as this expense was perhaps thought of as not critical. I have found that not following a herd health protocol often leads to poor financial performance due to disease and lack of creature comfort. This just compounds cash flow problems and, ultimately, the viability of the operation. Invest in Herd Health, as it is a necessary and ongoing expense that can make or break a business.

• **Work on improving working capital**

- ✓ Bring your account payables current or to within 15 to 30 days. Trade creditors have helped you through the tough times and you will need them again when margins tighten.
- ✓ Pay down some small loans to improve accessible working capital into the future.
- ✓ Bring your operating loan down to within its' margin limit.
- ✓ Keep in mind that an acceptable current ratio should be greater than 2 (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)
- ✓ Put some money away for those "lean" periods.

• **Do projections and compare those monthly projections to actual returns and costs.** This will enable immediate identification of problems. Production returns and costs are time critical due to the seasonality of the business. By doing a cash flow projection, you can plot out your sales and your feed requirements. You can see the months when your margins are positive and will have funds to invest or reduce your financial commitments. By comparing your projections to actual, you can make those adjustments to continue to manage a positive margin.

• **Talk to your banker early to work together on any issues.** Raising beef is a capital intensive business. You need access to your operating credit and trade creditors. As you go through your operating and financing plans for 2015, it is a good time to review 2014, and project income and expenses for 2015. A year-end net worth statement is another important document to complete. Having this information in-hand is helpful when talking to a lender regarding your operating plan, your operating loan and your financing intentions regarding equipment upgrading and maintenance. A lender wants to know the financial health of the farm business. They will look at a few key ratios, to see if an

operation is in good financial shape and whether it can afford more debt and ultimately more risk.

• **Invest in productive assets,**

- ✓ Carefully evaluate investment in depreciating assets like pickups and new equipment. Is this the best use of your capital?
- ✓ How old is your cow herd? Is it time to keep back some heifers, and cull some older less productive cows from the herd?

• **Lock in some positive margins** – You don't go broke taking a profit.

- ✓ **Feed costs** – Consider the alternatives to forward price feed to lock in your feed purchase prices.
- ✓ **Livestock Price Insurance Program** - become familiar with this program and how you can protect the down side of your operating margin. Choosing an insured price provides a 'floor' price that acts as protection against the market being lower than the insured price for the month insurance is purchased for. If the market goes above the insured price, producers can still take advantage of the upside and sell you calves for that higher price.

Using all these tools and knowing your cost of production will help your determine when you can lock in positive margins and take a profit. We know this is hard work but this is key to your success.

• **Agri-Stability:** Are you still enrolled in Agri-Stability?

With positive margins, this year could assist in improving your farm's Olympic Average. This could be an important risk tool to manage the next time margins move to break even or negative. For some of you it may be the right time to reenroll. The enrollment deadline is April 30th. Review this strategy with your accountant.

• **Last but not least** – Invest in yourself. Strong business management skills will enhance your decision-making skills, giving you the competitive edge. You are a professional and all professionals embrace life-long learning to stay at the top of their game. Take a look at the GF2 Business Opportunity Program, and assess whether it will assist you in accessing resources for your business planning.

This list is far from all inclusive, but these are good topics to start the discussion with your business partners.

Now that the market is giving you some breathing room, it is time for the beef business to pay you back. Consider treating your family or key employee to a well-deserved vacation.

For more information visit **Farm Manager** Your Business Resource at agriculture.alberta.ca/farm-manager



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

Tillage Radish - The "Cover Crop" That Pays!

By Ginette Boucher



Anne-Marie Bertagnolli with a tillage radish

GWFA Staff photo

If your goal in the New Year includes building your soils organic matter then you should consider tillage radishes. Its long tap root increases air space for water infiltration; it reaches far down into the soil to get minerals and nutrients the plant needs from deep within the soil.

Tillage radish absorbs (N) and other key nutrients from deep within the soil including that of manure and releases them when the roots decay in the spring, when cash crops need it most. When the root reaches a layer of compacted soil, it starts

a bio-drill action which breaks up the compacted ground.

Producers using tillage radishes as a "cover crop" have seen significant increases in annual crop yields when Tillage Radish is seeded with Corn, soybean and wheat as a cover crop. Tillage Radish can be seeded with winter wheat as well. Summer, or fall seeding should be done at least three weeks before the first killing frost. This leaves good ground cover for winter, reducing erosion.

A huge amount of organic matter is added to the soil for spring decomposition, hence increasing the microbial activity as well as the earth worm population. When plant roots appear the biological processes begin to occur and the plants flourish. In the spring soils tend to be drier allowing for earlier planting and weeds are suppressed. As a result, reduction in the need for herbicides and reduced fertilizer applications directly relate to more dollars in your pocket.

Tillage Radish is also great for grazing and distributing the nutrients where they are needed. Mark and Anne-Marie Bertagnolli planted some in two fields at their farm, south of Rocky Mountain house this summer. Cattle grazed one site in summer and fall and the other only in fall. Protein levels in the tops were as high as 27% and 20% in the roots. TDN was between 73 and 74%. Watch for more information on this in the future.

In summary, this all contributes to the organic matter addition to your soil, increases your bottom line and creates more productive land for the next cropping season.

At the Grey Wooded office there are some manuals and brochures available on the Tillage Radish along with some seed sample if you are interested in learning more about the Tillage Radishes and experimenting with them.

If you're interested in purchasing Tillage Radish seed, you can contact Elmy's Friendly Acres Seed Farm Box 477 Saltcoats, SK S0A 3R0 or call 306-744-2779. Email : devin.elmy@friendlyacres.sk.ca

Save the Date!

Alberta Forage Industry Network Annual General Meeting February 12, 2015 at Olds College

For more info go to www.albertaforages.ca

or email info@albertaforages.ca

*Find out what's happening in our forage industry,
locally, provincially and nationally!*



AFIN

ALBERTA FORAGE INDUSTRY NETWORK

An Organization of Stakeholders in Alberta's Forage Industry 10

More Workshops in 2015

THE TALE OF TWO GENERATIONS...HOW TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL ENDING!!
We will show you how to transfer the family farm business and keep your family, review your Wills to make sure they say what you think you say, explain how to retire on 14% tax rate, and finally unlock unique strategies to implement in your succession and estate planning.

FEBRUARY 11TH, AT THE CREMONA COMMUNITY HALL OR FEBRUARY 13TH AT THE ACME HALL

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

8:30 Registration
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

MERLE GOOD

Farm Management Consultant: GRS Limited,
Formerly the Provincial Tax Specialist with
Alberta Agriculture.

TRACY HANSON

Tracy is a lawyer with Walsh LLP and a
Professional Agrologist. She advises
producers and agribusinesses on legal issues
including tax and succession planning.

REGISTRATION

\$45/pp includes lunch, coffee and snacks

For more information or to register & pay contact
Sarah Schumacher at Wheatland County
Agricultural Services: Ph: 403.361.2027
E-mail: Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca
or register online at www.wheatlandcounty.ca/FSPW
Registration closes February 6th, 2015

HOSTING PARTNERS

M.D. of Bighorn, Kneehill County, Rocky View
County, Wheatland County, Mountain View
County

FARM SUCCESSION Planning Workshops

Solar-Wind Workshop



Thursday Feb-19th, 2015

Breton Community Centre
4915 48 street, Breton AB.

Registration \$15.00

Time: 9:00 am - 4:30pm

Speakers:

Rob Harlan - The Solar Energy
Society

Dr. Tim Weis - Canadian Wind
Energy Association

Join us for a one-day workshop on
grid-tie renewable energy
generation options for farmers.

It is becoming increasingly
profitable for Alberta farmers to
generate their own electricity and
sell it to the grid, utilizing the
renewable energy sources that
are available right on their
property.

The solar portion will address
micro-generation options, the
wind section of the workshop will
cover agricultural opportunities
for large wind projects.



Contact Tina to register: 780-727-4447

Registration deadline Feb. 13

Solar-Wind Workshop February 12, 2015



**A one-day workshop
on grid-tie renewable
energy generation
options
for farmers**



Hosted by: Clearwater County, Lacombe County and Red Deer County



It is becoming increasingly profitable for Alberta farmers to generate their own electricity and sell it to the grid, utilizing the renewable energy sources that are available right on their property. This one-day workshop will cover solar and wind system siting, installation, permitting process and economics. The solar portion will address smaller micro-generation options, whereas the wind section of the workshop will cover agricultural opportunities for large wind projects.

Registration fee of \$20 includes lunch.

Location: Eckville Community Centre

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Speakers:

Rob Harlan, Executive Director of the Solar Energy Society of Alberta
Dr. Tim Weis, Alberta Regional Director at the Canadian Wind Energy Association

**For space and catering considerations please preregister
by 4:00 PM on February 10.**

To register:

Clearwater County - Gary Lewis - 1-403-845-4444

Lacombe County - Barb Stock - 1-403-782-6601

Red Deer County - Ken Lewis - 1-403-342-8653

LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS

January 16th-17th, 2015
STRATHMORE!

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

REGISTRATION

\$50 includes meals, coffee & snacks

For more information or to register &
pay contact Fiona at Mountain
View County Agricultural Services
Phone: 403.335.3311 Ext 143
e-mail: fmccarthy@mvcountry.com.

Registration closes January 10th

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Strathmore Travelodge 403.901.0000
(Block reservation - Ladies Livestock Lessons)
Days Inn 403.934.1134
Best Western 403.934.5777

HOSTS

Kneehill County, Mountain View
County, M.D. of Bighorn, Cows and
Fish, Foothills Forage & Grazing
Association, Wheatland County,
Rocky View County

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH

Strathmore Travelodge
4:00pm to 9:00pm

Canadian Market Update & Taking
Your Beef to Market
Brenda Schoepp - Alberta Rancher & Consultant

Supper (we will even do the dishes!)

Wine Tasting (Fieldstone Fruit Wines)
& Entertainment

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

Strathmore Travelodge
9:30am to 3:30pm

Morning Yoga class (optional)
7:30 to 8:30

Breakfast 8:30 to 9:30

Emergency Preparedness & Response
Jennifer Woods, J. Woods Livestock Services

Caring for Injured Livestock
TBA - Strathmore Animal Health Clinic

Freshen up your Weed ID!
Nicole Kimmel, Alberta Agriculture

Tag Reading the New Way!
Allflex Technologies Sales/technology specialist

#ladieslivestocklessons
ladieslivestocklessons.blogspot.ca

HANG UP YOUR BOOTS AND COME TO
THE 2015 LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS
WINTER RETREAT!



GWFA Staff photo

Darryl Murphy/Rene Poirier
3D Fencing Demo site



GWFA Staff photo

Ginette quite enjoyed pound-
ing Pasture-Pro composite
fence posts.



GWFA Staff photo

Tillage Radishes grow to an
impressive depth at the
Bertagnolli farm.



Free Buy & Sell Classified

FOR SALE:

1964 IHC 1600 grain truck needs tune up to run. Box unusable. Good 14' hoist & tires. Cab is straight. V8 motor 4 speed transmission, 2 speed axle. Reasonable offers. **403-556-2282.**

Horses for sale. Contact Doug or Merv Cooper at **403-722-2605.**

Reg Cox feed mixer wagon - 1316 TMR Dairy Master by Renn in good condition. Call **403-638-4173.**

Square bale accumulator by Kuelker (Didsbury). Call **403-638-4173.**

Ford and Dodge truck parts '84 & '87 vintage. Call **403-722-2605**

For Sale: Large tight round bales of wheat, barley & canola straw. Call David at **403-546-5050**

WANTED:

Two year old hay for roughage in the Caroline area. Also looking for a Jersey milk cow. Contact Doug or Merv Cooper at **403-722-2605.**

Looking for an '04 to '09 Chevy 1 ton dually diesel truck. **403-728-3992.**

JD 3600 or Kverneland plow, 5 or 6 bottom c/w all coulter variable width, trip beam, auto reset if possible. **403-895-1722.**

Mole or gopher traps. Call Dan at **403-638-2387.**

Jiffy bale handler, hydraulics driven. Call **403-638-2718.**

You can now submit ads of up to 150 characters in length to our Free Buy & Sell section of the Blade. To submit an ad, call Ginette at 403-507-5478 or email it to her at gwfa3@telus.net



GWFA Staff photo



Looking for Gallagher Energizer Repair? You found it!

LONE STAR



RANCH & SALES

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

Toll free: 1-855-391-9314

Red Deer, AB.

Save the Date!

Managing Information for Profit in Your Cow Herd! February 12, 2015 at Olds College!

This workshop is designed for cow/calf producers who want to capture additional profits by managing and analysing their herd information to make informed business decisions. It will also benefit those who want to evaluate current and future genetic tools that can improve profitability further.

Topics this year include:

- BIXS 2 Update: *"I'm registered, now what?": Hands-on learning focused on entering and retrieving animal data!*
- Beef Herd Management Options Genetic Selection
- Tools & Designing Breeding Programs: *How to use Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) for Profitability!*
- Animal Health and Welfare Best Practices
- Nutrition: *How to Use Cowbytes to meet cattle requirements and save on feed costs!*
- Profiting from Information Management and Geonomics: *How Genomics and other emerging technologies can add value!*

Registration fee is \$25.00 per person, includes lunch for those who pre-register. Space is limited so please register by February 6 by calling the Ag-Info Center at 1-800-387-6030.



Foragebeef.ca

Technical Information
for the Canadian
Forage Beef Industry

New publications added!

Good day forage and beef people from across Canada! Foragebeef.ca has been able to add the following fact sheets and research paper for your review and benefit.

Through the hard work of Chris and Hannah Bowman from Sturgeon River Stock Farms, Bill Chapman of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Carla Amonson from the West Central Forage Association, Therese Tompkins of Tompkins AgriWorks Inc./Agri-Trend Agrology Inc., Tara McGinn from the Lac Ste. Anne County and Barry Yaremcio of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development [Oats, Triticale and Corn Winter Grazing Comparison](#) is an update of winter grazing alternatives. This factsheet has been posted in the Extended Grazing folder into the [Using Cereal Crops](#) and the [Using Corn](#) sub-folders.

Through the hard work of people from the West-Central Forage Association, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agriculture and Food Council, Alberta Beef Producers and cattle producers Chris Bowman, Bob and Larry Kidd, Kevin Porter and Greg Thompson offer their final observations in the report [Triticale Swath Grazing Demonstration Project](#). This report has been posted in the Extended Grazing folder into the [Using Swath Grazing](#) folder.

Written up as an article in the Canadian Cattlemen's Magazine by Debbie Furber, [Tighten Up With Triticale](#) is an excellent extension article of the work done by Dr. Vern Baron of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Lacombe Research Centre around using triticale for swath grazing, [Foragebeef.ca](#) has posted this article into the [Using Swath Grazing](#) folder.

Resulting from the study and calculations of Dale Kalie, Senior Production Economist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, [Foragebeef.ca](#) has posted [Will a hayshed pay?](#) into the [Storage Waste](#) folder.

Due to the fine sleuthing of Grant Lastiwka, Grazing Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, [Foragebeef.ca](#) has posted [Effect of American Bison \(*Bison bison* L.\) on the recovery and germinability of seeds of range forage species](#) into the [Range Grazing](#) folder. This research paper was published by F Gokbulak of the Istanbul University, Faculty of Forestry, Department of Watershed Management, Istanbul, Turkey.

If you've found these factsheets and research paper interesting, feel free to pass them on to your friends! If you would like enhanced exposure to the papers that you've written, feel free to pass it on to Foragebeef.ca and we'll post it.

Alberta



RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

**FEBRUARY 26
2015**

Conference Schedule:

8:30 to 4:00 Olds College Alumni Centre
Registration 8:30 to 8:50, Parking is Free!

THE BEEF INDUSTRY IS INHERENTLY SUSTAINABLE...
So how do we convince our opponents?
Sean Royer, Executive Director Environmental Stewardship Division

GENOMICS
Dr. Mike Coffey - Professor of Livestock Informatics

"HANDS-ON" BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Choosing a watering system that works for you
→ *Sundog Solar, Promold, Cap Solar, FrostFree Nosepumps*
Corn & Swath Grazing Demonstration - Olds College
Feed Efficiency - Dr. Susan Markus, Beef Research Scientist

PRODUCER PANEL
Off-Site Watering Systems: do they really work?
BSE SURVEILLANCE - Gordon Krebs, Veterinarian

Building To The Future...

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

REGISTRATION
\$40 includes lunch, coffee and snacks
Student price \$20

For more information or to register & pay contact Fiona at Mountain View County Agricultural Services:
Ph: 403.335.3311 Ext. 143 E-mail: fmccarthy@mvcountry.com
or contact your local agricultural department.
Registration closes February 18th

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)

Follow us on Twitter at:
#RanchingOpportunities

ALMA
Alberta Livestock & Meat Agency

!!!Don't miss any issues of The Blade!!!
JOIN Grey Wooded Forage Association
or RENEW your membership!

2015-2016 Memberships are available now for \$20.00
and run from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

For more information phone 403-844-2645

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

Membership benefits:

- Receive discounts on Controlled Grazing Courses, seminars, workshops, tours
- Free farm calls and consulting on grazing management, pasture rejuvenation, feed production (annual forages)
- Receive *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____ Your preference: Canada Post____ or Email____
Name____ Phone____
Company Name____ Mobile Phone____
Address____ Fax____
Town____ Prov____ Email____
Postal Code____ Confirm Email____

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

Controlled Grazing & Pasture Management:_____

Growing Annual Forages for Extended Grazing or Swath Grazing:_____

Growing Annual Forages for Silage or Greenfeed:_____

Growing Hay:_____ Ration Balancing:_____

Soil Biology:_____ Pasture Rejuvenation or Renovation:_____

Low Cost Cow/calf Production:_____

Environmental Sustainability:_____ Economical Sustainability:_____

COMMENTS:_____

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Project
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- maternity pens
- loading chutes (portable and stationary)
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- Western Canadian Repair Center, and system design consulting
- weigh scales, load bars, and RFID readers
-

MIRACO LIVESTOCK WATERER DEALER

- designed with clean out plug and completely rust free
- all sizes available for any size of operation
-



PROMOLD DEALER

- solar pasture water troughs, bunk feeders, fence line feeders, mineral feeders
- calf feeders, calf shelters, stand alone panels and windbreaks
- Verified Beef Program reimburses 70% (up to \$5,000.00) of the cost of a new squeeze, load bars, scale and RFID reader.



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Toll Free: 1-855-391-9314

Fax: 403-347-1939

Email: lonestarranchsales@gmail.com

