



The Blade

Monthly Newsletter of the

Grey Wooded Forage Association

January-February 2020



COMING UP

DATE	TITLE	LOCATION
March 4-5	Alberta Beef Industry Conference	Cambridge Red Deer Hotel
March 12	EFP/CAP Workshop	Learning Centre, Rocky Mountain House
June 11	GWFA Summer Showcase	Westerner Park, Red Deer
June 12 (tentative)	Invasive Species Workshop	To Be Determined
Aug 15-16	Alberta Open Farm Days	See website: albertafarmdays.ca

Contact us:

Box 1448
5039-45 Street,
Rocky Mtn. House, AB. T4T 1B1
403-844-2645
www.greywoodedforageassociation.com
Business manager:
office@greywoodedforageassociation.com
Ag Field Specialist:
field@greywoodedforageassociation.com
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Published by: *Brenda Kossowan*
Cover Photo: Dylan Biggs and Rusty working
cattle at Ranching Opportunities/*Brenda Kossowan photo.*

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

Office Report

By Brenda Kossowan

A hearty Welcome! to all of the new members who have joined Grey Wooded Forage Association in recent weeks, and Welcome Back! to those who have returned after being absent for the past year or two. The board and staff have truly enjoyed connecting with you at events we have co-hosted during the 2019-20 conference season. The annual series of fun, networking and learning kicked off with the Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health and Grazing in December and wrapped up in Olds on February 13 with Ranching Opportunities, a project of the Red-Bow Ag Partnership.

As co-hosts and partners in all of these events—along with a few of our own—the people here at GWFA feel encouraged to hear input through the evaluations submitted by participants. Access to these events, including significant discounts in some cases, is among the benefits enjoyed by membership in your local forage or agricultural research association. After all, our mandate is to deliver the best information available on technology and methods that help producers achieve the best results possible on the land they manage. Those results may include, but are not limited to improved animal health, extended grazing, improved soil health and a better working relationship with the environment that provides those benefits.

We are now working on a project that demonstrates to policy makers and the general public the high value that grazing ruminants hold in sustaining a healthy environment. The more voices we have in our crowd, the better our chances are of getting that message across to the people who most need to hear it.

Annual membership in the GWFA costs a measly \$40 per farm and brings you to the table in everything we do. Please look at the form on the back cover for more details on membership benefits. Dues paid now will keep you in good standing to the end of March in 2021.

Our own workshops, created in partnership with local municipalities and private sponsors, have produced some great results, attracting



new members and bringing a few who had allow their memberships to lapse back to the fold. These include workshops on the Environmental Farm Plan and Canadian Agricultural Partnership granting program, co-hosted with Agricultural Financial Services Corp. (AFSC), Mountain View, Lacombe and Red Deer Counties, ALUS representatives from those counties and The Co-

operators in Ponoka.

We had good turnouts as well at grazing workshops held in Westeros and Bowden, featuring Steve Kenyon from Greener Pastures and supported by FBC, ALUS, Wetaskiwin County, Mountain View County and Vold, Jones & Vold Auction Company, Ponoka. Congratulations to Phillip McKinnon of Didsbury, winner of the gift basket offered by Clearwater County as a door prize for the Bowden workshop.

In closing, special thanks to Danielle Klooster of Danikloo consulting for guiding us through an update of our Strategic Plan and creation of an action plan to make it work.



403-391-8443 | danielle@danikloo.com



Westerose-area producer Keri James and GWFA's Greg Paranich listen closely as dryland rancher Dylan Biggs shares his expertise in using stock dogs during Ranching Opportunities on February 13, hosted at Olds College by the Red-Bow Ag Partnership/Brenda Kossowan photos

News Release: *Cleanfarms Update*

Feb 3, 2020

It's winter on the prairies, so it's time to empty grain bags to move last fall's harvest to dryers and then to market. For growers who use grain bags, that means recycling them instead of landfilling, storing or worse, burning them. For some Alberta farmers, this year could be the first time they've had an option to recycle. That's where Cleanfarms comes in.

Under the newly minted "Alberta Ag-plastic. Recycle It!" program led by the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) and operated by Cleanfarms, farmers will find it more convenient to locate places that will take empty grain bags and twine for recycling.

For year one of this three-year pilot, Cleanfarms has established 20 collection sites throughout the province. Most are currently taking rolled, tied grain bags of any size, and twine for recycling. Some, however, just take grain bags and a few take only twine. The full roster of collection locations and what they take can be found on Cleanfarms.ca

According to a recent survey conducted for Cleanfarms, 92 per cent of Alberta farmers (growing crops or livestock) would be very (68 per cent) or somewhat (24 per cent) likely to participate in a recycling program for grain bags if a collection site was in their area. Similarly, 86 per cent said they would be very (56 per cent) or somewhat (30 per cent) likely to participate in a twine recycling program if a collection facility was in their area.

Farm plastic waste studies undertaken by Cleanfarms estimated Alberta farmers generate as much as 2,500 tonnes of low-density polyethylene grain bags and up to 3,000 tonnes of polypropylene twine annually, and all of this is available for recycling.

"Alberta farmers are ready and willing to recycle used grain bags and twine, and with approximately 5500 tonnes of viable agricultural plastic available to be recycled, that's an unbeatable combination for a successful program.

Plus, those recovered resources will be made into new products for farm use. This new Alberta recycling program is a win for everyone," says Cleanfarms General Manager Barry Friesen. Recycled twine is used in many different applications, including roofing tiles and new twine.

Farmers preparing to recycle grain bags should know they need to shake them to remove debris, roll and tightly secure them with twine. Some collection sites have rollers and compactors available so farmers should contact sites for information beforehand.

Twine should not be mixed with any other plastics and needs to be shaken to remove debris, placed loose in a Cleanfarms recycling bag and tied closed. Cleanfarms recycling bags are available at rural municipalities and Alberta Ag-plastic. Recycle It! collection sites.

Farmers should contact collection sites for hours of operation and to schedule a drop-off time if assistance is required for unloading. Information is provided at Cleanfarms.ca

The pilot is being funded through a grant from the Government of Alberta and administered by Alberta Beef Producers.



About Cleanfarms

Cleanfarms is a non-profit industry stewardship organization committed to environmental responsibility through the proper management of agricultural plastic packaging and product waste. Recycled agricultural plastics are made into new products such as farm drainage tile, flexible irrigation pipe and plastic bags. Cleanfarms.ca

About the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group

The APRG is a group made up of over 20 stakeholder organizations from sectors across Alberta representing municipalities, producers, non-profits, recyclers and retailers among others. For a full list of members and more details please visit www.aprg.ca



Building Your 2020 Information Launch Pad

By Greg Paranych, Ag Field Specialist

This is the time of the year where many farm and ranch operators get serious about deliberate planning for the next season. The calendar is full of advertised workshops, conferences, and seminars that give us the updates and forecasts for the upcoming year, and predictions and suggestions for your operational success. It is also the season of important input purchase decisions ranging from crop and forage seed, fertility, herd bull purchases, and management practices. A lot of information comes our way and we need to sit back and examine what is our best path forward. In a sense, some of the decisions and plans we make now build an “information launch pad” for our direction into the active spring season.

In the case of forages, we have seen a lot of changes from our standard selections of hay or pasture mixtures and plant traits to consider. Consider your forage stand options when evaluating its productive status. We can't know at this point if we have winter damage or kill in the stand, but we can prepare in our minds what our Plan A or Plan B could be. If it is severe, are we prepared to terminate the stand and start over? Can we ensure we have the right fertilizer blend lined up with our supplier if we need to give it a critical boost for recovery? Will the price per tonne of fertilizer give us the returned value in forage if hay is \$80, \$100, or \$120 per tonne? How much hay per acre do we need to get for the return on investment? A worthwhile discussion to have.

If a new stand is being planned, then right now is the time to be securing your forage seed. The best fit for a hay or pasture stand is important to make sure we have the right forage for the right job. Most of us are fairly sure of what species work best for our environments. There are some areas of selection we might give more consideration to. For example, if alfalfa longevity is important then pay more attention to some of the dormancy and winter hardiness ratings. The higher dormancy rating, the earlier that variety will go dormant in the fall (i.e. 4 vs 2), reducing active growth and exposure to early frost damage. Winter hardiness is a score for how well the variety will survive winter freezing stress. A lower score number (i.e. 1.5 versus 2.5) will indicate a more winter hardy variety. Also having good disease resistance profiles should be considered in selecting for durability. Whether legume or grass, varietal maturity should be important to you in fitting the right product into your harvest schedule. A two-cut system might favor early maturity to coincide with an early cut, as well as rapid regrowth for the second cut. If you are in a single cut system, especially if your hay harvest is spread out due to large acres, distance or weather delays, a later maturity will ensure you still have good quality by the time you get to cutting hay.

We can think about forage seed considerations, in the same terms as we do in herd bull selection and advance purchasing. We can apply the same principles in selecting seed as we do for genetic



and seedstock selection. As always, seed quality and purity should be a priority. I've discussed this before, but it is well worth repeating. As a purchaser, you have the ability to request a Seed Certificate to identify the key traits of your seed including percentages of germination, pure live seed, and of course the presence of any weed seeds. Many people are surprised, when they are buying Canada No.1 Certified seed (blue tag), by the amount of weed seeds that are permitted by legislation to be in the bag. Although some weeds are listed as noxious or even restricted in the Alberta Weed Control Act, there are some that have tolerances in forage seeds. *Ask for the certificate* for the lot of seed a vendor has to sell and see what else is in the bag other than forage seed! Some may surprise you for example, scentless chamomile or white cockle. They are listed as the number of seeds per 50gm. The number may be low, but that is for 50 grams, not the bag, so it could amount to more than you bargained for. You have the legal right to request the information, and the vendor is obliged to provide it. If they don't, then you will have to decide if that is the quality of seed you want to put in your field.

Another important factor in seed purchase is timing. About now is when you can take advantage of any promotions for early order/purchase discounts, but also to secure seed that could be in high demand or short supply before you are “in-season.” Talk to your supplier about what advantages are available to you.

In more general terms, there is a lot of information coming at us from many directions. I will share some words of advice given to me at a recent workshop. Decisions can be hard, and as humans, if we don't believe it, we tend to ignore it. With so much information, we must be careful that we don't drown in data. Select information that gives you insights and solutions for your ranch. Assess your ranch needs versus wants. Move from data collection to business decisions. I have also come to experience that advice given is not necessarily advice taken. Sometimes we learn to do by doing.

I hope this gives you some considerations for building an information launch pad to move you forward into 2020.

Is your annual compensation review coming this year?

It is time to start planning.

I can help. Give me a call.



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GET \$100 PER 50lb BAG BACK ON FORAGE SEED FROM NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS AND DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Forage crops provide sustainable grazing sources for livestock and offer diversity in crop rotations. They also help protect against soil erosion and help retain the land's nutrient values.

Now available, the Forage Program from DUC and Nutrien Ag Solutions is helping conservation-minded producers, like you, with the cost of forage seed. The program includes the extensive line-up of Proven® Seed forage varieties.

The Forage Program is offered to producers within DUC's critical habitat areas. So, while you're diversifying land use for your farming operation, you'll also be enhancing areas that can serve as nesting habitat for waterfowl and wildlife.

Other incentives are available to producers who sign an agreement under this program. Talk to your local Nutrien Ag Solutions retailer today, or call DUC's Craig Bishop at **403-607-5805** or c_bishop@ducks.ca



Terms and conditions: The Forage Program incentive will be paid on full-retail price seed purchases. Any discounts will be deducted from the incentive.

Proven® Seed is a registered trademark of Nutrien Ag Solutions (Canada) Inc. Nutrien Ag Solutions and Design is a trademark of Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc.

JANUARY 2020

Alberta farmers Forage Ahead

Story submitted by Ducks Unlimited Canada

It's a bitterly cold day with the wind blowing hard from the north and few trees to hide behind.

Scott Proudfoot, though, has grown to cherish the wide-open spaces in the Special Areas of south eastern Alberta.

"I've fallen in love with it out here. It's one of the last places in the world you can see prairie for miles and miles," said Proudfoot, of Youngstown, Alta.

Each day when he hauls feed or moves fence for the 1,500-head cow herd, it's not unusual to see a snowy owl gazing down from its perch on a power pole or fence post.

"It's amazing to know that this is their winter vacation spot," said Proudfoot, who admires the animals and the ranchers who call the Special Areas home.

The Special Areas was formed in 1938 by the provincial government when the drought of the Dirty Thirties forced more than 25,000 farmers off about 1.5 million acres of homestead land. Some farmers and ranchers stayed, changed the way they farmed and learned to adapt to the land, tackle drought, manage crops and acknowledge the areas' special challenges.

It's now home to Proudfoot, his wife, Kirsten, and children Landon, 4, Carter, 2 and at the end of January, another newborn son.

"It'll be three crazy boys," laughs Proudfoot, as he takes a break from feeding cattle for a coffee at the kitchen table.

Proudfoot grew up on an acreage near Pincher Creek and took Range Management at the University of Alberta. He and Kirsten, set down roots to farm with her father, Ian Goodbrand, also of the Youngstown, Alta. area. While their house now is surrounded by a 50-year-old caragana hedge and has a yard full of children's swings, slides and other toys for the growing family, the long-term plan for this family farm is to have flexibility, says Proudfoot, who ran yearlings for a while, had some feeder cattle, and now has settled on growing hay on a section of land.

Last year, with some of his land badly in need of rejuvenation, Proudfoot turned to DUC and Nutrien Ag Solutions to take advantage of their forage program and put 110 acres of land into the program with Nutrien's Proven Seed. Not only did the program help ensure a good start for the grassland, but he received \$100 per 50 lb. bag cash back which helped him cover some of his input costs.

"It's an attractive program and it helps covers your cost, especially in the first year," says Proudfoot.

Kale Scarff, DUC's conservation program specialist for the Special Areas, grew up in nearby Oyen and works with producers like Proudfoot to encourage forage conversation and perennial grassland

crops.

"The program works really well for farmers," says Scarff. "They don't have to change a lot of things and it rewards them for practicing good land management techniques. The land under the program must be kept in hay for 10 years after it is established."

Proudfoot chose Proven's Rangemaster, a grass seed mix of brome, wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass and fescue for his goal of selling small square baled grass hay to horse and cattle owners. The other 530 acres in the section were seeded to a mixture of grass, alfalfa and crested wheat--also for hay.

"Everyone is always looking for hay. It's worked good for me," said Proudfoot, who bought a second hand small square baler and stack wagon to help ensure the hay is put up in good condition.

"It takes a while for grass to get established out here. This is year three of a pretty bad drought, which is why I stuck to the drought tolerant varieties. You are not going to be pushing production out here in the Special Areas," says Proudfoot.

Scarff has toured many of the region's ranches and knows that producers like the program. It also gives them confidence so that they can establish grass in a unique area of the province. Anyone wanting more information about the program should contact their local Nutrien Ag Solution retailer or DUC's Craig Bishop at c_bishop@ducks.ca.

PRAIRIE COVER CROP SURVEY



**DID YOU GROW A COVER CROP IN 2019?
WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW!**

Dr. Yvonne Lawley is conducting a 3-year survey to find out the number of acres, types of farmers, and the range of cover crop species grown on the Prairies (AB, SK, MB).

We want to hear from farmers growing:

- Fall cover crops
- Full season cover crops
- Cover crops for grazing

Add your voice to our 5 minute survey:

- On Twitter – @YvonneLawley_UM look for the pinned link to the survey at the top of Dr. Lawley's Twitter feed
- On any device with a web browser using this link: <https://forms.gle/DwCmt2WFoP3CtzhH8>
- Send an email to Yvonne.Lawley@umanitoba.ca

Follow the 2019 Prairie Cover Crop Survey on Twitter:

@YvonneLawley_UM, #prairiecovercrops

Steve Fillinger
IT Specialist

Logic
IT Solutions

403 844 3911

sfillinger@iologicit.com
www.iologicit.com

Should all forages be valued the same? How Forage Energy Content Impacts Lactating Cow Rations
Alberta AgInfo Centre

There have been many articles written over the years that have indicated that feed testing is a good way to minimize winter feeding costs. When forage prices are low, overfeeding is a lesser concern in the minds of some producers. This year however, even with an abundance of hay, bale silage, or swath grazing in many parts of the province, quality is much lower than the 5-year average. Protein is down 20 to 40 per cent compared to normal and energy content of the forages is down 10 to 20 per cent. This impacts the amount of energy and protein supplemented to keep the cows in good condition. This article will focus on how over-mature, rained on, or poorer quality forage impacts lactating cow feeding costs. Is there a need to adjust forage prices based on quality? It is recommended that a lactating mature cow receive a ration that contains 65 per cent TDN and 11 per cent protein on a dry matter basis (*AgDex 420/52-4 Beef Ration Rules of Thumb*). When feed test results have energy contents between 55 and 63 per cent TDN, how does this impact the amount of grain that is needed to meet energy requirements? For this example: A 1,500-pound lactating cow is offered forage on a free choice basis. Temperature is in the -20°C range. Energy content in the forage varies between 55 and 63 per cent. Barley grain is valued at \$ 230 per tonne (\$5.00 per bushel) and has an 83 per cent TDN value. Using CowByte® to balance the ration, the following table indicates the amount of grain that is required to meet the 65 per cent TDN requirement.

TDN Value in forage	Barley (lbs. / head / day)	Cost / head / day
55	12	\$ 1.25
57	10	\$ 1.04
59	7.5	\$ 0.78
61	5	\$ 0.52
63	1.5	\$ 0.16

Table #1: Grain inclusion and cost to keep a lactating cow ration at 54 per cent TDN. Lower quality forages tend to have higher fibre content than a higher quality feed.

It takes longer for the low-quality forage to pass through the digestive system, thus feed intake increases as the quality increases. That is why the amount of grain required is not a linear function of TDN value. The higher quality forage requires less grain supplementation than the lower quality feed. It could be a difference of 10.5 pounds of grain per head per day at an additional cost of \$1.09 per head per day for the extra grain. It is not uncommon for hay to be sold by the bale, or cents per pound. No differential is factored in for quality. With the different supplemental feeding costs, should the lower quality forage be discounted? The Beef Cattle Research Council has a webpage, “Feed Testing and Analysis for Beef Cattle” (<http://www.beefresearch.ca/research/feed-value-estimator.cfm>). Two thirds down the web page, there is a tool to evaluate the “Economic Value of Feeds Based on Nutrient Content”. Barley and canola meal are used as the base to estimate the value of energy (barley) and protein (canola meal). After entering the current prices for barley and canola meal, and the feed test results for the feeds in question, the calculator provides a relative value for each forage. For this example, barley is valued at \$ 230/tonne (\$5.00/bushel in Lethbridge) and canola at \$293/tonne (price at the crushing plant), the relative value of each forage can be determined. Prices are quoted from the Feb 14, 2020 Weekly Crop Market Review from Alberta Agriculture. Hays of different TDN and protein contents are evaluated based on feed test results. What is the “relative value” of the forages containing different quality? Using an 11 per cent protein and 65 per cent TDN forage as the standard, discounts based on nutrient content are listed in Table #2. Forage price discount (\$ per Tonne) based on nutrient content. Moisture content of 15 per cent in the forage. The reduction in protein creates a lower discount rate compared to a loss of energy. A 0.5 per cent reduction in protein reduces the value of the forage by roughly \$1.45 per tonne. A two per cent reduction in TDN reduces the value of the forage by roughly \$4.60 per tonne. Buying forage by sight without having a feed test result is a gamble. Color, smell, and texture of the feed are helpful in evaluating a forage, but the only way to obtain the true nutritional quality is by taking a representative sample of the forage and have it analyzed. When the feed test results are evaluated, it is possible that the initial contract price of the forage will need to be re-adjusted based on quality—no different than adjusting price when considering moisture content.

Discount \$ / tonne							
TDN %	65	63	61	59	57	55	53
Protein %							
11	0	4.67	9.34	14.01	18.68	23.35	28.02
10.5	1.44	6.11	10.78	15.45	20.12	24.80	29.47
10	2.89	7.56	12.23	16.90	21.57	26.24	30.91
9.5	4.34	9.01	13.68	18.35	23.02	27.69	32.36
9	5.78	10.45	15.12	19.79	24.47	29.14	33.81
8.5	7.23	11.90	16.57	21.24	25.91	30.58	35.25
8	8.68	13.35	18.12	22.69	27.37	32.03	36.70

A Look to the Future

By Alan Hall, Executive Director, Agriculture Research and Extension Council of Alberta

Hi everyone.

Reflecting on the past year, it has been a bit of a whirl! It has been a real challenge and most enjoyable on a part time basis.

The great work of and the results of the efforts of Forage and Applied Research Associations throughout the province had not gone unnoticed. Farmers throughout Alberta continue to be involved with and derive significant value from the many projects and extension efforts associations have provided. I hear this directly from farmers and ranchers as I travel around. There have been several discussions with our new Provincial Government over the past year, and their support is so very much appreciated.

Kudo's to our Minister as he has worked hard through several visits and discussions with ARECA and various associations. For example, on October 24, 2019 budget night, our Minister asked for a one-hour conference call with all associations. ARECA organized the call and the call happened, and Minister showed strong support for the role and work of associations. Minister committed to continued support and we are sorting out details around financing and expect this to be resolved soon. On going core funding coupled with access to CAP funding for projects will serve associations well. Relationships have strengthened with the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association. CFGA sees ARECA as a key ingredient in coordinating their programs and funding here in Alberta. We are engaged with them in developing a new module for Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), and in figuring out how grasslands can be paid for carbon sequestration. These efforts will continue as resource sustainability and improvement continue to take on importance to the agricultural sector. In addition, ARECA is continuing its carbon sequestration on pastures efforts that were started 3 years ago. Renewed CAP funding for this undertaking will result in additional funding for those associations involved.

As we are all aware, some associations are not currently members of ARECA. However, we continue to work with them on a number of fronts. Some CAP projects involved both ARECA members and non-members. We have worked on coordinating messaging and discussions with Minister and Commissions. All associations were involved in the planned MLA reception back in November that unfortunately at last minute had to be rescheduled as MLAs were called away to a special Caucus meeting. We are looking to reschedule this as the focus was farmer led research and helping MLAs see the merits of having a strong applied research and extension associations component of the farmer led research changes that are under development.



ARECA has been in preliminary discussions with the Province to take on a possible leadership role with respect to resource sustainability. Early days yet in these discussions, so the coming weeks/months may lead to something. Currently ARECA is in the second year of a 5 year contract to deliver EFP throughout the province. We have been approached by a couple of companies who want to use EFP for their sustainable sourcing of crops.

This is a new application of EFP but one that is not unexpected as the crop industry evolves to sustainable sourcing approaches.

ARECA and our member associations were active together in Trade Shows around three conferences this past year:

- Canadian Beef Industry Conference in Calgary in August
- Soil Health and Grazing Conference in Edmonton in December
- Provincial ASB Conference in Banff in January

On a final note, we have been very involved in the farmer led research discussions, consultations, and soon into developing the next steps as this change continues to evolve. There will be some superb opportunities for forage and applied research associations to continue to bring results and good value to farmers and ranchers.

When we look at rural Alberta, for the most part other than the Highway 2 corridor, the associations are the primary capacity for applied/adaptive research and extension in our province. Farmers and ranchers are counting on the farmer/rancher led associations to keep up the good work!

The continued strong focus on reducing production and quality risk, optimizing use of inputs and production systems for strong profits and best economic yield, and sustaining/improving our soil, water and ecosystem resources over time that will help both productivity and access to markets for what we produce; all need associations shoulders to the wheel. We are well positioned to generate significant value to our ranchers and farmers.

By keeping our focus on results ranchers and farmers are expecting from us, and using that as the business case to raise the financing necessary, we will be successful.

We have a very strong applied/adaptive research and extension role to play in whatever the changes are that are forthcoming with respect to farmer led research.

Alan Hall, Executive Director, ARECA
403-506-1105
ed@areca.ab.ca



EXPERIENCE.LEARN.GROW

A FARM EXPERIENCE OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 15 & 16, 2020

albertafarmdays.ca

CLEARWATER COUNTY



FREE ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN WORKSHOP

FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS WHO:

- Have never completed an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP);
- Have an EFP completed more than 10 years ago; and,
- Wish to be eligible for cost sharing funding with various programs under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP).

A CAP representative will be available to share information on updated cost share funding for current CAP programs.

Laptops will be available on site for assistance.

Space is limited. RSVP required by March 10.

THURS. MARCH 12, 2020

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Learning Center in Rocky Mountain House
4934 50th street
(downstairs)



GREY WOODED
FORAGE ASSOCIATION



CALL 403-846-4040 OR EMAIL DENS@CLEARWATERCOUNTY.CA

The Conversation on Conservation in 2020

By Ken Lewis, Conservation Coordinator



2020 – another decade, another new year of supporting our farmers, ranchers and acreage owners who are producing increased ecosystem services on their land. When they do this, society benefits.

There will be a few minor tweaks to our conservation programming in 2020.

With our **ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services)** program, we will continue to cost share with our farmers and ranchers who adopt agricultural practices that produce increased

ecosystem services. These are things like riparian area management fencing, alternative livestock watering systems, creek crossings, planting eco-buffers, etc.

With ALUS, farmers and ranchers can get up to 85 per cent of costs covered. Plus, they can enroll the acres involved, into the ALUS Program and get paid up to \$50 per acre per year.

In 2020, we will be looking to work with farmers and ranchers across the County, including those in the Medicine River watershed, and those with fish habitat like creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Also for our farmers and ranchers, in 2020 we will host “Finish Your **EFP (Environmental Farm Plan)**” sessions.

These will be open sessions, for those who have started their on-line EFP but need some space and time to work on it or get it done.

We’ll be contacting you directly if you’ve started your EFP in recent years to give you the details, or keep an eye out in the County News.

Our **Green Acreages Program** is for Red Deer County acreage owners. We provide up to 75 per cent of the costs of doing things on your acreage, that benefit the environment. In 2020, we will be focusing the program on actions that provide maximum environmental benefits for the public, like biologically diverse shelterbelts (a.k.a. eco-buffers), decommissioning cess pools, and creating habitat for native pollinators.

To find out more about ALUS, EFP, or Green Acreages, please call me any time at 403-505-9038 or klewis@rdcounty.ca.

I look forward to working with many more amazing farmers, ranchers and acreage owners in 2020!



A Weston Family Initiative

You’ve Got What it Takes

Farming isn’t easy. It takes more than just a plot of land, machinery and seed. It takes experience. It takes passion and determination. It takes a plan, and a back-up plan.

You’ve got what it takes to farm, and we’ve got what you need to ensure you keep farming.

Talk to an AFSC Relationship Manager today to see how we can help you plan for 2020.



1.877.899.AFSC (2372)

AFSC.ca  





GREY WOODED FORAGE ASSOCIATION

greywoodedforageassociation.com | 403-844-2645

2020/21 Membership Application Form

Membership in the GWFA is open to anyone interested in forage production, grazing management and environment sustainability

The fee is \$40 per year, running from April 1 to March 31

For information, call 403-844-2645 or email office@greywoodedforageassociation.com

Benefits of joining GWFA:

- ◆ Discounts on courses, seminars, workshops and tours.
- ◆ An automatic subscription to *The Blade*, published monthly online. Hard copy is available on request.
- ◆ Assistance with your Environmental Farm Plan.
- ◆ Equipment rental (deposit required).
- ◆ Access to our reference library.
- ◆ Access to our members-only Facebook group.
- ◆ Networking with like-minded producers and advisors.
- ◆ Farm consultation services (farm calls are 55 cents per kilometre, each way).
- ◆ A copy of the GWFA Annual Report.

Please mail your completed form and cheque to:

Grey Wooded Forage Association

PO Box 1448, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1B1,

Or scan and email the completed form and send an e-transfer to office@greywoodedforageassociation.com

Renewal ☐ New member ☐

How should we send your copy of *The Blade*: Email ☐ Canada Post ☐

Name:

Email:

Mailing address:

Landline:

Cell:

***How do you describe your operation (tick all that apply)**

- ☐ Beef producer
- ☐ Sheep/goat\ producer
- ☐ Dairy producer
- ☐ Annual crops producer
- ☐ Forage producer
- ☐ Other _____

***How many head of livestock do you manage:**

Beef cows/heifers
Dairy cows
Feeders
Ewes
Does
Other

***How many acres of land do you manage:**

Pasture
Hay
Crop
Other

**These questions are voluntary. We do not share your information*

How can we improve our service to you?

Please suggest topics you would like to learn more about: