



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

MARCH 2014

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

!!!SAVE THE DATE!!!

Join us for our 30th Anniversary Celebration,
Tradeshow & Annual General Meeting!!!
!!!Wednesday, May 7, 2014!!!

**!!!Special Guest
Speaker!!!**

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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



March is here! This is a time of year when we really start dreaming about spring, even though we're still getting frigid temperatures. Thinking about spring... there's lots of planning we can do before spring gets here.

Last month I talked about lots of ways you can increase fertility on your land by winter feeding your livestock on the land. These systems not only supply a considerable amount of nutrients, but they really help to build organic matter in the soil as well. Among other things, organic matter holds nutrients and water where they can be used by plants, rather than running off, or leaching out of the topsoil.

This month I'm going to introduce another idea. It's far from being a new one as I read about it in a book originally copyrighted in 1955.

Newman Turner wrote the book "Fertility Pastures and Cover Crops" (*we have it in our library*) while farming and learning about sustainable production in the forties and early fifties. As many are concerned with today, he found that heavy use of the newly introduced chemical fertilizers made farmers increasingly dependant on them.

He also found that planting a highly diverse mixture of deep rooted and shallow rooted plants for use as pasture was highly successful in building the health and productivity of the land. He included these highly diverse pastures in rotation with annual crops, plowing them down prior to cropping. The fertility he got from plowing down the pasture caused his crops to be highly productive.

So, what kind of mixes did he use. Well, in the way of legumes he used red clover, white clover, sweet clover and al-

falfa. We could add alsike clover, birdsfoot trefoil, cicer milk-vetch (*for long term pastures*), sainfoin, vetches and more. He would also add a large variety of grasses, deep and shallow rooted. Now the mix gets interesting - he added chicory, burnet, yarrow, sheep's parsley, ribgrass and plantain. Some of these I've never heard of and yes, some are considered to be weeds.

I think this is a very interesting concept for mixed farmers and anyone growing their own feed for livestock. Any kind of crop rotations that include highly diverse forages as a major part of the rotations would improve productivity and sustainability, even if livestock are not part of the plan.

Recently we've been hearing about a farmer from the US by the name of Gabe Brown who began using these concepts. He incorporated "mob grazing" on his pastures as well, something he learned from Neil Dennis, a grazier from Saskatchewan, and a speaker at the last Western Canadian Grazing Conference (WCGC) in 2012. ***By the way, we're trying to get him to speak at the next WCGC, December 9th through 11th of this year.***

Hmmm, this tells me that we have options other than ordering fertilizer. While fertilizer will still be the top choice by many producers, for all you guys and gals who really don't want to go down that route, **you can have high productivity that is both economically and environmentally sustainable.** That is a huge part of the mission of this organization and that's why you're hearing about this from me.

So, if you want to find out how you can get started with building your own highly diverse pastures, please give me a call. I'd be very interested in learning this thing together with you.



Director's Corner

By Cameron Jenkins



Last winter, I unsuccessfully attempted bale grazing with my sheep. Determined not to have the same problem this year, I built a new hay feeder that I designed myself. It had adjustable sides, came apart for easy transport, and included all the bells and whistles. When winter came, I filled it with hay... and the sheep wouldn't eat from it. Regardless of the quality of hay I used, the flock would dig under the fence to eat my carefully preserved bales. I tried everything I could think of to keep the sheep off the bales and entice them to use the feeder. The discontented sheep were nervous and hungry, and I was frustrated.

Two aggravating months later, I called the sheep a few names and gave up. I hauled in enough bales to last the sheep the rest of the winter, and I stepped back to observe. The results still amaze me! Not only are the sheep well fed, but they are calm and content. The waste is far less than originally expected, and my feeding chores are almost non-existent due to bale grazing this year. It reminded me that what may seem natural and logical to me is often not natural or healthy for the animals. I'm still convinced the feeder is a brilliant design.



You can advertise in The Blade!

You likely have seen the advertising in our spring and fall newsletters, but did you know you can advertise in The Blade? Well, yes you can.

For some time now we have accepted a limited number of paid ads submitted by GWFA members (Membership is only \$20/year. If you have a bull or production sale coming up, or if you have hay for sale, pasture for rent and you'd like to reach our audience, give us a call. Also, if you sell products, equipment or services that would be of interest to our readers we can help you reach our audience. Of course, we do want to make sure that ads we put in The Blade are for products and services that would be of considerable benefit to our members, so ads will be accepted for The Blade at our discretion.

So, give us a call at **403-844-2645** or email Muriel at **gwfa1@telus.net** or Albert at **gwfa2@telus.net** to learn more about our advertising policy for the Blade and to find out what it would cost to have your ad in the next issue.

Genuine GALLOWAY sale Genetics



Galloway bulls offer structural soundness and longevity

Sales information posted on: bigdealgalloways.com

7:00 PM March 10, 2014

On Line Only – Bidding March 6 to 10, 2014

Galloways Offer:

Grazing Strengths, Feed Efficiency, Calving Ease

- **Grazing Strengths** - studies conducted by Mols Laboratory of Denmark have demonstrated that of all breeds tested, the Galloway breed consumes more varieties of flora than any of the others breeds on test.
- **Feed Efficiency** - research at Montana State University has shown that beef cows with a hair coat just one inch thicker than average requires 20% to 25% less digestible feed intake to maintain body weight in cold weather.
- **Calving Ease** - research done at the University of Nebraska Meat Research Center, found that Galloways had the highest weaning percentage, highest calf survival percentage and outstandingly low incidence of calving difficulties (0.8%).

Consignors

Russel Horvey - Big Deal Galloways (403)749-2780
 Wyatt Horvey – Dun Gal Galloways (780) 986-1260
 Kolton Mueller - Westview Galloways (403)559-4642
 Earl Jackson - Stonewall Galloways (403)392-6184
 Tom Gorr – Home Valley Farms Ltd (403)352-4200

On Line Bidding Only – March 6 to 10, 2014, wrap-up 7:00 PM

Live on the Internet, Live Audio, Video, Bidding and Accounting
LiveAuctions.TV

For information contact Russel Horvey: horvey@telusplanet.net

foragebeef.ca adds wintering sites info!



Good day forage and beef people from across Canada! Note the following fine works by the finest of the bunch! Foragebeef.ca has added the following calculator and Wintering Site publication for your review and benefit.

Through the hard work of principal author Dennis Haak, Senior Soil Resource Specialist, Science and Technology Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agassiz, B.C. and assisted by Kaytlyn Criddle, Dennis Lastuka and Dale Timmerman of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lorne Klein of Saskatchewan Agriculture, Mitchell Timmerman of Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives and Trevor Wallace and Barry Yaremicio of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, the team have constructed the [Nutrient Loading Calculator \(NLC\) for In-Field or Extensive Livestock Winter Feeding Systems](#). Foragebeef.ca has posted this Calculator into the [Wintering Sites](#) folder.

Through the hard working committee of Fiona Briody, Darren Bruhjell, Dale Evert, Dennis Lastuka and Perry Sawchuk of AAFC, Dianne Westerlund of the Chinook Applied Research

Association for ARECA, Michelle McKinnon, Trevor Wallace, Karen Yakimishyn and Barry Yaremicio of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development the publication [Wintering Site: Assessment and Design Tool - A Guide to Selecting and Managing a Wintering Site in Western Canada](#) was built.

The committee thanks the farmers and ranchers of the three prairie provinces, Alberta Beef Producers, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives, all who provided review comments during the preparation of this publication. Technical support and funding was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta and Alberta Beef Producers. It was published by the Environmental Stewardship Division of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. Foragebeef.ca has posted this Publication into the [Wintering Sites](#) folder.

If you've found this work interesting, feel free to pass it on to your friends! If you would like enhanced exposure to the work you've done, feel free to pass it on to Foragebeef.ca and we'll post it.



COST OF CO-EXISTENCE

Economic Impact of Wildlife to Beef Producers

ARE YOU A BEEF PRODUCER?

We Need You!

To fill out a survey about wildlife and your beef operation

The survey can be found at www.beefsurvey.ca.

For a hard copy please contact reception@albertabeef.org or 403.275.4400

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Identify species most involved in conflict with beef producers.
- Evaluate economic costs to beef producers by region from ungulates, carnivores and birds co-existing on agricultural lands.
- Develop comprehensive lists of costs associated with animal and feed loss, property damage, and prevention and management activities.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Because it:

- Provides context of how wildlife affect the financial health and stability of beef producers,
- Identifies higher risk communities to inform discussions about prevention, management and compensation programs, and
- Can help foster a cooperative approach to wildlife management.

PARTNERS:



For more information please contact Kim Good || kim@rockies.ca || 403-440-8444



COST OF CO-EXISTENCE

Economic Impact of Wildlife to Beef Producers

This survey has been developed by Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) and the Miistakis Institute to gather information from beef producers in Alberta as part of a project to help understand the cost of wildlife to beef operations. While we recognize there are wildlife impacts to all aspects of agriculture (e.g., other livestock operations, crop operations, etc.), this specific survey is focused on beef operations. The Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) also recognizes that this survey is an initial step to understanding the complexity of wildlife and human interactions. We encourage you to participate on-line through the following link: www.beefsurvey.ca

For each ABP zone, the purpose of this project is to understand:

- the wildlife species having an economic impact on beef operations;
- what the impacts are; and
- an understanding of the costs of these impacts.

The survey results that you provide are critical to understanding the effect of wildlife on beef operators, supporting work to reduce wildlife-livestock conflicts and better enabling co-existence between producers and wildlife. The survey results will be supplemented with scientific literature, reports and other data collected in relation to compensation programs delivered in Alberta by Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and Alberta Environment Sustainable Resource Development

(AESRD).

All data collected in this survey will be anonymous. The online version of this survey will be open on February 5, 2014 and close on March 5, 2014 (**extended two weeks**). Hard copies are available by contacting receptionist@albertabeef.org.

The survey will take you 15 to 30 minutes to complete. Depending on the level of wildlife-livestock conflict you have experienced, you may be asked to calculate the costs of these conflicts to your beef operation.

In order for the survey results to be accurate and meaningful we need as many beef producers as possible to complete this survey. Please share the survey with other beef producers, however please only complete the survey once.

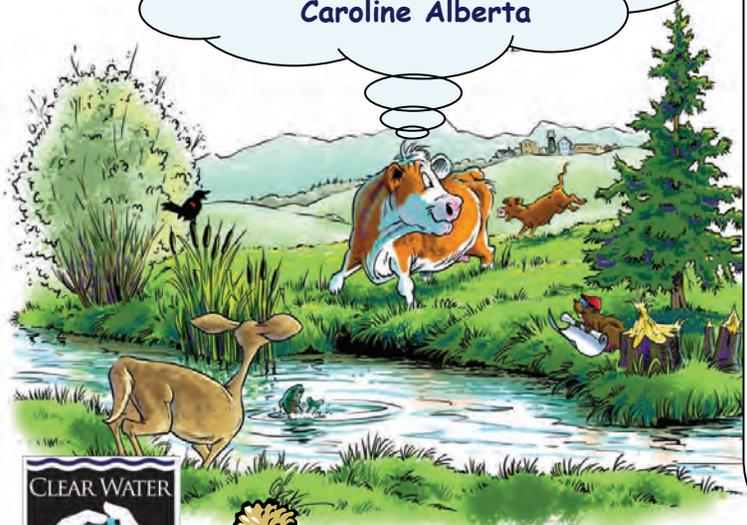
The survey results will be shared through a report which will be made publicly available. Thank you in advance for sharing your time and insights. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Kim Good (kim@rockies.ca).

Please mail your completed hard copy to: Kim Good,
Miistakis Institute
U271, Mount Royal University
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW Calgary, Alberta
T3E 6K6
or fax to: 403-440-8445



Cows Creeks and Communities

Thursday, April 24, 2014
Kurt Browning Complex
Caroline Alberta



Trade Show in the arena
2:30 to 5:30 PM - NO CHARGE
Includes demonstration sessions
at 3 PM and 4:15 PM.
An Evening Program in the hall includes **supper**
and **evening speakers**
- 5:30 to 8:30 PM -
Only **\$20 per person** - **limited tickets** available
from **March 26 to April 17** at
Caroline Supplies, Clearwater County Ag office,
Caroline Ag Society office and Central Alberta
Co-op (Hardware) in Spruceview.

For more information call 403-845-4444

...The Best for Each...



4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF SUCCESSFUL FARMING, REGARDLESS OF REGULATION

Required plant nutrients can be most successfully applied following the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Principles. The 4R principles are described as applying the right source of nutrient, at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place. This applies to all nutrients that are required above what the soil can supply, and for all crops, cropping situations, and nutrient sources. Having an adequate and balanced supply of plant nutrients is essential for well yielding crops, especially as cropping practices have improved using higher yielding varieties, moisture conserving conservation tillage, and more effective pest control options. As crop yields increase there is greater demand on our soils to supply both a sufficient and balanced supply of nutrients.

Benefits are realized from using the 4R principles in both environmentally-regulated and non-regulated situations. In fact, effective use of 4R usually exceeds minimum guidelines for most nutrient regulations. A useful example is a farm where we helped develop a nutrient management plan. This 3,680 acre corporate mixed farm located north of Calgary, Alberta consisted of a 500 farrow-to-finish hog operation and a 100 cow dairy. Crops included barley, wheat, canola, as well as 40 acres of pasture. All manure from the hog and dairy operation was handled using a liquid manure system with an above ground steel storage lagoon that was emptied twice a year and land applied, in early spring and mid fall.

We were asked to help the farm manager develop a nutrient management plan compliant with recent changes with the provincial Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA). This act contains regulations for manure applied to farmland in Alberta. The Act applies to any confined livestock operations greater than 500 animal units. The farm was having a challenge meeting previous county bylaws that had restricted land application of the liquid manure to only 960 acres of the total 3,680 acre farm. Application of the manure to about only one-quarter of the cropped acres was resulting in excess applications of manure. Plant available soil test N and especially P were greater than crop requirements, and soil residual levels of N were greater than that allowed under the provincial manure regulations.

By following the 4R principles, a nutrient management plan for all of the cropped acres utilizing all the manure along with additional purchased fertilizers was possible. This nutrient management plan complied easily with the provincial manure legislation, and made much better use of the manure by integrating use of mineral fertilizer. This resulted in higher yielding crops, and less potential for environmental harm. Additionally, it was shown that the provincial legislation took precedence over the county bylaws. Fields where previously the county thought manure should not be applied, could receive manure applications as long as setback distances from residences, permanent water bodies, and drinking water wells

were complied with.

We have yet to see a farm where use of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Principles has not been able to exceed nutrient or manure management legislation guidelines. This means that 4R nutrient management plans can help farmers achieve high yielding crops, effectively utilize manure if the farm has livestock, and manage adverse environmental effects. It is important to note that this can be done as long as sufficient land is available to effectively utilize available manure. We did another nutrient management plan for a 1,000 farrow to finish hog farm that only had 470 acres of cultivated farmland. In this instance we recommended that manure application agreements be made with neighboring farms to adequately utilize the nutrients from the manure and avoid excess nutrient applications. These agreements were beneficial to both the farm with the hog operation as well as neighboring farms.

An important aspect of utilizing 4R Nutrient Management on a farm is that there is consideration for economic, social and environmental goals. In the first farm example used above, these goals would have been achieved whether or not there had been environmental regulations in place. This shows that achieving economic, social and environmental goals are often mutually compatible.





Grey Wooded Forage Association

Creating an Awareness of Forages

Summer Student Required
 (full-time temporary position)
Agriculture Research and Office Assistant
 Rocky Mountain House
 May/June – August 2014 (9-16 weeks) (negotiable)
 Duties include: assist office manager and manager with field and office projects; assist with gathering yield data from forage plots and process information collected using spreadsheets and reports; assist with summer tours and functions. Working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel would be an asset.
 Must be self motivated and have own transportation.
 Limited to high school or college students.
 Minimum age 16. Maximum age 30 at time of hiring.
 Deadline for applications: March 28, 2014 or until position is filled.
 Please email resumes to gwfa1@telus.net
 or Fax to 403 844-2642
 We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

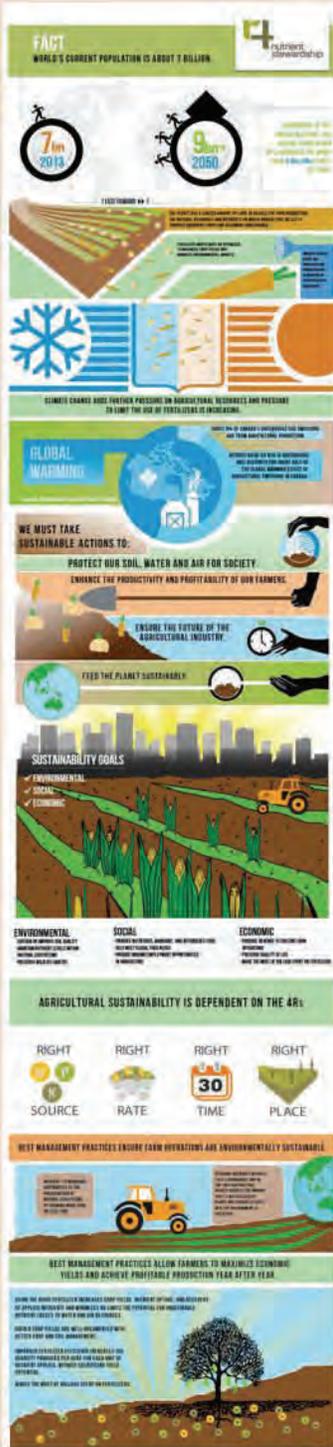
4R Soil Nutrient Management Workshops

March 26, 2014 at the Leslieville Hall
&

March 27, 2014 at the POFIANGA Hall, NE of Ponoka

10 AM to 3 PM with Lunch provided!

Please call the GWFA office at 403-844-2645
or email GWFA2@telus.net to register
by March 20, 2014



4R Nutrient Stewardship System

Right Source @ Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place®

4R Nutrient Stewardship works to increase production/profitability for farmers while enhancing environmental protection and improving sustainability. To achieve those goals, the 4R's incorporate the:

Right Source of fertilizers that are in - or are easily converted to compounds best used by the target crop. **Apply the Right Rate** of fertilizer to match nutrient supply with crop requirements. Apply fertilizer at the **Right Time** so nutrients will be available when crop demand is high. Apply or maintain fertilizer in the **Right Place** where the crop can access the nutrients most effectively.

Through sustainable actions, we can protect our soil, water and air for society, enhance the productivity and profitability of our farmers, and ensure the future of the agricultural industry. Crop nutrients, including fertilizers, have positive and negative impacts on the amount of greenhouse gas in our atmosphere. Utilizing beneficial management practices under the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Plan can help improve economic and environmental concerns including the potential to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases when fertilizer or other crop nutrients are applied on fields.

To learn more about Farming 4R Future go to

www.farming4Rfuture.ca

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

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

DuPont Pioneer Brings Dairy Producers Increased Nutritional Value With New Alfalfa Inoculants

Alfalfa fibre technology, inoculant 11AFT, offers producers another choice in higher performance forage

Article submitted by Kahntact
(lmclean@kahntact.com) for
Dupont Pioneer.



CHATHAM, Ontario, (Feb. 6, 2014) -- DuPont Pioneer announced the launch of SilaBac® brand 11AFT inoculant, the third product in the revolutionary DuPont Pioneer fibre technology platform. This product improves the digestibility of fibre and offers growers more consistent and stable silage. 11AFT will be available for the 2014 growing season.

"Alfalfa-specific 11AFT helps deliver a higher-quality haylage to dairy producers," says Robert Larmer, livestock information manager, DuPont Pioneer. "11AFT increases fibre digestibility and improves forage energy density, producing an overall higher-quality, higher-value haylage in the ration."

Pioneer launched its fibre technology platform in 2008 with 11CFT, a corn silage inoculant and 11GFT, a grass and cereal fibre inoculant, the following year.

"The fibre technology inoculants stimulate front end fermentation by rapidly dropping silage pH while retaining valuable nutrients," Larmer said. "Because of the increased aerobic stability, nutrients are conserved on the backend during feedout. This is accomplished by reducing shrink and improving the silage face's bunklife during feedout."

11AFT showed zero silage heating and zero reduction in feed intake.

"The most exciting result of the DuPont Pioneer on-farm studies was the feed cost savings due to increased nutritional value of the forages. More nutrients from every bite of forage means less input costs on the concentrate portion of the ration," says Larmer.

The alfalfa fibre technology enhances Pioneer's crop-specific inoculant lineup, like 11CFT and 11C33 for corn silage, 11GFT for grass and cereal grains, and 11B91 for high-moisture corn or earlage. Paired the strong line-up of Pioneer® brand alfalfa varieties like **55Q27**, **55V50** and **54Q32**, 11AFT makes a high-performing combination for dairy producers.

DuPont Pioneer is the world's leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics, providing high-quality seeds to farmers in more than 90 countries. Pioneer provides agronomic support and services to help increase farmer productivity and profitability and strives to develop sustainable agricultural systems for people everywhere. Science with Service Delivering Success®.

DuPont (NYSE: DD) has been bringing world-class science and engineering to the global marketplace in the form of innovative products, materials and services since 1802. The

company believes that by collaborating with customers, governments, NGOs and thought leaders, we can help find solutions to such global challenges as providing enough healthy food for people everywhere, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, and protecting life and the environment. For additional information about DuPont and its commitment to inclusive innovation, please visit www.dupont.com.

Contact: Tara Moir
800-265-9435 ext. 6643
tara.moir@pioneer.com

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AFIN
ALBERTA FORAGE INDUSTRY NETWORK
www.albertaforages.ca
info@albertaforages.ca

THE FOREST ON YOUR DESKTOP

NATIONAL ELECTRONIC LECTURE SERIES

Canadian Institute of Forestry / Institut forestier du Canada

The Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society

Special Lecture Series - #13

*In Collaboration with the
Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society &
The Government of Alberta*



Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society – Past, Present, and Future

Jeff Renton

Project Manager

Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society

Wednesday, March 12th 2014 @ 11:30amMT (1:30pmET)



Environmental Values and Importance of Woodlots To Big Cities

Toso Bozic

Agroforestry/Bioenergy Specialist

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Wednesday, April 9th 2014 @ 11:30amMT (1:30pmET)

All electronic lectures are free. Your consideration of CIF/IFC membership would be appreciated.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, CONTACT;

Canadian Institute of Forestry/ Institut forestier du Canada

Email: electures@cif-ifc.org

Tel: (705) 744-1715 ext. 585

Fax: (705) 744 - 1716

Web: <http://cif-ifc.org/site/electure>



New Executive Director for RDRWA

The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance is pleased to announce the hiring of its new Executive Director.

Mr. Jeffrey Hanger will start January 20th. Mr. Hanger was Project Associate with the Closer to Home (C2H) initiative of the Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association until Dec. 31, 2013. This initiative aims to build the capacity of smaller municipalities across Alberta, especially those with a population less than 5,000, to deliver safe drinking water and manage their wastewater responsibly.

Jeffrey has built groups of communities to develop their (provincially required) Drinking Water Safety Plans, and assisted many communities to complete those plans and begin discussions about water safety in the communities. He has also organized and prepared monthly Information Sessions delivered over the internet and by telephone to municipal leaders on a wide number of water-compliance topics, ranging from federal and provincial wastewater regulations, to watershed protection and public health. Mr. Hanger lives in Ponoka.

Mr. Tom Cottrell, Interim Executive Director, will continue part time in the office to introduce Mr. Hanger to the world of the Watershed Alliance and the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils in Alberta.

For more information please contact the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance office at 403-340-7379 or email info@rdrwa.ca

Attend the next
RDRWA Ambassador Breakfast
March 21, 2014
7:30 AM through 9:00 AM
Quality Inn North Hill
7150 50th Ave, Red Deer, AB
RSVP to: info@rdrwa.ca
or call Kelly at 403-340-7379
by noon on March 19, 2014



Tree Care & Woodlots Workshop

Speakers

- Jeff Renton, M.Sc, Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society
- Toso Bozic, P.Ag, Agroforester/Bioenergy Specialist, AARD

Topics

Tree Health (morning session)

- ID and Management of Pests & Diseases
- Pruning and Related Care

Woodlot Management Planning (afternoon session)

- Purpose
- Goals
- Creation
- Implementation

Location

- Westward Ho Campground Hall

When

- March 14, 2014, from 10 am to 3 pm
- Free to attend! Lunch is provided!

Registration Contact

Lee-Ann Gaudette at 403-335-3311 ext 143
Email: lgaudette@mvcountry.com



Mountain View County

LivestockTransport.ca



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

1.800.506.2273

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



Agriculture Opportunity Fund

Alberta

**!!!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.

AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

August 2009 Agdex 130/536-1

Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

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.

AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

September 2008 Agdex 420/56-3

Agronomic Management of Swath Grazed Pastures

Food, 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

Pasture Planner

Stock-poisoning Plants of Western Canada

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

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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 has to be removed from feeding
- stockpiled forage range is available in the winter
- depth of snow limits winter grazing
- regrowth in the spring is more uniform, so may be grazed by using a multi-pass system
- cutting and early grazing is a successful system
- the period between grazing or cutting and regrowth is shorter
- stems are grazed for a full growing season, for a better regrowth may be stockpiled for winter harvest or grazing
- the system is suited to the drier prairie where rainfall prevents good regrowth of native species in these areas and quality is 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 saved 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.

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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