



# The Blade

Monthly Newsletter of the

*Grey Wooded Forage Association*

March 2020





# COVID-19

All hands-on workshops and in-person events have been cancelled or postponed during restrictions related to the outbreak of the pandemic corona virus, covid-19.

We will keep you up to date on our web and social media pages and trust you are all staying safe and healthy.

A variety of livestock groups in Alberta have published information to help you look after yourselves, your families and your stock. Here are some web sites that you may find useful:

- \* ABVMA: [www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca](http://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca)
- \* AFAC: [afac.ab.ca/resources/emergency-preparedness](http://afac.ab.ca/resources/emergency-preparedness)
- \* Alberta Beef: [albertabeef.org/producers/home](http://albertabeef.org/producers/home)
- \* Alberta Lamb: [ablamb.ca/index.php/resources/emergency-preparedness](http://ablamb.ca/index.php/resources/emergency-preparedness)
- \* Alberta Equestrian Federation: [www.albertaequestrian.com](http://www.albertaequestrian.com)

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## Office Report: Keeping Calm and Carrying On

By Brenda Kossowan

Working in isolation is old hat for livestock producers—especially when the calves, kids and lambs start arriving. And don't you know that they like to come during the most gruesome weather, when everybody would rather be inside, curled up with a hot beverage.

However, the form of isolation being forced upon the general population for the foreseeable future is really a step or two removed from the annual rites of spring when the grass is supposed to have sprung and chickadee love songs fill the air.

Restrictions being imposed to check the spread of covid-19 may not be as harsh for some as for others, depending on a slough of different factors. Most of you will be aware by now that GWFA has had to do a little juggling to maintain operations while preserving the safety of our members and staff.

For staff safety, we're taking turns in the office and keeping the door locked, asking people to call ahead rather than dropping in without notice. This is not a great hardship, given that we don't get a lot of company on any given day. But it does get a bit lonely.

We are taking care to wipe everything down between shifts to prevent any infection from spreading, although there has been no sign of sickness among the staff so far. There was some concern for our bookkeeper and her husband, who both developed a bit of a cough after flying home from a vacation in Mexico. Thankfully they have both been cleared of covid-19 and are no longer in quarantine.

One of our board members has also spent two weeks in mandatory isolation, having returned recently from his winter vacation.

The necessity for people to keep their distance is affecting our plans in the immediate future, including preparations for our Summer Showcase and Annual General Meeting.

The June 11 AGM will go ahead as scheduled, whether online or in person as a part of the Summer Showcase. The Board of Directors will review the situation at the end of April and decide how to proceed at that point.

If restrictions are still in place on group activities, we will postpone the Summer Showcase to a later date. It's a cinch that, once we are able to resume hosting events, people will be looking forward to getting out and making some social connections.

Meanwhile, we continue to link via computers and smartphones, and are considering whether some workshops can be hosted by teleconference. Alberta Farm Animal Care made some quick moves early in March to change its annual Livestock Care Conference to a teleconference format with a fairly good rate of success.

Outside of a few minor glitches, participants were able to see and hear the presenters, view their slides and ask questions afterward. This was a considerable accomplishment for the organizers, who had only a few days to either change the format or postpone the conference.

That format is now being considered so we can continue to present updates and results from the field projects we are working on this year.

Along with benchmarking projects spearheaded by ARECA (Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta) and CARA (Chinook Agricultural Research Association), we have embarked on a three-year Rancher Researcher project along with a number of other research and forage association in Alberta.

This project will look at two ranches in each region and investigate the impact of technological adaptations in preserving and enhancing production.



Our involvement continues as well in the Hardy Alfalfa project at Lacombe., a Stem Mining Weevil assessment and test plots set up by Clearwater County.

Discussion is underway on a couple of additional projects, which will be announced once the paperwork is in place.

We'll share all of these developments with you as they evolve—online for sure if not necessarily in person.

I would like to direct your attention to some of the stories we have pulled together for this month's issue. We are always on the lookout for new developments to share with our readers and deeply miss the great information that had were able to share through the work of staff at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. This month's spread includes information on protecting yourselves and your animals from diseases and other emergencies, a look at how A&W is changing its approach to beef supplies, an update from AFIN (Alberta Forage Industry Network) on its climate change policy, insight from Scotland on how ruminants contribute to the carbon cycle and the latest news from Red Deer County's ALUS program. Please pop me an email if you find an article that may be of value to our community of forage and livestock producers.

Of course, I would be remiss in not thanking all of those who have joined or renewed their membership in GWFA. It is encouraging to see so many new faces and to see the return of a few who had taken a year or two off. We're plotted ways to get you a tenfold return on your investment in this organization and hope to get a little back from you, as well. Our Board of Directors will have six vacant seats to fill out of a possible 10, so anyone who would like to get a little more involved is welcome to run for one of those spots.

Your participation is essential. Consumers at large trust farmers more than they trust industry or politicians, and our provincial agriculture minister also has indicated that he values farmer input in directing research.

Hon. Devin Dreesen announced on March 30 that a new agency has been formed to take charge of agricultural research programs in Alberta. This new agency, Results Driven Agriculture Research, was created after a process of consultation involving groups from across the agriculture industry, include directors and staff from GWFA, similar associations from other regions and the umbrella groups to which we belong ARECA and AFIN.

Let me close in congratulating AFIN for its successful bid to take charge of a former AAF website, Farmin' the Web. Farmin' the Web is the marketplace component of Ropin' the Web, which had been AAF's signature website for agriculture.

There is still some discussion out there of finding a replacement for Ropin' the Web, which offered seemingly endless streams of information for producers seeking help, whether they were looking for regulations on selling eggs or researching succession plans. The loss of specialists from the AgInfo office in Stettler creates an additional vacuum in the body of information available to producers. Whether that void can be filled and how are questions that will be answered in the weeks and months to come. In the meantime, our association will do whatever we can to help out.

We can help you with some information and we can find experts for you when we are not able to help your ourselves.

Please don't hesitate to ask.

## Resilience and Adaptability

*By Greg Paranich, Agricultural Field Specialist*

We are living in a time of a totally “new normal”. The Covid19 environment has drastically altered some of the seemingly minor aspects of our life to magnify some of our vulnerabilities. While social distancing and self isolation has become a temporary fact of life, the reality is that our basic functions still need to proceed. In agriculture this cannot be deferred, as the seasonality of our business will not be put on hold. As we all undertake our due diligence to help manage the situation, we cannot lose sight of what needs doing in a timely manner.

Focusing on the normal and adjusting for the new circumstances, is where we need to be. But then, adaptive challenges are not new to agriculture. We have had to manage adversity before. It is the nature of our business, more so than others.

Some of you are nearly done calving, others in the midst of it, and those getting ready for it. Manage your critical contacts with suppliers and Vets proactively. Recognize they cannot react as rapidly as before with current restrictions. Work with them and keep in communication with what you will need.

Whatever your stage, you cannot help but notice the extreme change in the bull sale season situation. Cancelled sales or extreme limitations on attendance has altered the whole social aspect of bull sales in the cattleman’s world. Online and private treaty sales have dominated the season over the traditional sales ring. The much-anticipated social aspects have been removed but are being sold and business is still getting done

Plans for this spring’s crops and forage management still need to continue. Seed and inputs need to be secured and readied for planting. Plans for fences, water systems, weed management, fertility and feed supply still need to be addressed. Coordinating pickup and delivery with suppliers should be arranged as soon as possible, what with limited interaction.



It will be more challenging, but not impossible.

A couple of terms we have used this past year in presenting workshops and information sessions to producers have been “resilient” and “adaptive”. We used them in reference to manage our soil and forage resources to develop a resilience to challenges of weather, be it drought or flood. We encouraged producers to be observant of their forage production, livestock reactions, and market pressures in order to be adaptive to changes and continue to thrive. These are as critical now, as ever with the recent changes to our society.

Ranchers and farmers have evolved over adversity. As an industry, have had more than our share of adaptability to challenges and forged a resiliency second to none. We should recognize that we should continue to manage those things within our control and adjust to those we cannot. Nobody is going to say that it will be an easy road going forward. It is important to know that as producers we are not alone in this. We have each other, our families, friends and neighbors for moral support. I would ask us all to make sure we reach out to each other, if for nothing more than to see how each other are doing.

Our Association is also having challenges with many changes in our political and economic landscape. Restructuring of the Alberta Agriculture personnel and budget is creating a major shift in the roles of agricultural extension services and research across the industry.

Until final budget and program decisions are made, we plan for changes that could become new opportunities and directions. We will continue there for you and be providers of information and technology that will help our agricultural community grow and thrive.

As we approach our springtime cycle, I encourage all to be safe, be kind, and be in good spirits.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Plant breeder and research scientist Surya Acharya is Chair of the Alberta Forage Industry Network. AFIN presented its 2020 Leadership Award to him during the Annual General Meeting and Conference held on March 10 in Leduc.

Acharya has worked for more than 30 years at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research and Development Centre in Lethbridge.





## A&W starts move to all-grass-fed, all-Canadian beef

By Dave Bedard, Glacier Farm Media

Canadian burger chain A&W's next move to distinguish its menu in a crowded quick-service market will be a connection to the regenerative ag movement, as it sets itself up with an all-Canadian and all-grass-fed beef supply.

The Vancouver-based chain, which includes almost 1,000 restaurants across Canada, announced Monday it's "making a commitment to exclusively source and serve 100-per-cent Canadian grass-fed and -finished beef in its restaurants."

The chain's beef supply became the flashpoint of its new ingredient sourcing campaign in 2013, when it first declared all burgers it sells "are now made with beef that has been raised without any added steroids or hormones and contains no added preservatives or additives."

The "Better Beef" campaign infuriated some Canadian ranchers and their supporters, many of whom have voiced displeasure across social media ever since.

The 2013 policy required A&W to start importing some of its beef from the U.S. and elsewhere, rather than buy strictly Canadian. Some critics were also concerned A&W's campaign could mislead consumers about the safety or quality of Canada's overall beef supply.

But the ingredients sourcing campaign — which has also since seen A&W tighten and promote its requirements for cheese, chicken, pork, eggs, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, root beer and coffee — has also indisputably worked.

The chain since 2013 has booked seven straight years of year-over-year same-store sales growth, and has seen a net expansion of over 200 stores.

Monday's announcement won't take effect at all restaurants immediately. Susan Senecal, CEO for A&W Food Services of Canada, said the company currently expects to begin its rollout at the end of May.

Asked in an interview how long the company expects the transition to 100 per cent Canadian grass-fed beef to take, she said "we know that we're buying millions more pounds of Canadian beef this year over other previous years, but what we're seeing is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm, so while we thought that the timeline might be longer rather than shorter, it feels like maybe it'll accelerate and go faster than we think."

A&W said it's "working closely with the Canadian beef industry" on the move, recruiting packers including Cargill, JBS Canada, Meyer Canada, Beretta Farms and others in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan, to "help grow the market for grass-fed beef in Canada."

A&W described grass-fed as "an emerging market (and) wants to support it by paying a premium for grass-fed beef."

The company said on its website that it wants to serve grass-fed and

grass-finished beef from cattle that "are raised on a grass and forage diet and have access to pasture throughout as much of the year as possible."

The beef would also continue to come from cattle that are "raised without the use of artificial growth hormones" and that "are only treated with antibiotics when required for therapeutic reasons."

The chain will be working "with many of our current suppliers" on a grass-fed, grass-finished beef supply, but will "also be able to expand our relationships to others who currently either just starting or transitioning their programs" to grass-fed, Senecal said.

The company, she said, has been working on the idea of a grass-fed beef supply for "a number of years now" as the chain has considered its role as a Canadian company and ways in which it can support "the efforts of a lot of ranchers who are such great stewards and environmentalists."

In that, she said, the company is well suited to provide "a ready market and a path to market for operators who are working with the grass-fed beef idea."

On a visit to Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, she said, company officials saw "a lot of interest among ranchers who in many cases were using a lot of these practices, but wanted a little bit more information or wanted a few more ideas about networks or places that they could call."

Furthermore, she said, while working within the company's current beef supply requirements, "many of our partners have said 'Just knowing that you're always out there buying as much as we can produce really provides incentive for us to continue with these practices,

and expand our growth.'"

On the continuing education end, A&W noted it's also partnering with universities and NGOs "to support ongoing efforts to provide ranchers with useful tools and resources to recognize their regenerative agriculture contributions."

To that end, the company said it has already signed on as a sponsor for Regeneration Canada's Living Soils Symposium next week in Montreal, and for a 'Grasslands Conservation Incentives' project being developed by Birds Canada.

As for the end product itself, Senecal said the company believes "that this beef profile will fit perfectly with our recipes."

Among the packers who have signed on to supply grass-fed beef to the chain, Cargill is "able to meet our customer's needs through existing resources and operations in our Canadian processing facilities" without any alterations required at its existing plants, a spokesperson said via email.

*Publisher's note: This article is reprinted with permission. It was originally published on March 10, 2020 in Country Guide.*



Photo courtesy of A&W

## Alberta Forage Industry Network Position on Climate Change

Version 2.1- January 20, 2020

"The vast preponderance of evidence, based on years of research conducted by a wide array of different investigators at many institutions, clearly indicates that global climate change is real, it is caused largely by human activities, and the need to take action is urgent."

Alan I. Leshner, CEO  
American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The effects of climate change are being observed around the world in the form of extreme weather events, temperature changes, glacial retreat and increases in the amount of carbon dioxide in the environment.

Many of the hottest years on record have been documented in the past two decades (United Nations). These issues, and the prediction of nine billion people on our planet by 2043 (United Nations data), are increasing the demands on the earth's resources. Perennial forages and native grasslands are recognized for their ability to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Furthermore, these perennial plant systems are broadly beneficial, providing ecological goods and services that promote the health, social, cultural and economic needs of our society. The specific roles that forages and grasslands can play include:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated per pound of ruminant protein – well managed forage systems improve the diets and productivity of ruminants,
2. Increasing agricultural carbon sequestration - forages and grasslands are a carbon sink that can be further enhanced by well managed grazing of livestock,
3. Decreasing soil erosion – permanent plant cover prevents large scale erosion events,
4. Revitalizing watersheds – permanent plant cover filters, reduces runoff and increases soil/water infiltration thereby increasing surface water quality, replenishing aquifers and reducing the risk

- of flooding in rural areas and urban centres,
  5. supporting regenerative agriculture practices – use of cover crops, perennial forages and livestock improves soil structure, soil biology and nutrient cycling, and
  6. Maintaining biodiversity - a variety of flora and fauna, soil organisms, beneficial insects and wildlife species prosper under the protection of permanent forage and grassland cover.
- Capturing the broad benefits of forages and grasslands will require a paradigm shift. This can be encouraged by:

1. Research policy that recognizes the long-term benefits of forages and grasslands and supports their relative competitiveness with cash crop alternatives,
2. Risk management programs (e.g. pasture and forage insurance) that put forage production and utilization on an equal footing with cash crop production,
3. New initiatives that encourage forage production, e.g. tax concessions on acreage seeded to perennial forages and cover crops, and
4. Public policy that recognizes and pays for the greater value of carbon sequestered along with other goods and services provided by forage crops and grasslands.

Alberta's petroleum, agriculture, and forestry industries reflect traditional carbon source development and use.

New opportunities for carbon capture, through green plant photosynthesis, have the potential to significantly reduce Alberta's carbon footprint.

Alberta can be a global leader in its efforts to develop sustainable solutions to mitigate climate change.

AFIN represents the forage stakeholders who have the ability to address climate change in a sustainable manner.

Working together, AFIN and other vested stakeholders, both urban and rural, will be part of the solution to help mitigate climate change.

This position document will be reviewed at least every three years.



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- ⇒ Monday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Thursday, April 9, 8:30 p.m.

Please register online:  
[alusreddeercounty.eventbrite.com](https://alusreddeercounty.eventbrite.com)



## News From Away: Meat is Vital, Particularly in the Developing World

By Catherine Falls, *Edinburgh Telegraph*

Meat is crucial for feeding the planet, leading scientists have said, as they warned it is not more environmentally friendly to go vegan.

Experts from the University of Edinburgh and Scotland's Rural College said farmers were increasingly feeling demonised by the unsupported "meat is evil" claims being promoted by environmental lobbyists.

Speaking at a panel in central London, they argued that meat was critical for the physical and mental health of children, particularly in developing countries, and said that moving away from livestock farming would not improve land use.

Prof. Geoff Simm, Director of Global Academy Agriculture and Food Security at the University of Edinburgh, said: "I think (livestock farmers) do feel they are being demonised.

"Often the argument is made that going vegan would minimise land use, and the modelling studies that have been done demonstrate that that's not the case.

"We feel that while livestock production has a range of economic, social and environmental costs and benefits, the costs have perhaps been receiving far more attention recently than some of the benefits.

"Meat has massive social benefits. It's an important source of dietary protein, energy, highly bioavailable micronutrients, even small amounts of animal-sourced food have a really important effect on the development of children, in the developing world on their cognitive and physical development and they are really important."

Prof. Mike Coffey, from Scotland's Rural College, added: "It's completely unnecessary to go vegan.

"If everybody went vegan it would be devastating for the UK environment. Animals bred for food help boost biodiversity."

Researchers are currently attempting to breed more environmentally friendly cattle, which grow faster and eat less, which could further reduce the sector's carbon footprint by reducing the amount of methane released by cows.

This could also lead to shoppers in the next few years being able to check the label of their food to discover the environmental impact it has had, they added.

Prof Coffey said that the difference in methane emissions from best and worst cattle was about 30 per cent and that if all UK farmers used the most efficient animals this could reduce carbon emissions by nearly a third.

He said by next year farmers will be able to select bulls for breeding that will father dairy cows that consume less feed for the amount of milk they produce.

But Prof. Coffey said the next stage will be trying to measure the methane given off by different breeds of cattle to find which are the lowest emitters.

He added: "By next year farmers will be able to select bulls whose daughters consume less feed for the amount of milk they produce.

"Where we go next is, can we actually measure methane emissions from groups of animals?"

Prof. Coffey said that soon shoppers could be able to check meat labels to find out how much environmental impact their food has had.

He added: "My expectation is that at some point in the near future there will be product labels that relates to the efficiency or carbon impact of the food."

Prof. Andrea Wilson, also of Edinburgh University, said more research was needed into the impact of veganism.

She added: "We know a lot about the livestock sector because people have looked at it. We actually know very little about the vegan sector.

"The danger is we demonise one and jump too quickly to the other."

**Publisher's note:** The above article has been reprinted with permission from the *Edinburgh Times*. It was originally published on November 27, 2019.



**GWFA Director Maria Champagne welcomes the first 2020 calf from her Speckle Park program.**

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# One Creek, Two Fencelines: An ALUS Story

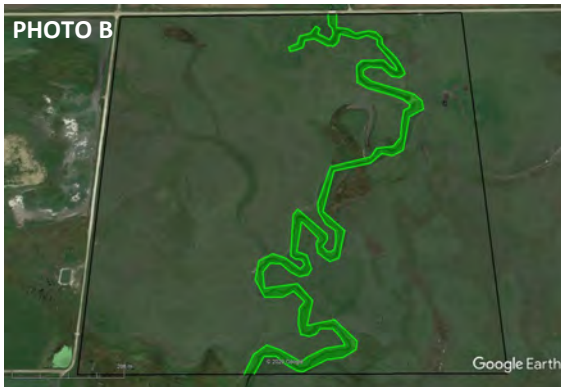
By Ken Lewis, ALUS Program Coordinator, Red Deer County

So you heard that ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) is “paying for fencing along creeks”. What does an ALUS fence look like? Here’s an example.

In this story, I picked a random 160 acre pasture with a creek meandering through it (see Air Photo A).



It’s a completely made-up example, but it represents the decisions that every ALUS Farmer gets to make. In the end, the ALUS Farmer makes the decision that best suits his or her operation. One choice the rancher has to make, is where to build the fence. This story shows two options. Of course, there are dozens more. In Air Photo B, this looks like a classic “creek corridor” fencing layout.



The fence (yellow lines) meanders along with the creek, built near the creek banks, and staying as close to the creek as possible. Sustainably grazing the between the fences (yellow shading), would be difficult at best.

Historically, many people may have chosen this option, to minimize the amount of pasture that they are “losing”. Now, ALUS might help you make a different choice.



In Air Photo C, we see a “riparian pasture” fencing layout. The fence (blue lines) follows straighter lines, and is built up on high ground, away from the creek. The entire riparian area can now be managed uniquely. Sustainably grazing between the fences (blue shading) is now possible.

The table below, compares the two options. Fence cost estimates are based on a two-wire electric fence, estimated all-in costs at \$0.75 per foot (which is probably very low for the corridor fence especially). Annual payments are based on \$30 per acre per year.

Of course, the livestock grazing on this quarter, would need water. ALUS can also cost-share with you, on providing an alternative livestock watering system. But that’s the subject of another story. To find out more, please contact me or one of the ALUS Farmer Liaisons.

I can be reached any time at 403-505-9038 or [klewis@rdcounty.ca](mailto:klewis@rdcounty.ca). The Farmer Liaisons are: Kevin Ziola (West) at 403-352-0662, Tom Towers (Central) at 403-352-6901, Stephen Smith (East) at 403-318-3371.



OPTION	FENCE LENGTH	# OF CORNERS	FENCE COST ESTIMATE	ALUS ELIGIBLE ACRES	ALUS ANNUAL PAYMENT
Corridor fence	14,029’ (2.7 miles)	100 +	\$10,521	8.6	\$258
Riparian Pasture fence	6,248’ (1.2 miles)	6	\$4,686	41.7	\$1,251

# *NOTICE OF* **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Grey Wooded Forage Association,  
a non-profit society registered in the Province of Alberta,  
will hold its Annual General Meeting at  
**\*3:30 p.m. on June 11, 2020.**

**The purpose of this meeting is to:**

- **Review financial statements and appoint an auditor**
- **Review any special resolutions put forward to amend bylaws**
- **Elect new directors to fill vacant seats on the Board of Directors**
- **Present an Annual Report to include details of the association's ongoing business.**

Nominations are now open for any person with an interest in the operations of the GWFA. This is a challenging and rewarding opportunity that normally requires between four and eight hours of your time each month.

Nominations are now being accepted by the business manager and may be made from the floor during the election portion of the meeting.

Proposed changes to the bylaws must be put forward by special resolution and are to be advertised for at least three weeks before the meeting.

Please submit special resolutions to the business manager by noon on Friday, May 1, 2020.

**Contact: Business Manager Brenda Kossowan**  
**Office: 403-844-2645**  
**Cell: 403-844-1621**  
**Email: [office@greywoodedforageassociation.com](mailto:office@greywoodedforageassociation.com)**

\*Due to restrictions in place to check the spread of covid-19, the Board of Directors has not set a format for the AGM. If isolation protocols remain in place, the meeting will be held by teleconference. The Board of Directors will make a final determination during its regular meeting on April 27 and welcomes input from members.



## **GREY WOODED** ***FORAGE ASSOCIATION***

Posted online March 31, 2020



## Health and Safety Protocols for Farm Animals and the People Who Keep Them

By Brenda Kossowan

Imagination and money are the only limits when setting up an emergency plan for your farm, says a large-animal rescue specialist from Macon County, Georgia.

Rebecca Gimenez-Husted, founder of Technical Large Animal Emergency Response, made a return visit to Alberta Farm Animal Care's annual conference on March 11, bringing her message about setting up an on-farm emergency response plan. Husted tailored her presentation to discussing implications of the covid-19 pandemic, especially given that the Canada-United States border had closed the day before she planned to come to Canada.

The conference and related workshops are typically held at the Pomeroy Inn, located on the Olds College Campus. In a last-minute twist, however, organizers switched to an online version for the safety of attendees and in response to measures the province had taken to check the spread of covid-19. Good planning looks at everything that can happen on your farm, from financial crisis to fire, flood or contagion, said Husted.

She pointed out that all of society is affected when there is a disaster on the farms: The safety of the human food supply depends on the health and care of food-producing animals; owners have personal and financial investments in their animals and facilities; farm workers and owners may be injured or killed attempting to care for their animals in disasters; agriculture, livestock, poultry and horses are a vital source of revenue and a huge portion of the economy.

The worst time for making plans is when something awful has already happened, said Husted. A little better than that is planning in advance of an impending disaster, like changing routes when you hear about a traffic jam. She pointed to the biosecurity protocols on swine and poultry farms as an example of the best-case scenario, with active plans in place to avoid crisis in the first place, and then spell out the response in the event of an emergency.

Disaster response planning begins with two situations to consider: Evacuation or shelter in place.

Running your farm during a pandemic falls into the second category, requiring farmers to shield their people and animals from the affects of the disease itself as well as ensuring that the operation remains viable when supply chains are slowed or broken.

Will your staff be able to come to work? Who will look after the animals if there are only four people in the operation and two of them are sick? Where will you find feed and how will you ship animals for slaughter? What if you can't move your pigs?

Looking after people is always the first priority, said Husted.

"You're going to see people concerned about family members. Those with school-age chil-

dren, it will be hard to find someone else to take care of them, especially if you're supposed to shelter in place and not have other people coming to your property."

Veterinary associations are reporting that some pharmaceuticals are already in short supply and there is further concern about the availability of medical equipment.

Husted said the Government of Canada has taken these issues very seriously and provides detailed information on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website. Search "animal health" at [inspection.gc.ca](http://inspection.gc.ca) for details, including a covid-19 response alert. The Guidance Response Depository within those pages will contain responses broken down by animal types.

In wrapping up her session, Husted commented on the importance of looking after your mental health during and after a crisis. She said the casualties of a foot and mouth outbreak in the United Kingdom in 2001 included 69 farmers who committed suicide.

"We've got to reach out to the people in our community. Some people are very stressed."

Husted anticipates that leaders will later dissect the covid-19 pandemic responses in an effort to learn where things went wrong and what actions worked. The FMD crisis in the

UK has been a benchmark in disaster response for the past 20 years. Covid-19 will become a new example, she said.

"We want to say this is a worst-case scenario. I'm not saying we lock everything down but we may have to look at things that the poultry and swine industry do."

*The above information is excerpted and reprinted with permission from an article published in the April edition of Prairie Hog Country magazine.*



Rebecca Gimenez-Husted

### Greetings, Members and Friends

It's business as usual at GWFA.

However, in keeping with government policies and for the protection of everyone,

OUR OFFICE WILL RUN ON **LIMITED HOURS**

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

We will welcome visitors from **9 A.M. TO NOON ON WEEKDAYS**, but request that you **CALL AHEAD** if you wish to drop by.

*Please, stay healthy and stay safe!*



**GREY WOODED  
FORAGE ASSOCIATION**



# GREY WOODED FORAGE ASSOCIATION

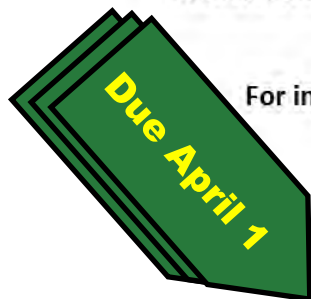
greywoodedforageassociation.com | 403-844-2645

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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: