



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

JANUARY 2014

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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



As Iain suggests in his submission in this month's Director's Corner, now is a great time to start putting together your grazing plans for 2014. It might be, though, that looking at your grazing plan alone is too narrow a view. Maybe you should look at your whole farm cycle, including any feeding periods, swath grazing, grazing of stockpiled forages and so on.

I'd suggest that a nutrient management plan could and should be integrated into this whole farm cycle. Your livestock provide you with an abundance of organic material and nutrients. I think it's important to recognise that we don't want to look at manure as "waste" and therefore, a problem to get rid of. We should look at manure as a valuable organic matter and nutrient resource. As such, we need to manage it to get the most benefit we can from it. It's up to you to make good use of them.

As I wrote about in the December issue of The Blade, we should also plan how we would go about building organic matter in the soil. I kinda suggested that building organic matter in the soil may very well be the largest increaser of pasture productivity and sustainability.

One thing we know for sure is that soils with high organic matter are capable of holding way more plant available water and nutrients than soils low in organic matter.

Grazing management systems that allows forages to fully recover from previous severe grazing contributes largely to soil organic matter through the sloughing off and re-growth of plant roots. Trampled plant materials, manure and urine are major contributors to organic matter and nutrient levels as well, when there is a healthy population of soil macro and microorganisms present in the soil.

Extensive winter feeding systems like stockpile grazing, swath grazing, bale grazing, or any kind of feeding system that's done directly on pasture, or cropland can be used to distribute large amounts of organic materials and nutrients on the land. In fact, these kinds of livestock wintering systems have been increasing so much in popularity in western Canada that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research and extension personnel, to-

gether with their provincial counterparts, have been busy developing guidelines and calculators to help livestock producers in planning their livestock wintering activities.

As a result, a "Nutrient Loading Calculator for In-Field or Extensive Livestock Winter Feeding Systems" and a "Wintering Site Assessment and Design Tool" have been developed. These tools were designed to help you choose where, how much and how often to winter feed and/or bed livestock on a given field or pasture. The idea is to feed and/or bed livestock in such a way as to minimize the potential of contamination of water bodies and water sources with nutrients as a result of livestock and land management choices.

Now, I know we're well into this winter, so it's kinda late for planning this winter. You're likely pretty much committed to what you're doing now based on choices made earlier in 2013. You can, however, get started planning for next winter while you're planning your spring, summer and fall.

If you would like a hand with getting started with these plans, please don't hesitate to call.



I have included information on Alberta's Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Stewardship Program in this issue (Page 5). Funding is available for a variety of projects that allow you to use better livestock wintering and feeding sites.

If you would like help with applying for funding under this program, please don't hesitate to contact me. Free consulting is available to GWFA members, and this includes a farm visit if your farm or ranch is within GWFA's area.

If you don't have an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) completed, please contact me. I can get you connected with an EFP Tech who can help you get it done.

If you have one completed, but don't have your EFP Certificate or Letter of Completion, please contact me, or the EFP Tech who assisted you in completing your EFP.



Director's Corner

By Iain Aitken



With the New Year being a time for resolutions and starting over, many of us in the forage community use this time to start planning for the upcoming grazing season. A good place to start is reviewing last seasons forage production and our management of it - what did and didn't work and what we might do different this year. The extreme snow conditions in my area this winter are certainly giving cause for re-evaluation of wintering systems and proving the importance of having a back-up plan! Time spent forward planning on these long winter nights really pays off when our short but frantic growing season starts.

With so many excellent resources available via the internet, through forage groups like the GWFA and with the Alberta

Agriculture forage specialists just a phone call away no-one need be short of information to make the decisions that can make our businesses more successful.



I wish you all a healthy, happy and successful 2014.

Iain

Wintering Site Tools for Farmers

Careful site selection and good site management practices are both essential to ensure that producers receive the benefits of winter feeding while addressing the potential environmental concerns.

New tools have been developed to assist producers:

- **The Wintering Site Assessment and Design Tool** is designed to assist producers in identifying the environmental risks associated with extensive wintering sites, weighing the risks of one situation against another, and considering the adoption of beneficial management practices to address the risks. The tool covers 5 main considerations: site characteristics, feeding strategies, bedding and shelter management, water source management and post-wintering site management. This publication will soon be able to be downloaded from www.agriculture.alberta.ca or ordered through Alberta

Agriculture and Rural Development's publication office by phoning 1-800-292-5697.

- **The Nutrient Loading Calculator (NLC)** is a Windows-based (Excel) program that estimates the amount of nutrients being imported and deposited in a field from your winter feeding system. The calculator will also determine the amount of bales needed to feed a specific number of animals for a specified number of days. There are two versions of this calculator that essentially calculate the same information, but in a different order: a "Feed to Cow Version" and a "Cow to Feed Version". This calculator can be downloaded from www.agriculture.alberta.ca – select Decision Making Tools – Livestock – Nutrient Loading Calculator



Nutrient Loading Calculator (NLC) for In-Field or Extensive Livestock Winter Feeding Systems

What is the Nutrient Loading Calculator (NLC)?

The Nutrient Loading Calculator (NLC) is a Windows-based (Excel) program developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in collaboration with prairie provincial agricultural departments. The NLC estimates additions of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur on the landscape, from in-field or extensive livestock winter feeding systems. It is designed to help land managers plan detailed feed and cow management strategies to achieve an acceptable or target animal unit density per acre based on appropriate nutrient additions in the field.

How does NLC work?

The calculator estimates the amount of nutrients that are added to a field, when importing feed from offsite. It assumes that all nutrients in the feed are deposited on the landscape in the form of manure, urine, and waste feed, with the exception of nutrients removed as livestock weight gain. The calculator considers only nutrients added to the feeding area itself, and doesn't address nutrients deposited in shelter/bedding areas, watering sites, and other land outside the feeding area. The calculator uses separate worksheets to assess three different feeding systems: whole bales, windrows on the ground, and feeding in a movable trough.

Why are there two versions of the calculator?

There are two versions of this calculator: Feed to Cow version, and Cow to Feed version. Both versions essentially calculate the same information, but in a different order. The feed to cow version may be preferred for fields that have more than enough space to accommodate feed for one feeding season for the entire herd. The cow to feed version may be preferred if the field does not have enough space to accommodate

feed for the entire herd over the full winter feeding season.

System Requirements

- Pentium with Intel, Celeron, AMD Processor
- Windows 2000, XP or Vista

Microsoft Excel or another spreadsheet program capable of handling a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Note: Microsoft Works is not sufficient.

Acknowledgements:

- The principal author of this calculator is: Dennis Haak, Senior Soil Resource Specialist Science and Technology Branch Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 6947 Highway 7, PO Box 1000 Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0
- The author would like to acknowledge the technical support and input provided by the following individuals for the development of this calculator.
 1. Kaytlyn Criddle, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 2. Lorne Klein, Saskatchewan Agriculture
 3. Dennis Lastuka, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 4. Dale Timmerman, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 5. Mitchell Timmerman, Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives
 6. Trevor Wallace, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
 7. Barry Yaremcio, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

For inquiries contact [Trevor Wallace](mailto:Trevor.Wallace@agr.gc.ca) Nutrient Management Specialist with the Agri-Environmental Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, or the author, at the address above, or by email at dennis.haak@agr.gc.ca.

The Value of Trees

On bitterly cold and blustery winter days on the farm, there wasn't much by way of trees to block our view of those fiery red sunsets framed by sundogs over the drifting snow. It's a view I am glad I experienced. But as beautiful as it was, it's not a view I miss.

We grew up knowing the value of a tree. As kids, we heard more than once how every tree on the section of land my parents farmed had been planted and then individually watered by human hands. We lived in a part of the province where the pioneers joked you could say goodbye to someone in the morning and see their campfire on the horizon that night.

By the late 1950s, the maturing farmyard bluff fed out to several miles of young shelterbelts separating the fields. They anchored the soil, they tamed the wind, and they provided a haven for birds, wildlife and beneficial insects. Simply by being there, they made that flat-as-a-pancake prairie landscape seem warmer and more inviting.

Trees still exist out here on the prairie, surrounding remaining farmyards like little enclaves. But shelterbelts and free-standing tree bluffs are rapidly becoming a thing of the past as they are razed in the insatiable drive for more cropland.

Smouldering piles of bulldozed trees are a common sight in rural Manitoba these days. No one seems to know how quickly the trees are disappearing. It's one of those trends the governments of today don't really want to quantify.

In that context, it's no surprise that the federal government is washing its hands of the former PFRA shelterbelt nursery at Indian Head. It's doing it in such a way that it appears the asset will be destroyed rather than transferred as a viable entity into private hands.

A business plan submitted by a coalition of farm groups hoping to take over the 112-year-old agroforestry centre was rejected after it sought \$1.6 million in bridge financing. Given the government's spending habits in other areas, it can't be about the money.

This is a political decision, a tacit admission that the decision makers in our federal Agricultural Department see no public value from trees on the agricultural landscape.

On one hand, you can see government's point. Why subsidize, even in a small way, the cost of trees for one generation only to have the next generation come along and knock them over?

This open season on trees isn't limited to agricultural areas of the Prairies.

Reuters reports that deforestation in the Amazon increased by nearly a third over the past year, as illegal logging cleared 5,842 square km — an area bigger than the size of Prince Edward Island.

Although technically illegal, governments seem helpless, perhaps wilfully so, to stop it.

Some argue the world's remaining undeveloped lands would be protected by introducing more technology to boost yields from existing farmland and by ensuring farmers are adequately paid for what they currently produce. We have no argument with either, provided the technologies used don't destroy our soil and water.

But the reality is, farmers get paid to produce, whether prices are high or whether they are low. Our hunch is the destruction of shelterbelts and forested areas on the Prairies accelerated when prices were high, partly because farmers had more money to invest in tree clearing.

The role of trees in our ecosystem is well understood. But we are only beginning to understand how they might influence our weather.

New research published by Princeton University researchers suggests that total deforestation of the Amazon may significantly reduce rain and snowfall in the western United States, resulting in water and food shortages, and a greater risk of forest fires.

"The big point is that Amazon deforestation will not only affect the Amazon — it will not be contained. It will hit the atmosphere and the atmosphere will carry those responses," wrote David Medvigy, an assistant professor of geosciences at Princeton. "By this study, deforestation of the Amazon could have serious consequences for the food supply of the United States."

Of course, shelterbelts and mixed prairie bluffs aren't the Amazon rainforest. But neither are they benign fixtures in our environment.

Government policy both intentionally and indirectly plays a key role in shaping a society's values. In the past, particularly after the Dirty '30s, adding trees to the landscape was considered development. These days, development means taking them out and pushing more land into production.

You have to wonder what historians will say about this era in world agriculture, and whether future generations will regret our disregard for the value of trees.

By Laura Rance, Editor of the Manitoba Cooperator.



Believe it or not - trees are of great value to the forage industry.

The On-Farm Stewardship Program is accepting applications at this time!

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Eligible projects

Eligible projects must fit in one or more of the following Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). *In the website you can click on each of these for more information.*

[101-Riparian Area Fencing and Management](#)

[102-Year-Round/Summer Watering Systems](#)

[103-Portable Shelters and Windbreaks](#)

[104-Wetland Restoration](#)

[201-Improved Manure Storage Facilities](#)

[201-Improved Manure Storage Facilities](#)

[202-Livestock Facility Runoff Control](#)

[203-Livestock Facility and Permanent Wintering Site Relocation](#)

[301-Improved Pesticide Management](#)

[302-Fuel Storage](#)

[303-Used Oil Storage](#)

Program Purpose Statement

This Program funds projects that help livestock and crop producers implement on-farm management practices in five areas that positively impact water quality.

Program Description

The Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Stewardship Program helps producers implement projects and management practices that have a direct and positive impact on water quality. Funding is available in five categories that can influence water quality. Each category has its own program application.

- **Category A: Grazing Management.** This includes riparian area fencing and management, summer and year-round watering systems, portable shelters or windbreaks and wetland restoration (some specific requirements apply; contact program lead for information.)
- **Category B: Manure and Livestock Facilities Management.** This includes improvements to manure storage facilities, livestock facilities runoff control and livestock facilities relocation.
- **Category C: Improved Pest Management.** This includes new purchases of low-drift nozzles and air induction tips, sprayer cones and shrouds, chemical handling systems with jug rinse, sectional control operation system, sprayer boom height control and weather monitoring equipment (upgrades, maintenance and replacement of existing equipment are not eligible).
- **Category D: Fuel and Used Oil Storage.** This includes the

purchase of new double-walled fuel tanks that are CSA or ULC approved and/or double-walled storage tanks for used oil that are identified with a ULC-652 name plate or equivalent. For an application for fuel storage to be accepted, at least one old fuel tank must be decommissioned.

- **Category E: Innovative Stewardship Solutions.** Contact a Program Lead to discuss your innovative idea prior to applying for funding.

How are costs shared?

Producers in livestock and crop production will be reimbursed for 30%, 50% or 70% (depending on the project) of costs related to management practices that improve water quality in the areas outlined above, to a maximum of \$50,000 per applicant. Please note that some areas of funding have project maximums between \$2,000 and \$30,000. Refer to the Eligible Projects section on the website for more information.

Multiple projects are allowed under the program, and projects must be completed within two years of the application approval date.

Conditions for eligibility:

- You must be an active producer operating in Alberta.
- **You must have completed an Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).**
- **You must submit a copy of your EFP Certificate or Letter of Completion along with your Application.**
- If applying for projects under Category B, you must meet the following definition of *breeding herd*:
- **Breeding herd:** a ruminant livestock herd, which includes pregnant or lactating females; replacement animals up to 30% of female herd number; male animals used for the purposes of breeding the said female herd; and cull animals up to 20% of the female herd.
- If your livestock facility is a Confined Feeding Operation (see definition below), you are not eligible for Category B under the Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Stewardship Program. Please refer to the Growing Forward 2 Confined Feeding Operations Program instead.
- **Confined Feeding Operation (CFO):** an agricultural operation where poultry or livestock are confined for the purposes of growing, finishing or sustaining by means other than grazing, and does not include a breeding herd.

Continued on Pg 6



Application process:

1. Complete the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan.
2. Submit the appropriate application, which may include: site plan (aerial photo), location and cost of structures, location and cost of earthwork, estimated engineering and/or consulting fees, and the location of any water diversions. (Please note that you may be required to provide additional site-specific details).
3. You may begin work on your project once you have received a letter confirming your application's submission. However, if your application is not approved, the Program will not cover these expenses.
4. Program staff may conduct a site inspection to ensure eligibility and to provide technical assistance. Activity Codes 104 and 203 require a site inspection prior to the start of the project.
5. You will receive a Grant Approval Letter from the Program Coordinator.
6. You can then begin work (if you haven't already) and complete your project by the date specified in your Grant Approval Letter.
7. You must submit your Reimbursement Claim Form and Final Report no later than the date specified in your Grant Approval Letter. You may be required to provide additional documentation as stated in your Grant Approval Letter.
8. Program staff may inspect your site to ensure completion of the project.

9. You will receive your grant payment. The Program is NOT retroactive; a program application must be received by the Program Area before purchases can be made. Contact the Program Coordinator for more details. To find out more about the program, or to speak with the Program Coordinator, please contact the **Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276)**.

For more information

Phone: 310-FARM (3276)

Email: GrowingForward@gov.ab.ca

Web: www.growingforward2.alberta.ca



You are what you drink

Sedgewick: Jan. 21, 7:00-9:30pm
Flagstaff County office

Wainwright: Jan. 23, 7:00-9:30pm
Communiplex (Hall 2)

Camrose: Feb. 5, 7:00-9:30pm
Stoney Creek Centre

Wetaskiwin: Feb. 6, 7:00-9:30pm
By-the-Lake Park

Hughenden: Feb. 11, 7:00-9:30pm
Community Hall

New Brigden: Feb. 13, 1:00-3:30pm
Community Hall

Castor: Feb. 20, 7:00-9:30pm
County of Paintearth office

**What sources of water do you rely on?
What risks might impact the quality and quantity
of those water sources?**

Source water protection is all about protecting our drinking water at the "source" - both the groundwater that flows beneath our feet and the surface water that flows through our rivers and streams.

Join us to learn more about opportunities for source water protection in your region.

Plan to attend! These workshops are free, but pre-registration is appreciated. Call 780-672-0276 or email sarah@battleriverwatershed.ca to register.

Can't make it out? Visit www.battleriverwatershed.ca to learn more about this important topic and contact us to share your thoughts.



JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW
TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

AARD Field Offices – A Great Resource!

While there are many ways to contact Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD) you may prefer talking to someone face-to-face, rather than over the phone or via email. If this is the case, then look no further than your local AARD Field Office.

The ministry is accessible to the public through Field Offices and more specifically, Field Office Administrators (FOAs). There are 13 Field Offices located throughout the province – Airdrie, Barrhead, Brooks, Camrose, Fairview, Grande Prairie, Leduc, Lethbridge, Olds, Red Deer, Stettler, Stony Plain and Vermilion.

FOAs assist clients by providing up-to-date agricultural and program information and connection to department staff.

For instance, FOA's can act as your direct link to:

- Specialists within the department
- AARD Publications & Factsheets
- AARD online information

They often provide additional support to clients in regards to:

- Growing Forward 2
- Age Verification
- Farm Fuel Renewals
- Premises Identification

FOAs also have on site tools to loan out, give away and / or present to clients such as:

- Ear tag readers
- Livestock Identification Services (LIS) manifest books
- Rat displays and help with proper identification

Field offices are open from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (except statutory holidays). After hours information is available from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development by accessing the department's website at:

www.agriculture.alberta.ca or by email: duke@gov.ab.ca

Remember this great resource when you are assessing your agricultural needs in the New Year!

Tricia Simon

Communication Coordinator
Ag-Info Centre
Alberta Agriculture &
Rural Development
310-FARM (3276)



JJB Ranch

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

Offering Electric Fencing Solutions by:



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

www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

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

* Restricted to members only!

gwfa1@telus.net

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



AFIN
ALBERTA FORAGE INDUSTRY NETWORK

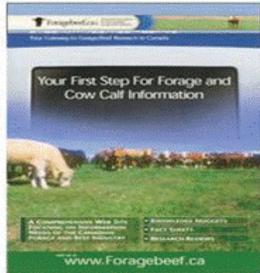
www.albertaforages.ca
info@albertaforages.ca

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

www.foragebeef.ca

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



LivestockTransport.ca



Livestock Help Line & Resource Team
To report livestock care concerns CALL
1.800.506.2273

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 On-Farm Stewardships Program of Growing Forward 2.

Alberta EFP
Environmental Farm Plan

LADIES LIVESTOCK LESSONS

January 17th-18th 2014

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



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

*If you have one, bring your own mat

Breakfast 8:30 to 9:30

Hands on Calf Health with Dr. Corinne Eliason from Olds College

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

*Bring your recipe for the 2104 LLL Recipe Book!

Registration

\$40 includes meals, coffee & snacks

For more information or to register & pay contact Lee-Ann at Mountain View County Agricultural Services Phone: 403.335.3311 Ext 143

e-mail: lgaudette@mvcounty.com or contact your local conservation staff.

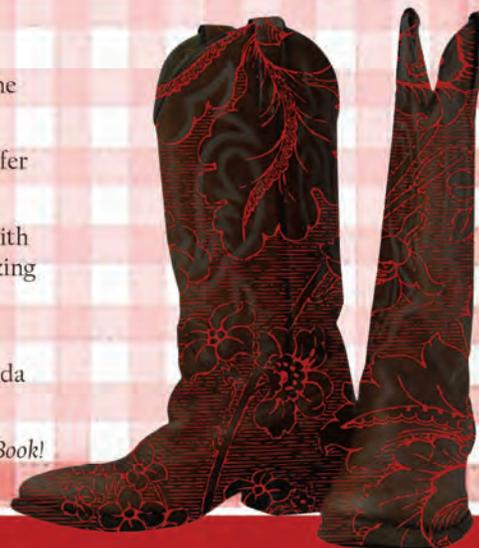
Registration closes January 10th

Hotel Accommodations

Olds Pomeroy Ph: 403.556.8815

Olds Best Western Ph: 403.559.5900

Olds Ramada Ph: 403.507.8359.



Alberta Ag-Info Centre

310-farm

Phone 310-FARM (3276) toll-free to contact Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, or visit one of our field offices across the province for your agricultural information needs.

Canada

Alberta
Government

Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

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
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)





Western Canadian Holistic Management

2014 CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 10 - 11, 2014

Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition – Lloydminster, Saskatchewan

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Jim Reger** - Living a Life of Meaning and Purpose
- **Kathleen Charpentier**
- **Jackie Northey (CEO)**
Cultivating Connections – Social Media and Agriculture
- **Dr. Jill Clapperton** -
Healthy Soil for a Healthy World

Sunday, February 9th, 2014

Please join us for a
WINE & CHEESE
 starting at 8:00 p.m. at the
 Days Inn and Suites in Lloydminster

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

\$165.00 per person

Deadline: January 31, 2014

LATE REGISTRATION

\$200.00 per person

after January 31, 2014

STUDENT FEE \$125.00

Registration is non-refundable
 Registration includes two
 lunches, banquet, breakfast
 ticket and admission to all
 sessions.

Additional banquet tickets
 \$30.00 each

**HEALTHY PEOPLE
 HEALTHY LAND AND
 HEALTHY PROFITS**

Register Now

Phone: 780-727-4447

www.westcentralforage.com



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

**2014 – 2015 Memberships are available now for \$20.00
and run from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015
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.

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Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

August 2009 Agdex 130/536-1

Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

Intensive management of pastures can increase productivity and profitability, but it also increases the risk of nutrient loss and environmental risks. Nutrient management is the key to maintaining the health of the pasture and the soil.

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 nutrients move through 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 added to the system and outputs are removed or lost. Losses are nutrients that are not accounted for in the system.

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Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

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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 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!

Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland

Wealthy Rancher Calculator

Canada

Grazing Notebook

Name: _____
Year(s): _____

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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 are minimized
- less forage is lost to weather
- less forage is trampled
- less forage is lost to fire
- less forage is lost to insects
- less forage is lost to disease
- less forage is lost to frost
- less forage is lost to snow
- less forage is lost to wind
- less forage is lost to rain
- less forage is lost to mud
- less forage is lost to manure
- less forage is lost to urine
- less forage is lost to urine
- less forage is lost to urine

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 if it is sward until fall or winter. Winter grazed cows are often required to forage through more than 50 cm (12 in.) of snow, so stockpiled forage plants must be tall.

Species selection

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

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

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

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

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