



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

OCTOBER 2012

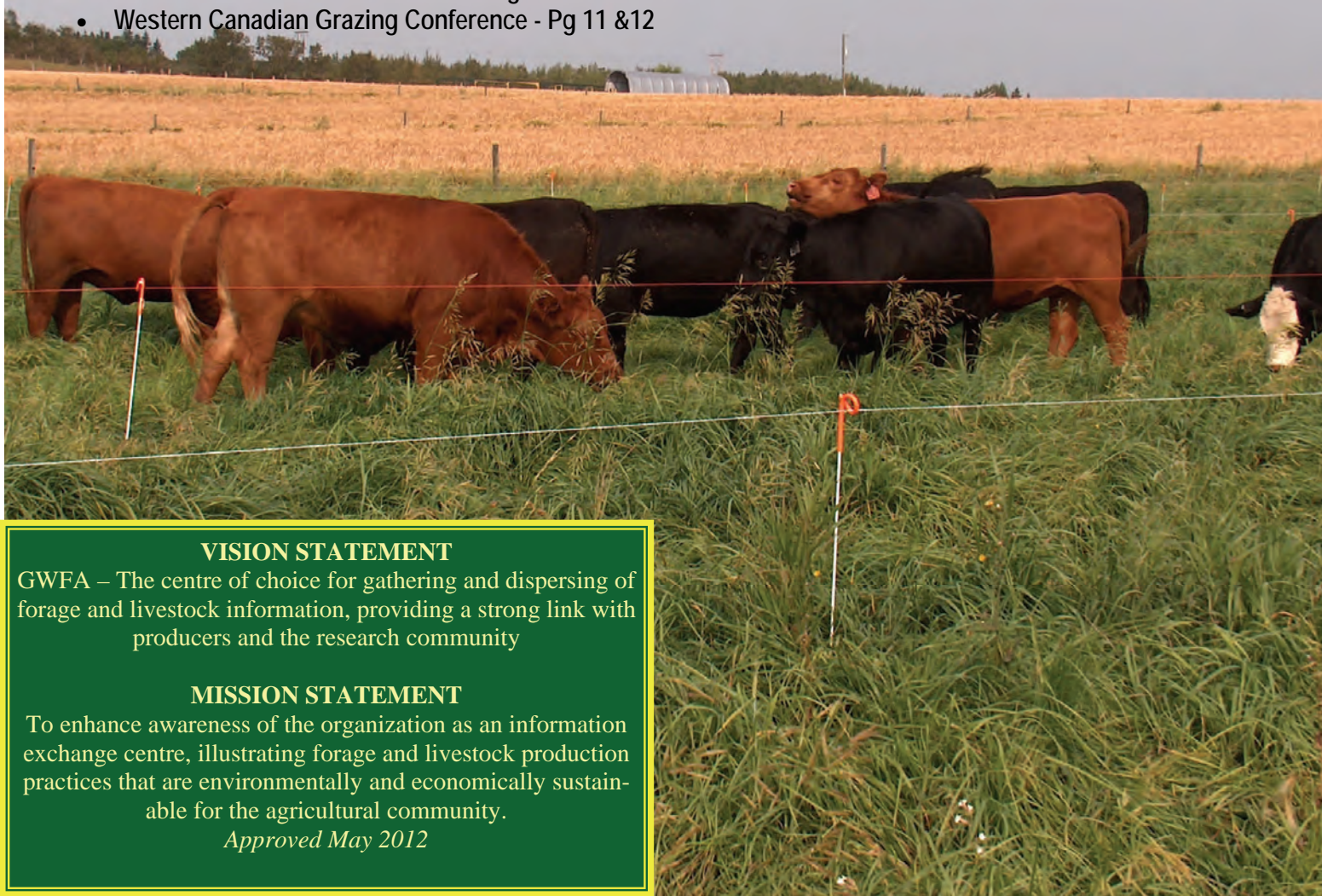
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VISION STATEMENT

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.

Approved May 2012

Manager's Notes:

By Albert Kuipers



Wow! It's the middle of October already. It seems like summer didn't start till the end of August after a loooooong wet spring.

The wet weather we experienced for most of the growing season brought with it an abundance of forage production. It also brought with it some big challenges, especially for those trying to make hay.

The wet haying season brought with it many potential problems to be aware of. Nutrient levels in most hay crops this year will be down. Fast growth in wet years tends to dilute nutrients in plants, as Barry Yaremicio from ARD pointed out earlier this year. Advanced maturity of hay stands had a large effect on feed quality this year as well, as some stands weren't cut until September. Lots of hay got rained on as well, which not only reduced nutrient levels in the hay, but also made it more susceptible to mold.

So please, get samples into the lab for feed testing. You need to know what you'll be feeding this winter and if you'll need to supplement at all. I can help out with collecting samples and getting the feed testing done. Just give me a call.

On the pasture side, abundant forage production allowed graziers to leave more behind after grazing, resulting in improved forage stand health. It also made forages more forgiving of management mistakes. Please don't take this as a signal that you can increase stocking rates next year.

It's far better to set your stocking rates for the drought years and allow pastures to recover in the wet years. Leaving lots of forage behind accomplishes this recovery better than anything else I've seen. Over the past 20 years I've noticed that "He, or she who leaves the most behind, gains the most." It doesn't matter whether we're talking about native, or tame pastures, this rule of thumb holds true.

In my earlier years of grazing management I didn't "get" this. I would do a pretty good job of leaving lots of forage behind during the growing season, but then I'd use all of it in the

fall. I've learned since that I crippled the potential increase in forage production by doing so.

Now is a great time to review the results of your grazing management through the past growing season and start putting together your grazing plan for next year.

Some of you will be grazing for two or three more months before winter makes grazing difficult. This takes considerably more planning as you have to produce a whole year's forage requirements in about four months.

If you would like help with your grazing plans, or want information on a variety of alternative feeding systems that reduce your costs of production, just give me a call.



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'The Blade' online on our new
website:**

www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

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*** Restricted to members only!**

gwfa1@telus.net

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Association on
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Director's Corner:



You may already be aware of the Bale Grazing Nutrient Distribution project we are working on with Ag Canada. We hope to learn how the nutrients left after grazing, move in the ground, as well as the effect on ground moisture and temperature. While all of the testing going into this will take some time to complete and compile the results, there are some things that seem clear to me after about one year of the project.

We fed our cow herd from Jan 7 to Mar 20 2012 with out starting a tractor during that time, as all the feed was set out in Oct in 1 day. The feeding program then amounted to moving an electric fence a couple of times a week during the grazing period. The cows did fine on this system and the pasture in the bale grazing area looks real good.

There is a diversity of grass and legumes which appears

better to me than the surrounding pasture outside the bale grazed area.

This system has its challenges like any other, but it seems to be simple, low cost, and effective. So we spent today (October 14th) setting out bales for this winter's cow feeding season.

Doug Skeels



How Do Well Managed Forages Create Soils and Profits?

By Grant Lastiwka, Grazing, Forage & Beef Specialist, ARD.

At a time of high prices in grains and oilseeds.... forages and grazing may not be seen as a crop, or occupation of choice. Yet when **skilled management of grazing systems are used, the net returns from their use from 2000-2010 show forages is, as profitable or even more profitable than other crops.** I am referring to the 2012 analysis done by Arnold Mattson and Carlyle Ross of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, for the Alberta Forage Industry Network. Along with forages being equal or better in Net Returns, they also make soil better for future generations in agriculture. The value of an improving soil, while getting higher profits, comes from a wisely carried out soil systems approach to grazing. That is something to get excited about!

On November 27-29, 2012 Alberta's 9th Western Canadian Grazing Conference will take place in Red Deer. This year's theme "Grass Roots of Grazing" focuses on the fact that soils grow forage, but if well managed.... forages grow soils.

The rate at which quality soil is created varies with grazing management; the environment; soil type, chemistry, life and added nutrients; plant species and ground cover; animal density; etc.

Albert Kuipers, from the Grey Wooded Forage Association, and Vicki Heidt, from the Battle River Research Group are this year's co-chairs. The Program Planning team, lead by Nora Paulovich of the North Peace Forage Association and Laura Gibney of the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association, have created a program showing and explaining how some of our best graziers are improving soil quality and creating soil. The land they manage is higher in productivity, has longer growing seasons, is more risk averse, and more profitable. These are exciting results of managing grazing with an understanding of soil systems. **I would like to thank Albert Kuipers for allowing me to take this speaker information from his Press Release on the 2012 Western Canadian Grazing Conference.**

We will start off on the afternoon of the 27th with a tour of the highly successful extended grazing project at the Lacombe Research Centre.

• Vern Baron – Extended Grazing-Thinking in Systems

Dr. Vern Baron, is a highly respected researcher who challenges schools of thought in working to gain understanding of how managing plant systems can benefit grazers and the "bottom line". He will show, and then explain how extending grazing system using Spring Triticale and Corn can be more profitable by using less land, cutting animal production costs, recycling nutrients, and creating a higher quality soil.

Some of the speakers In Red Deer on November 28th and 29th are:

• Christine Jones - Fundamentals of Soil

Dr Christine Jones, from Australia is an internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist. She has a wealth of experience working with innovative land-holders to implement regenerative land management techniques

that enhance biodiversity, increase biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, restore water balance, improve productivity and create new topsoil.

• Neil Dennis - Managing Chaos to Improve Soil Health

Neil and Barbara Dennis, Wawota, Saskatchewan are the owner/operators of Sunnybrae Farms, and a group member of the South East Sask. Holistic Management Club. For the past 25 years Neil Dennis has been exploring new pathways in the science of grazing cattle and creating soil. He has the pictures to prove it!

• Glen Rabenberg - Improving Crop Quality for All

President, and CEO of Soil Works LLC. PhosRite, Genesis Soil Rite Calcium and GrowRite Greenhouse. Soil Chemistry, Biology and Physics are all of equal importance. They must work together to build and maintain healthy soil. Rabenberg has spent extensive years researching soil and plant nutrition to cleanse the soil and aid in the production of quality food for all.

• Charley Orchard - What Really Counts for Grazing Managers

Fourth generation rancher Charley Orchard, developed what became known as the Land EKG® Monitoring System, a land health monitoring, management information and reporting system. His business, Land EKG Inc., has a constant driving goal: to promote sustainable business and ecological information models for those noble few, stewarding the land and feeding our nation and world.

• David Irvine- Working with the Ones You Love: The Human Side of Agriculture."

As the Leader's Navigator™, David is a connector and a communicator. He has dedicated his life to building productive, engaging and vital cultures through authentic leadership. He comes from a farm and spends a lot of his time working with farm families and group.

Although these keynote speakers are highlighted, many other speakers will explain how they are using well thought out grazing systems to profitably produce and market their end products from consuming forages. The producer speakers who share how they carry out their successful grazing businesses will be a real highlight of invaluable information to take home. Not to be forgotten, is the highest evaluated topic at every grazing conference so far..."networking with others" in attendance.

For more information please go to:

www.westerncanadiangrazingconference.com,

call 780-727-4447,

or email westcentralforage@gmail.com



Buying Forage Seed This Year? Ask for the Seed Testing Certificate

By Stephanie Kosinski, Forage Specialist, ARD

Thinking of seeding pasture or hay next year? Want to make sure you don't bring any difficult to control weeds into your field? Then set yourself up for success by purchasing high quality forage seed. Ask for a copy of the seed testing certificate before you buy your forage seed. This way, you know exactly what you are getting.

What is a Seed Testing Certificate?

It is a certificate that contains valuable information about the seed you are buying. A seed testing certificate is available with every lot of seed graded in Canada and is issued under the authority of the *Canada Seeds Act*.

The seed testing certificate contains the following information:

- Seed testing certificate number, which is assigned by an accredited laboratory and some authorized establishments.
- A twelve digit crop certificate number, assigned by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, for the classes of pedigreed seed. It is not present for common seed. The crop certificate number gives the following information:
 - ✓ The first two digits represent the year in which the crop was produced.
 - ✓ The third digit identifies the location of the grower who produced the seed. For example, if the third number is eight, the seed was produced in Alberta.
 - ✓ The fourth through ninth digits identify the grower who produced the seed.
 - ✓ The tenth digit identifies the pedigreed class of the seed. For example, if the tenth number is four, the seed falls in the certified class.
 - ✓ The eleventh and twelfth digits are assigned by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.
- Seed sealing number (i.e. lot number). This is a number assigned by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the registered seed establishment or the vendor of common seed.
- Crop kind. In the case of pedigreed seed, the variety name is also included (i.e. for certified class and higher).
- Grade (e.g. Canada Certified No. 1, Common No. 1 etc.).
- Sample size. The grading is based on 25 grams according to the grade table.
- Amount and name(s) of prohibited, primary and secondary noxious weeds, other weeds and seeds of other crops. Both Latin and common names are included, except for the other weeds category. The *Weed Control Act and Regulations* is provincial legislation that may prohibit weed species in Alberta that are not necessarily prohibited by the federal act.
- Per cent pure seed, other crops, weed seeds and inert matter.
- Per cent germination, hard seeds (applicable to legume

seeds) and pure living seeds. Hard legume seeds are included in the per cent germination even though they do not germinate during a germination test.

- Place and date of analysis, as well as name of the seed analyst. All seed certificates must be signed and stamped by a seed analyst to be official.

Seed testing certificates should be read carefully before making a final decision about which seed lot to purchase. A copy of the information from the certificate should be filed with your field records.

Official Seed Sealing Tags

All graded seed for sale will have a tag attached. If not, you should get an invoice with the same information. Official seed tags may be issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency or by authorized establishments.

The tag gives the following information:

- Crop kind: e.g. alfalfa.
- Variety: e.g. Algonquin. Variety names are applicable only to certified or higher classes of seed, but not to common seed.
- Grade and class of seed: e.g. Canada Certified No. 1.
- Crop certificate number, applicable to certified or higher classes of seed, but not to common seed (see notes above).
- Seed sealing number. Seed from each lot of seed has a different number.

Summary

Reading the seed testing certificate before buying forage seed is vital to ensuring you are purchasing high quality forage seed. This way, you can evaluate purity, germination and find out what other seeds are present. You know exactly what you are getting.

If you don't get the seed testing certificate, then keep the seed tag with your field records in case a problem relating to the seed arises. By referring to the crop certificate and the seed sealing certificate numbers on the tag, it is possible to trace the place of origin and the seed testing certificates of the seed.

For more information on purchasing high quality forage seed, check out the "How to Purchase High Quality Forage Seed" fact sheet (Agdex 120/45-1) from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (www.agriculture.alberta.ca) or contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).

It's a good idea to begin now with developing your seeding plans, especially if you're thinking about seeding a forage, or cereal for which seed might be in short supply.

Bunker and Tyndal Triticale tend to be in short supply in spring as interest grows in planting these. Kura Clover may also be difficult to get if you don't get it ordered early.

Remember to Check Your Feed Grain for Ergot This Fall

By Stephanie Kosinski, Forage Specialist, ARD

Winter feeding might be the last thing on your mind right now, with hay-ing wrapping up and your herd still out grazing. However, it is never too early to start thinking about what grain you will use in your herd's winter ration. You want to make sure you are purchasing the highest quality feed grain you can, and that includes making sure it is safe to feed. One issue you should be aware of when sourcing feed grain this fall is ergot contamination.

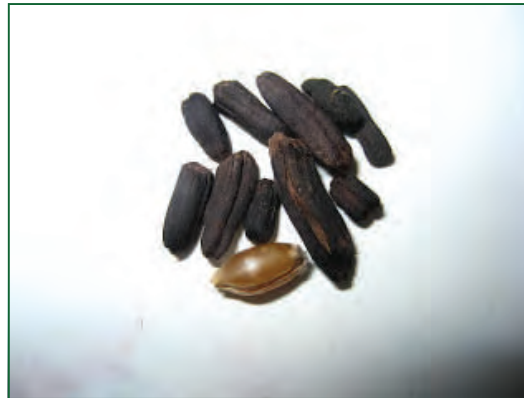
Ergot is a plant disease that is caused by a fungus called *Claviceps purpurea* found in **rye, triticale, wheat, barley, brome grass, wheatgrass, bluegrass, quack grass, orchardgrass, meadow foxtail and wild rye**. It is most easily recognized by the hard, black bodies that replace the kernels on the seed head.

Ergot overwinters as black, grain-sized fungal structures. In the spring, they germinate and form mushroom-like structures that produce spores which are carried by the wind to flowering cereals and grasses. Cool, damp weather in late spring and early summer increases ergot germination because of the longer flowering time of cereals and grasses. Parts of the province may have experienced these conditions in the spring and early summer this year, creating the potential for ergot to develop.

You should be concerned with ergot contamination of your feed grain is because ergot contains numerous toxic alkaloids that will negatively affect the health of your livestock. General symptoms of ergot poisoning include lameness, excitability, belligerence, loss of appetite and weight loss. It can take 2-8 weeks for these symptoms to become visible.

There are four specific syndromes caused by ergot: gangrenous ergotism, convulsive/nervous ergotism, reproductive ergotism and hyperthermic ergotism. The gangrenous and nervous forms are most common.

Gangrenous ergotism is associated with longer term in-



gestion of ergot. Ergot alkaloids cause small blood vessels to constrict, reducing the blood supply to limbs, tails, teats and ears. If blood flow is restricted for long periods of time, the tissues become oxygen deprived and die. Hooves can slough off and in cold weather ears freeze off.

Convulsive, or nervous, ergotism is more common in horses and sheep, and is the acute form of ergotism. Symptoms include dizziness, drowsiness, convulsions, paralysis and death. These symptoms usually disappear about 3 to 10 days after the ergot is removed.

Reproductive ergotism is caused by high levels of estrogen in the ergot bodies. This can lead to abortions or lowered fertility due to abnormal cycling. Once the ergot is removed, it takes a long time for estrogen levels to return to normal.

Hyperthermic ergotism results from long term exposure to ergot. It is made worse on hot and humid days with no shade. Animals pant and lose weight.

The upper feeding limit of ergot in older, non-pregnant cattle is 0.1% by weight of feed consumed. Health issues could still occur at this level, so always try to feed ergot-free feed to all your cattle. Pregnant, breeding and lactating animals are the most sensitive to ergot. They should not be fed any ergot at all.

One last thing to think about is the screening pellets or screenings you buy from your local seed cleaning plant. Ergot levels in these screenings can be very high. Do not buy screenings with any amount of ergot unless they can be appropriately diluted with ergot free feeds.

For more information on ergot, call 310-FARM (3276).



Have Hay? Contact us toll free 1-855-HAY 2012 or 1-855-429-2012 Forms to Donate Hay for Farm Animals

HayEast 2012 intends to help support and address the urgent need for hay on many eastern Canadian farms. The summer of 2012 caused much distress for many eastern Canadian livestock farmers. A late frost that killed much of the hay crop was followed by a severe drought which prevented hay fields from recovering. As a result, many livestock farmers were left unable to harvest a hay crop. The province of Ontario has identified 19 prescribed drought regions that have been drastically impacted by this summer's drought.

Please help meet the need - donate hay by filling out an **online form** at www.hayeast2012.com/have-hay, or complete the form shown and email to hayeast2012@apas.ca or fax to (306) 789-7779.

Are Your Cows Efficient Enough?

By Ken Ziegler, Beef/Forage Specialist, ARD

With the prospects of better calf prices this year, the cow calf industry is facing the possibility of future profits and the ongoing need to refine production output and costs. Efficiency within the cow herd becomes more important as owners seek to expand profit margins. So what are the points that are important in increasing the overall efficiency of your cow herd?

1. The overall efficiency of your cow herd is dependent on the match of the cow's biological type with the environment that you are placing them into. Cows need to fit the environment that you place them into, which to the greatest extent is based on what you believe is necessary as good care. Climate and feed resources are also factors affecting the type of cow herd you should own. However, they don't play as big a part as you do as a care giver.
2. Within any group of similar cows there is variation in their ability to convert plant energy into animal energy. Some cows are genetically more able to accomplish their job on less feed. Conversely, some cows genetically need more feed in order to do their job of raising calves each year. Research is currently underway to further develop the concept known as Relative Feed Efficiency. Because of its complexity to measure, this concept has first become available to the cattle industry through bull test stations. Bulls are being identified for their Relative Feed Efficiency that buyers can bid on, similar to any other traits. Because Relative Feed Efficiency is reasonably heritable, this feature can be passed onto the daughters.
3. Cow milking ability is a major factor that establishes the nutrient requirements at any given time of year. Cows that milk less have lower feed requirements.
4. The change in nutrient requirement does not change as quickly as cow size does. A 2000 lb cow does not eat twice as much as does a 1000 lb cow. Rather, feed requirements change with the animal's metabolic weight rather than their live weight. The metabolic weight is achieved by multiplying their live weight by the .75 power.
5. The size of the cow isn't as important as is her long term compatibility to her environment.
6. Although large cows in a herd can be as productive relative to their body size as small cows, it's not as likely. That's because it's easier to be a lazy large cow than to be a lazy small cow. The manager is quicker to notice that the little cow of the herd is lazy as her calf is just plain small. The larger cow can be as lazy as the small cow, but her calf will still fit in with the

other calves. She then sneaks by for another year.

7. Although poor keeping cows cull themselves through infertility, the poor performing cows don't have a biological method for culling themselves except through the scrutiny of the cow owner. The tool for culling them is much more subjective and sometimes less observant. The only certain way to correct this is to individually weigh the calves in the fall and to correlate this with the actual weight of the cow.
8. In deciding the optimal cow for your situation, look to those cows that are pregnant in deciding the type of replacements to place back into the herd and to look to the open cows to decide what heifers to send to the feedlot. Then look to the bulls that reinforce the characteristics that you are trying to raise in your heifers.
9. Finally, the degree of tolerance to poor efficiency is largely based on economics. The relationship between feed prices and calf prices will determine how inefficient cows can get, and yet still be profitable.



HANG ON TO THAT TAIL!



Cattlemen's Day

Dovercourt Hall
November 21/2012

- ♦ Tour of Swath & Bale Grazing Sites
- ♦ Swath Grazing—Annie & Mark Bertagnolli
- ♦ Nutritional Analysis—Barry Yaremcio
- ♦ Garlic Mineral—Robert Carr, Eastman Feeds
- ♦ Swath Grazing Mineral
- ♦ CPIP—Jennifer Wood
- ♦ Future of Cattle Industry—Travis Toews
- ♦ Market Outlook—Anne Dunford



Cattlemen's Day is an event that is free for producers to attend thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Please register with Ag. Services at 403 845 4444

Cow-Calfenomics 2012: **Transitions, Tools and Technologies**



TOPICS COVERED:

- Transitioning the Business: A Next Generation Perspective
- Strategic Risk Management for Cattle Producers
- Cattle Price Insurance Program – Managing your Risk
- Economic Value of Genomics – Current and Future
- BIXS/TRACEBACK – Tools to Improve Herd Profitability
- Profitable Strategies for Full Time Ranching (Producer Panel)

UPCOMING SEMINARS IN YOUR AREA:

Date	Town	Location	Time
November 20, 2012	Fairview	Dunvegan Motor Inn	9:30 am - 3:30 pm
November 21, 2012	Barrhead	Barrhead Agrena Rec Centre	9:30 am - 3:30 pm
November 22, 2012	Rimbey	Best Western Rimstone Ridge	9:30 am - 3:30 pm
December 11, 2012	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Exhibition Association	9:30 am - 3:30 pm
December 12, 2012	Brooks	Heritage Inn and Conference Centre	9:30 am - 3:30 pm
December 13, 2012	Nanton	Nanton Community Centre	9:30 am - 3:30 pm

HOW TO REGISTER:

To register call the Ag Info Centre at 1-800-387-6030. Registration fee is \$25.00 (includes lunch) and payment can be made by cheque or credit card (MasterCard or Visa). Please make cheques payable to the Government of Alberta. Cheques can be mailed to Ag-Info Centre, Bag 600, Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0.

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Alberta EFP

Environmental Farm Plan

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 available.

Clear Water Landcare

Invites you to the second annual

“Celebrating our Success”

Sharing our Stories and Making Friends

Thursday, November 15, 2012

11:30 am to 6:30 pm

Lou Soppit Community Centre

Rocky Mountain House, AB

Clear Water Landcare hosted the first “Celebrating our Success” to bring people together focusing on good news stories in a public forum. The format was a series of short success stories mingled with a number of breaks to allow for socializing and discussion among the attendees. There were a variety of subjects presented and a distinct sense of accomplishment in each. This intent of providing a venue and vehicle by which to share and celebrate with one another was met – the overwhelming number of positive comments through the evaluation told us so.

We are doing it again!

11:30 am Registration, Displays, Networking and light lunch

12:30 pm Welcome and Introductions

1:00 – 4:30 pm Storytelling – short stories, with ample breaks

4:30 pm Wrap up

5:00 pm Supper

5:00 – 6:30 Informal networking and hospitality

For only \$15 per person you can join us for the celebration.

Please preregister by November 9th to secure your spot.

For more information please contact Gary Lewis at 403-845-4444 or glewis@clearwatercounty.ca.



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Government of Alberta
Agriculture and Rural Development

AgriProfit\$

What's **NEW** 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



If you're interested in starting or being involved in a Grazing Club, please call: Arnold at 780 495-4593 or Albert at 403 844-2645.



Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



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



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

2012 –2013 Memberships are available now for \$20.00
and run from April 1,2012 to March 31,2013
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 early pregnancy, 9 per cent in late pregnancy and 11 per cent after calving.

AGRI-FACTS

August 2009

Agdex 130/538-1

Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

Pastures are unique to agricultural production systems in that only a very small portion of the nutrients

Effect of legumes

and environmental risks

and pathways

al pools of nutrients including

ic matter, growing plants

plant litter, living animals

large herbivores, alone and

and soil microbes, and the

cycles develop as nutrients flow

through from one pool to

The processes and pathways of

cycles are different for various

systems, but nutrient balances control

them. Balances are made up of

inputs and losses of nutrients

pasture systems.

Inputs = outputs + losses

when they are removed or

lost or stored. These exported

inputs, some type of fertilizer

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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

September 2008

Agdex 420/56-3

Agronomic Management of Swath Grazed Pastures

Feed, feeding, cow management and manure disposal can account for up to two-thirds of the total cost of production in a cow-calf operation. Systems that can extend the grazing season and reduce these costs are of great interest to cow-calf producers. One of these is swath grazing.

Many factors come into play to determine forage quality, quantity and unit cost of production in a swath grazing system. Some of these factors, such as weather, are

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

AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

Agdex 420/56-4

Agronomic Management of Stockpiled Pastures



YEAR ROUND GRAZING 365 DAYS



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Grazing Notebook



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2012 WCGC Agenda

Tues Nov 27		Speaker	Title
Noon	Set-up: Tradeshow and Conference rooms		
1:00 PM – 4:30	Tour Lacombe Research Station	Dr. Vern Baron	Swath grazing corn and triticale in central Alberta
7:00 – 10:00pm	Tradeshow Open		
Wed Nov 28			
7:30 am	Registration		
8:30	Welcome		
8:45	Keynote	Neil Dennis	Managing Chaos to Improve Soil Health
10:15	Coffee Break and Tradeshow		
10:45	Select a Session	A	
12:15	Lunch and Trade Show		
1:30 PM	Select a session	A	
3:00	Coffee and Trade Show		
3:30	Keynote (1.5 hours)	Christine Jones	Fundamentals of Soil
5:00	Evening Break and Trade Show		
6:00	Cocktails		
6:30	Banquet		
7:30	Speaker/Entertainment	David Irvine	Working With The Ones You Love: The Human Side of Agriculture
8:30-10:30	Bar, Room and Tradeshow will stay open		
Thurs Nov 29			
7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast and Tradeshow		
8:15 AM	Keynote	Glen Rabenberg	Improving Crop Quality for All
9:45	Coffee and Trade Show		
10:15	Select a Session	B	
11:30	Select a Session	B	
12:30 PM	Lunch and Tradeshow		
1:30	Keynote	Charley Orchard	What Really Counts for Grazing Managers
3:00	Wrap-up	Grant Lastiwka	
4:00	Head Home		

Select-A-Session – A (1.5 hrs)

- **Extended Grazing Producer Panel**
Greg Selzler
Duane Thompson
- **Sheep Grazing & Management**
Bill Gibson: Grazing Sheep
Louise Leibenberg: Managing Predators & Livestock
- **Beef Marketing Producer Panel**
Ian Murray
Nicole Lamb
Tim Hoven
- **Logie Cassells: Compost Tea and Soil Health**

Select-A-Session – B (1 hr)

- **Neil Dennis:** If You Are Going to be Lazy: Get Good At It
- **Grant Lastiwka & Lee Eddy:** Minerals & Extended Grazing Systems
- **John Basarab:** Feed Efficient Cow Herd
- **David Irvine:** Working With The Ones You Love: Putting the Inspiration to Work



To register go to www.westerncanadiangrazingconference.com



Western Canadian Grazing Conference & Trade Show

Grass Roots of Grazing

**November 28 & 29, 2012
Sheraton Hotels & Resorts
Red Deer, AB**

Optional Field Tour - November 27

Lacombe Research Station - Swath Grazing Trials

Keynote Speakers:

Neil Dennis - *Managing Chaos to Improve Soil Health*

Charley Orchard - *What Really Counts for Grazing Managers*

Glen Rabenberg - *Improving Crop Quality for All*

Christine Jones - *Fundamentals of Soil*

Banquet: **David Irvine** - *Working with the Ones You Love:
The Human Side of Agriculture*

For more information contact:

West Central Forage Association westcentralforage@gmail.com **780-727-4447**

www.westerncanadiangrazingconference.com