



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

JUNE 2013

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

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Association on
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and hear about upcoming
events!**

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- Multi-County Controlled Grazing School on June 11, 13, 18 & 20 - Pg 3
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- Land EKG Blink Monitoring Course on July 8 & 9 - Pg 7

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



Foothills Forage & Grazing Association Presents the:

JULY
4th

Anchor JB Ranch
8:30am-5:00pm

How much Grass
do you have?

What is your
forage quality?

Are your cows
working for you?

How to
maximize the use
of electric
fencing?

Acme Grazing School

Practical Grazing Management for
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Jim and Barb Bauer

Pasture Plants; *how they grow, reproduce and survive* . Training
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Round Grazing . Grazing Tools for Productive Forage &
Livestock . Pasture Nutrition & Yield

Powerflex Electric Fencing
Demonstration

Rob Davidson

Electric fencing and how to use it.

REGISTRATION \$125/ Person, \$75 Students, pre registration &
payment is required, space is limited, deadline is June 26th.

INCLUDED Meals & snacks, course material, pasture sticks &
Alberta Forage Manuals.

LOCATION Anchor JB Ranch: 6 miles east of Acme on Hwy 575
turn north at RR 24-5.

BBQ Join us for a BBQ supper from 5:30-7:30 (included)

CONTACT For more information or to register contact Laura
Gibney at 403.652.4900 or laura@foothillsforage.com

**Thanks to our sponsors for providing this course, valued at \$300.00, at such a great rate!*



Manager's Notes:

By Albert Kuipers

Now that spring has finally sprung and we're not as likely to get sxxw. Yeah, I don't like to actually say or write that word this time of year. It just might start sxxwing if I did that.

I know it's a busy time of year for all of you, but I think you might find good value in attending one or more of the events we've got coming your way this summer. The Controlled Grazing School (CGS), as advertised below, is pretty much under way by the time most of you get this issue, but you can choose to come to the last two sessions and our **FREE BONUS - a PASTURE WALK at Jim & Barb Bauer's ranch near Acme on the evening of July 2nd.** Details will be provided at the CGS sessions, or you may call the GWFA office for information on this opportunity.

If you can't make it to our CGS, you could consider attending the Acme Grazing School on July 4th. You might want to take advantage of this opportunity even if you've attended our CGS.

Then, on July 8th and 9th we have a really great opportunity to learn and practice pasture and range monitoring skills from Charley Orchard and Ted Sutton.



Some of you may remember a Land EKG field day we had a couple of summers ago out west of Bowden. Many of those who attended that event told me that it was an excellent learning experience, but that they sure could use some hands on training to develop the skills introduced on that day.

Well, the two day **Land EKG Blink Course** does just that. Please see the information on page 7 for details. Guys, this is an opportunity to learn how to tell if your pasture management is improving or hurting your pasture's productivity and health. This course goes far beyond a pasture health assessment. This course takes you all the way to identifying the pasture management steps you will need to take to get your pasture's productivity moving in the right direction. The emphasis is on improving productivity for the long term.

The \$400 registration fee is cheap when you start considering the money saved and the money earned by improving the productivity and sustainability of your pastures without breaking it up and reseeded. Concerned about taking the two days out of your busy schedule to take this course? When you consider the management skills you will begin to develop at the course, those two days will be nothing compared to the years of making better management choices ahead of you.

Please don't hesitate to call for information and I'm looking forward to seeing you at some, or all of these events.

Controlled Grazing Course

By the time you receive this issue the it will likely be too late to attend the Controlled Grazing School sessions on June 11th and June 13th. You are welcome to attend any of the remaining sessions. Please call us to register.

Agenda

June 11, 2013

- 5:30 pm Registration & Supper
- 6:00 pm Principles of Controlled Grazing - *Albert Kuipers, GWFA*
- 7:30 pm Pasture walk at the Pattison Farm

June 13, 2013

- 5:30 pm Registration & Supper
- 6:00 pm Pasture Design & the Grazing Plan - *Arnold Mattson AAFC & Albert Kuipers*
- 6:45 pm Pasture Economics—*The Wealthy Rancher-Arnold Mattson, AAFC*
- 7:30 pm Pasture walk at the Martinson Farm

June 18, 2013

- 5:30 pm Registration & Supper
- 6:00 pm Stockpiling Forages for Extended Grazing - *Albert Kuipers*
- 6:45 pm Watering Systems, EFP and Resources - *Ken Lewis, Red Deer County*
- 7:30 pm Electric Fencing & Water Systems

June 20, 2013

- 5:30 pm Registration & Supper
- 6:00 pm Nutrient Cycling on Pastures - *Albert Kuipers*
- 6:30 pm Riparian Grazing Strategies - *Cows & Fish*
- 7:30 pm Pasture walk at the Pregoda Farm

**June 11, 13, 18 & 20th
2013**

***Starts at 5:30 pm each night
at the Eckville Hall.**

***New topics covered every
night!**

**Cost: \$15 each night (supper
included)**

**To register, contact one of the
following counties:**

- Clearwater County (Gary Lewis/
Brooke Sauve) (403) 845-4444
- Grey Wooded Forage Association
(Albert Kuipers) (403) 844-2645
- Lacombe County (Blayne West)
(403) 782-6601
- Red Deer County (Ken Lewis)
(403) 342-8653



Spray Drift Concerns by Landowners

The FAO has received concerns from rural landowners regarding spray drift damages to their crops. Spray drift is the aerial movement and unintentional deposit of pesticides outside the target area (<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/11-001.htm>). Spray drift can come from a variety of sources but the primary concerns that have been reported to the FAO have been neighbouring landowners during crop spraying and right of way spraying (ditches and utility corridors) for weed control by municipalities, utility companies and transportation contractors. In response to these concerns the FAO thought it would be helpful to provide some suggestions for reducing potential damages. Below is a list of considerations for rural landowners:

General Advice

1) Open the lines of communication with neighbours to let them know when and where you are spraying and with what product and ask for the same courtesy in return. Inform them of issues such as noise, dust or smell that might be associated with the application process.

Municipality (County or Municipal District), Utility Companies and Transportation Contractors

- 1) Municipalities are legislated under the *Weed Control Act* (as are all landowners), to eradicate or control regulated weeds on municipal lands. This includes roadside right of ways and reserve lands.
- 2) If you have a concern with ditch spraying adjacent to your property, you may be able to arrange for a “No Spray” agreement with your municipality. A “No Spray” agreement obligates the landowner to eradicate or control regulated weeds as per the *Weed Control Act*. In some municipalities the agreement also binds the landowner to all brush control. **Not all municipalities offer a “No Spray” option!**
- 3) Utility companies and Transportation Contractors also conduct spraying operations within transportation utility corridors and road right of ways to control regulated weeds and vegetation that could interfere with operations.

Custom Operators

- 1) Aircraft can be used for pesticide spraying and are permitted to fly below, under and beside obstacles.
- 2) If custom sprayers are used, ensure they have a valid Pesticide Service Registration issued by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. They need to have a valid Pesticide Applicator Certification of Qualification issued by Lakeland College for the appropriate type of spraying they will be doing.
- 3) Ask for references if considering an operator you have not done business with in the past and always confirm their qualifications, every time!

What to do if you Suspect Drift?

1) Diagnose the problem

- Consider why you suspect drift. Was it noise of the application? Did you see a spray truck driving away? Do you smell something? There are many things that often alert us to a pesticide application but do not always mean drift has occurred.

2) Contact the appropriate people

- If you suspect drift, see a spill or witness an incident related to the spraying, you must report it to the Environmental Hotline at 1 800-222-6514. From here a complaint is registered and followed up by an Environmental Investigation Officer.
- Approach the operator, applicator or producer, and request a visit to discuss the damage and a path forward. Do not under any circumstances enter a field or area you suspect has been treated with a pesticide, even if you see the operator or producer inside.

3) Document all details

- Take pictures if possible and safe to do so.
- Take notes, including time, place, wind speed and direction, weather conditions.
- Attempt to identify the agricultural pesticide.
- Record the aircraft call letters. Look for company logos on trucks and application equipment.
- Document the real damage, actual crop loss, yard plants you have replaced as examples.

Everyone has a role to play in pesticide safety. Good communication with everyone involved is critical and will prevent most pesticide incidents.

For more information contact the Farmer’s Advocate Office,

310-FARM (3276).

Resources: Pesticide Drift from Ground Applications, OMAFRA,

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/11-001.htm>

Submitted by Farmer’s Advocate Office (FAO)



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



**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

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Director's Corner:

*By
Victor Penner*



Hi,

My wife & I live north of Hwy 12 and run a small cow/calf operation. We breed our own heifers to put into our leases which we have with a couple of individuals. This has/is working out very well for both parties. We also sell beef from our own animals which are grown mainly on grass without growth hormones or antibiotics. My wife runs a little esthetician business out of her recently built spa on our farm.

I have been officially involved with Grey Wooded Forage for just over a year and I am enjoying getting to know like minded producers of forage and beef. Before I moved up here I became a member so I could receive "The Blade". I believe that it had information in it that helped me to make the decisions which helped my operation. I still believe it has helpful information. As we at Grey Wooded Forage move forward we must strive to provide information which producers need/want. We need help from producers to tell us what information they would like/need. We have some projects on the go at the moment but like most projects, especially in forage, the end result of what happens is yet to come and is very dependent on conditions such as weather, land & varieties.



Pictures taken at Ag Theme Park.



LivestockTransport.ca



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

1.800.506.2273

[click here for details on ALERT](#)



Growing Forward 2 Launches Another Program Opportunity

Shortly after we mailed out the May Blade, we were informed about another program being launched under Growing Forward 2. Due to the amount of interest expressed by members about these new programs, we thought it would be beneficial to include another article, this time about the *Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) Stewardship* program.

Now just what is a *Confined Feeding Operation*? It is described as, "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." Examples may include: beef or lamb feedlots, a broiler breeder barn, farrow to finish hog operation, dairy, as well as a few others mentioned on the Growing Forward 2 website.

This new program is designed to help livestock operations assess their potential risk to water quality and implement management practices or make infrastructure improvements that will impact the water quality in a positive manner. The *Confined Feeding Operation Stewardship* program, helps in three main areas. The first focuses on less agricultural impact on water quality. Under this area, the program provides funding for improved infrastructure that reduces the risk of contaminants entering water sources. The second area, improved business outcomes for livestock producers, helps producers make informed decisions that take into account economics and the environment. Lastly, the third area, improved market opportunities, helps producers meet the present day legislated environmental standards.

Ok, so now we know which areas this program covers, but who can apply? Individuals and businesses who have completed an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and who operate a confined feeding operation in Alberta are

entitled. A complete list of all the projects considered eligible for funding can be found on the Growing Forward 2 website so I will only mention a few.

- Engineering investigations to determine natural site characteristics such as slope, subsoil structure and depth to water table.
 - Run-on and run-off controls.
 - Solid liquid separation or composting equipment.
- Please note however, that construction of a new livestock facility is not entitled to funding.

The *CFO Stewardship* program covers 50% of eligible costs for most categories. However, some are funded at 30 or 70 percent. There is a maximum amount per applicant and that is \$100,000, again, some categories have maximums much lower such as \$15,000- \$50,000. In order to get the most information about the projects and funding included under this program, please contact the program coordinator. Applications and additional terms can be found on the Growing Forward website, (www.growingforward.alberta.ca). Please don't hesitate to contact us here at the Grey Wooded office, we would be happy to assist in any way, whether it's finding additional information or filling out application forms.

By Bonita Knopp, GWFA Summer Staff

Growing Forward 2 
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Save the Date!!

West Country Ag Tour
August 22, 2013



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 Environmental Stewardships Plan Program of Growing Forward. **Grazing & Winter Feeding, Integrated Crop Management and Manure Management** are the 3 Stewardship programs that will be available in Growing Forward 2.

Alberta EFP
Environmental Farm Plan



LAND EKG-CANADA

EKG Blink Monitoring Basics - July 8 & 9, 2013



Participants will leave this two-day course with well-practiced abilities in choosing monitoring sites, transect layout mechanics, and EKG photo procedures. This class is designed for any rancher or conservation manager seeking a rapid, repeatable monitoring program, right away.

Participants will practice thorough land monitoring basics, soil survey using Alberta Soil Information Viewer, grazing indexing, forage production measurement methods, surface cover percents, and EZ-EKG assessments, but will spend the majority of time learning monitoring mechanics for EKG transect lines.

Additional time will be spent on "situational monitoring" and site recording techniques including an introduction to EKG DataStore. Monitoring kits will be available for those wishing to purchase this item.

Prerequisite: None, bring a camera if you have one.

Investment of \$400/person

We are offering a \$25 discount per person for GWFA Members! See page 11 for Membership details. If you register on or before June 28th, you'll receive an additional discount of \$10!

JOIN CHARLEY ORCHARD & TED SUTTON FOR THIS INFORMATIVE 'HANDS-ON' COURSE

For course content information contact Ted Sutton
Tel: 403.764.7402, Cell: 403.909.1772, Ted@ekgcan.com

For registration information and to register
please contact the GWFA office at 403-844-2645

Location: East of Red Deer
At the Rolyn Hills B&B, approx. 10 mi (16 km) east of
Hwy 2 (Corner of Hwys 595 & 808 + .5 km)
NW 36-37-26-W4 - home quarter
GPS 50.51.532, -113.35.984 - for field work

Why, What, When, Where & How?

By now you've probably heard that Land EKG-Canada is offering a series of Blink Monitoring Courses throughout Alberta in the month of July; one of which is sponsored by the GWFA. You've probably also heard lots of talk about "**Why**" monitoring is key to good pasture management. If you are registered for this course you'll soon learn the rest of **Where, What, When** and **How**".

Our two-day course, July 8 & 9 for GWFA participants (check our website www.ekgcan.com for more dates) will teach you the **How** of Blink monitoring. Most of your time will be spent in the field where you'll learn how to set up and collect data using transect sampling and photo point recording methods. You'll learn "**What**" data to collect and "**When**" to collect it.

Not everything you need to know is easily provided in the field. So, we've put together a video presentation that talks about many of the things you need to know in order to be most effective. Setting up your monitoring network starts with "**Where**" to place your sample transects and photo points and we will provide a discussion to deal with this task. We'll also talk about Google Earth mapping because you'll need good maps to help determine where you should sample. Data storage, additional online sources of information and add-on capabilities is also discussed in this two-part presentation all designed to make you a better grazing planner and manager.

Please visit our website www.ekgcan.com and go to our "videos" page. There you will find a series of recorded presentations. Click on these titled "Introduction to Land EKG Monitoring Concepts" and a second presentation titled "Add-ons". You can visit us anytime and simply click on these presentations (start with "Concepts"). While you're there, check out our other information posted and frequently updated.

We're looking forward to seeing you in July.

Cheers,

Ted Sutton, Land EKG-Canada

www.ekgcan.com



LAND EKG-CANADA
Range & Pasture Monitoring Courses

Selecting an Appropriate Cattle Turn-out Date

Pasture production can only be sustained at relatively high levels if grass plants retain adequate leaf area and recovery time. Heavy grazing that repeatedly removes a great proportion of the leaf area reduces production. Also, early spring grazing before the plants are ready deprives grass plants of needed leaf area and results in reduced production and economic returns.

Levels of production and economic returns vary with grazing starting date and season long grazing strategies. The amount of growth decreases when plants are defoliated before the third-leaf stage. The earlier defoliation is started, the greater the decrease in production. Starting grazing after the third-leaf stage results in minimal damage to plants and improves annual production.

Early spring growth depends both on carbohydrate reserves and on photosynthetic products from the active leaf area of the tiller. Before the third-leaf stage, the plant has little leaf area and low carbohydrate levels. Defoliation of the plant at this time results in reduced rates of production because the plant produces little photosynthetic product and must depend upon stored carbohydrates which are usually not adequate for complete recovery of growth.

In continuous grazing, starting grazing before or after the third-leaf stage causes a 45% reduction in production which causes a 29% in stocking rate, 14% in calf average daily gain

and 40% calf gain per acre compared to starting after the third-leaf stage. This reduction in pasture and animal performance causes a decrease in net returns both per cow-calf pair and per acre compared to starting after the third-leaf stage.

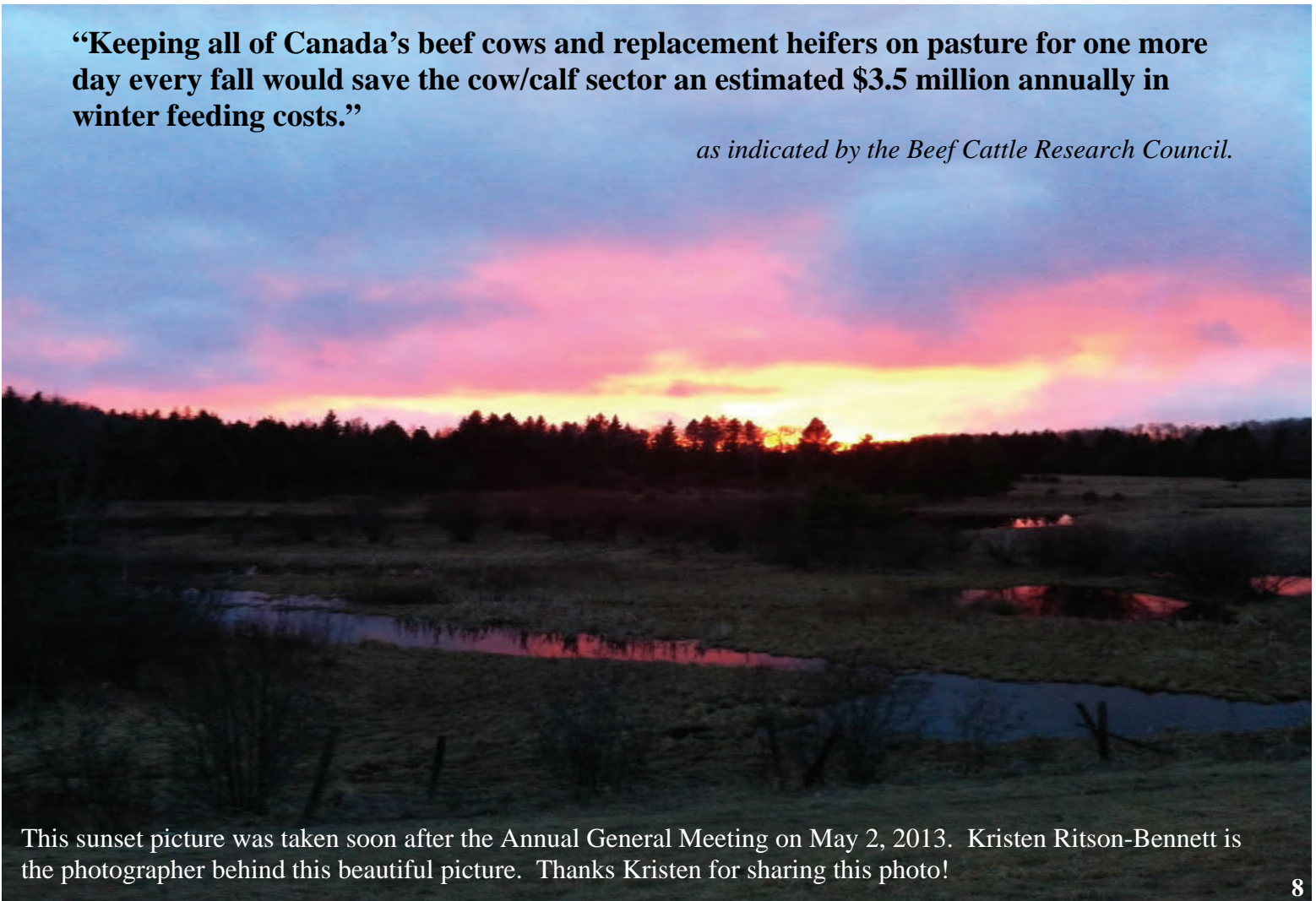
Twice-over rotational grazing starting after the third-leaf stage can have grazing periods designed to coordinate with the biological requirements of growing plants and grazing animals and offers increased stocking rates, calf average daily gain, calf gain per acre, net returns per cow-calf pair and net returns per acre compared to season long grazing starting before and after the third-leaf stage.

In order to protect grasslands before the plants have reached the 3.0 or 3.5-leaf stage, it is important to feed another type of forage. Specifically planning for this by selecting a paddock with an early growing species mix or planning to winter feed longer pays dividends on any year and much more for pastures that have been stressed from previous grazing. Paddocks that contain carry-over forage specifically held over from the previous year for early spring grazing will have their early shoots grazed off before the plants have any chance of recovering from winter dormancy. These paddocks need extra recovery time before being grazed again during the growing season.

Taken from "Grazing Before Grass Is Ready" by Llewellyn Manske PhD, Dickinson Research Extension Center.

“Keeping all of Canada’s beef cows and replacement heifers on pasture for one more day every fall would save the cow/calf sector an estimated \$3.5 million annually in winter feeding costs.”

as indicated by the Beef Cattle Research Council.



This sunset picture was taken soon after the Annual General Meeting on May 2, 2013. Kristen Ritson-Bennett is the photographer behind this beautiful picture. Thanks Kristen for sharing this photo!

Manage Grazing for More Production & Profitability

Everything that we, through our livestock and Mother Nature do to the land, will have an effect on the ecosystem process and will cause change in biological succession.

The way you graze has numerous effects on the plants and the soil. This will, in turn, have a number of effects on the water cycle, mineral cycle, sunlight energy flow and biological succession. These will be followed by effects on future productivity.

I usually hear about some sort of rotation where the same pastures are used at the same time each year with movement from pasture to pasture based on the calendar. This suggests the use of two very powerful tools for grazing management—time and timing.

Time is primarily about “how long” livestock are left in a pasture or paddock, and how long that pasture or paddock is allowed to recover (rest) before it’s grazed again. While the time spent in a paddock, and the time allowed for recovery, are both important, the time for recovery is more important.

Most of us start with a few (8-12) paddocks/herd and advance from there to perhaps more than 20. If we’re going to protect recovery time, then the length of stay in a paddock is determined primarily by the desired length of recovery and the number of paddocks available.

For good grazing management, time control can’t be tied to the calendar. It is planned and determined by the season of use, and the plants’ growth rate as they are being grazed and during recovery. This will vary greatly from year to year and is highly dependent on rainfall and its timing as well as temperatures.

Timing is about “when” pastures are grazed. Since your cattle need to be somewhere 365 days of the year (preferably grazing), unavoidably some plants will be grazed at very sensitive times. You use timing to avoid grazing the plants at those biologically sensitive stages in successive years. Timing can also be affected by:

- A need to be at or near certain locations for cattle working and shipping. Many of the good graziers I know brand and work calves at portable facilities in the pastures to allow more flexibility with pasture use timing. They also have several paddocks near the shipping and cow-working facilities to enable

better timing from year to year.

- A desire or need to avoid defined places to protect sensitive species at critical times. This might include critical nesting habitat for some birds or a fawning area for deer, etc.

Many of us call this “planned, time-controlled grazing.” It’s not a cookie-cutter approach. Even though we rotate through a number of paddocks, we don’t like to call it “rotational grazing” because it’s rarely, if ever, the same from year to year. In fact, those who rotate in the same manner each year with a set number of days in and out of each pasture are probably doing “controlled overgrazing.”

While not difficult, the planning process for good grazing takes time and thought about the various factors that must be considered. You plan ahead, you execute the plan, you pay attention (monitor) as you are grazing, and you modify the plan to fit the changing conditions. The plan must be flexible.

The primary objective of good grazing is to improve ranch productivity and grazing quality. We do that through manipulation of eco-system processes. We will try to graze in a way that will:

- 1) Capture more of the rainfall that comes and make it available for plant growth,
- 2) Improve nutrient cycling and,
- 3) Increase sunlight energy flow to photosynthetic plant leaves, which produces animal feed that ultimately becomes food or fibre for human use.

We might say that we are creating a solar panel. The solar panel gets bigger and more effective when our management reduces runoff, reduces evaporation, and increases infiltration and the ability of the soil to hold moisture. It also gets bigger when there are more plant leaves and the leaves are bigger. It also becomes more effective when there are plants that green-up very early in the growing season, others that are green throughout the growing season and some that are green very late in the growing season.

Everything that we, through our livestock, and Mother Nature do to the land, will have an effect on ecosystem process and will cause changes in biological succession. Our management will have a huge effect on the direction of that succession. Will it be positive or negative toward our goals?

By Burke Teichert, consultant on strategic planning for ranches, retired vice president and general manager of Deseret



Picture taken at the 2012 Controlled Grazing Course

Red Deer County Launches their new Conservation Partners Initiative

Based on their continuation of providing technical resources and funding to help landowners adopt environmentally beneficial practices on their land.

As well, two new additions have been included:

- 1) People, businesses, or organizations can donate funding to the program. 100% of the donations will go to landowners' on-the-ground projects.
- 2) Landowners doing on-the-ground projects can also enter into Alternative Land Use Services agreements and get annual payments for the ecological services they are providing to the public.

*More information below.



Red Deer County launched two new programs recently: *Conservation Partners* and *Alternative Land Use Services*. Highlights of these are provided below. For details, visit www.rdcountry.ca/agriculture or contact Ken Lewis at (403) 342-8653 or klewis@rdcounty.ca

Conservation Partners: Care, Connect, Conserve

This program provides up to \$5,000 to Red Deer County landowners who wish to do projects on their land that will benefit Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs). Landowner Partners can apply for this funding to do projects like off-stream livestock watering projects, riparian area fencing, planting native trees, improving septic systems, and so on.

In addition, Conservation Partners adds this unique opportunity: any person, business, or organization can become a Donor Partner, by donating funding to the program. 100% of the donated funding will go to on-the-ground stewardship projects like those mentioned above. As an added bonus, Donor Partners get tax receipts that address issues that matter to them: Water Quality Conservation, Tree Planting, or Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement.

To sum up, Conservation Partners connects landowner stewards, with those who want to support landowner stewardship through their donations. Check out the County website given above for more information, including some great videos showing examples of past projects done by County landowners.

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

This program is being delivered as part of Conservation Partners. ALUS will provide annual payments to participating landowners, for the ecological goods and services that the landowners are providing to the public, when they do projects on their land as those discussed above.

There are ALUS initiatives like this all across Canada, Red Deer County has become the third Alberta county to start one. A key partner in ALUS is Delta Waterfowl, they have spear-headed ALUS all over Canada and are a key partner here.

The Red Deer County initiative is just getting started. For more details on ALUS, check out the ALUS website at www.alus.ca ; and have a gander (pun intended) at Delta Waterfowl at

www.deltawaterfowl.org

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

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

2013 –2014 Memberships are available now for \$20.00
and run from April 1,2013 to March 31,2014
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.

Rules of Thumb

Dry matter

Always refer to the "dry matter" numbers. These numbers have the moisture factored out and allow the comparison of all feeds, from stage 1 grains.

Crude protein

Protein is a building block. The Beef Cow Rule of Thumb with protein is 7-9-11, which means an average mature cow requires a ration with crude protein of 7 per cent in late pregnancy, 9 per cent in late pregnancy

AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

August 2009

Agdex 130/536-1

Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

Pastures are unique to our agricultural production system. They are a source of food and

and
filling and environmental risks

Inputs and pathways

several pools of nutrients include organic matter, growing plants, shoots, plant litter, living animals, hauled 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 inputs, but nutrient balances exist in the cycles. Balances are made up of inputs, outputs and losses of nutrients in the pasture system.

Inputs = outputs + losses
If inputs are removed or losses are increased, the system is in deficit.

Pasture Planner



Stock-poisoning Plants of Western Canada

W. MAJAK, B. M. BROOKE and R. T. OGILVIE



AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

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Agronomic Management of Swath Grazed Pastures

Feed, feeding, cow management and pasture 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 control of the producer.

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These publications are available to our members by phoning or emailing the GWFA office!



Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland

Grazing Notebook



Name: _____
Year(s): _____

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 wintered
- to be removed from feeding

range in
peiries. Depth
limits winter
in the
st regions,
season may be
is by using
fall and early

must
step a successful
system:

period between grazing or cutting
sent

Stems

For a full growing season, for a
e regrowth may be stockpiled
large harvest or grazing.
is suited to the drier prairie
er rainfall prevent good
e native species in these areas
quality better than

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

Stockpiled forage
for pasture can
mean savings for
the producer

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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