



Grey  
Wooded  
Forage  
Association

# The Blade

*"Creating an Awareness of Forages"*

## SEPTEMBER 2013

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- Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Conference & AGM - Pg 10
- Silvopasture Workshop - Date & location yet to be determined - Please call the GWFA office for details.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**2013 CFGGA Conference & AGM**  
Dec 9th, (Tour) 10th & 11th (Conference), 2013



### 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*



On behalf of Clearwater County Ag Services and Landcare, and Grey Wooded Forage Association, we would like to thank our sponsors for the support towards our 26th Annual West Country Ag Tour!

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**Rocky Mountain House**



# 26th Annual West Country Ag Tour

**We hope you all enjoyed the tour!!**

Organizing and planning for the 'big' tour is always an enjoyable task! Being able to uncover the new ideas found within the county lines, and then share them by visiting the site, is very exciting for the planning team!

Our first stop this year was at Cow Lake. Some of you who attended last year's tour may remember, we had planned to visit Cow Lake as our last stop but we were drenched by a huge thunderstorm, causing us to skip the stop at the lake. Making up for last year's promise, we decided to include Cow Lake in this year's tour. This stop was very informative covering numerous topics from river otters, the health of the pike population, the quality of the water and the importance of riparian areas. Many also took the time to stroll down the dock and enjoy the warmth of the sunshine.

The second stop was a very unique one. Staff from Inside Education based in Edmonton, came out to the Strachan area to give us a tour of the Des Crossley Demonstration Forest. Although they were not used to speaking to a bus load of adults, the staff from Inside Education did a great job of adapting their presentation to suit their visitors. Many of the attendees enjoyed having the opportunity to take a core sample of a tree or a soil sample. If nothing else, this stop certainly took some back to the good old days of school field trips!

After a busy morning, we returned to the Dovercourt Hall for a delicious lunch. At this time, attendees also participated in a bidding war over the silent auction items!

Moving on to the third stop, we took a quick look at a few gluten free grains that were unfortunately destroyed by hail

and we walked through various triticale plots. Supported by a few speakers, the main purpose of visiting this Clearwater County project was look at the comparison of the quality, quantity and suitability of triticale for swath grazing in the West Country.

Our fourth and final stop was a visit at the new alfalfa project site for Grey Wooded Forage Association. Here we were able to get a quick look at various varieties. We hope to make this site another stop in a future West Country Ag Tour and discuss the results of the project.

We hope everyone who attended the tour enjoyed their day! With every year we try to improve from the previous, but we are unable to do this without help from you. Please, if you have any suggestions for future stops or ways that we can better meet your needs on these tours, let us know. We would be very happy to hear from you! Thanks once again to all those who helped us make this day a successful one!



## What's <sup>New</sup> 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](http://www.foragebeef.ca)

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



Agriculture Opportunity Fund





## Manager's Notes:

*By Albert Kuipers*

Greetings to all my forage loving friends. Looks like we finally got summer. By now most of you have your haying done. It looks like whatever hay that didn't get rained on got put up quite mature.

Don't forget to get all your hay and silage feed tested. We have a hay sampling probe, so if you need to borrow it, please call the office. If you want your samples to go to Parkland Laboratories in Red Deer, we might be able to help with that as well.

Once you have your feed test reports, you can figure out your feeding plan for the winter. Your feed test reports can help to ensure that your feeds are of sufficient quality for the requirements of your cattle. Using ration balancing software, like Cowbytes, can make the job of balancing rations quick and easy. If you would like help with that, please give me a call.

If you would like your own Cowbytes software, the new "Cowbytes Version 5" is now available from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD). You can download a free demo copy of Cowbytes or purchase it through ARD's website ([www.agriculture.alberta.ca](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca)).



This year I had the pleasure of witnessing the "Residual Feed Intake (RFI) on Pasture" project work again, thanks to my Friends at the Lacombe Research Centre (LRC).

Dr. John Basarab, the lead beef cattle researcher on this project, has been working on RFI in feedlot settings and on pasture for several years. He and his cohorts developed a way to measure individual animal's forage intake by feeding a non-digestible tracer to each animal and analysing fecal samples for this tracer. From this they can calculate the amount of forage each animal has eaten.

Dr. Vern Baron has been controlling the forage, or pasture part of the project work. His technician, Adele Ohama, carefully allotted the appropriate size of pasture area for each grazing period and each herd. She also collected forage samples before and after grazing to determine forage utilization.

Dr. Tom Flesch, a meteorologist with the University of Alberta was also on sight, measuring the greenhouse gases that the cattle emitted while on pasture. The pasture design for the



RFI project works well with the parameters Dr. Flesch needs to



do the greenhouse gas measurements.

So, why is this Residual Feed Intake research important? This, my friends, is a major step towards being able to select breeding animals for feed efficiency, a highly heritable genetic trait. If you, on your farm, can select, or buy efficient breeding stock, you can start breeding higher feed efficiency into your cow herd. Bulls with good values for feed efficiency can already be purchased.

If you can reduce the feed and forage intake of your cattle over the next few years you will be able to produce more beef per acre of land. Put that together with good grazing management and you have a formula for success.



**If you would be interested in attending a "Silvopasture" Workshop in October, please contact the GWFA office. Silvopasture is a fancy name for treed, woodlot, or bush pasture.**

## Director's Corner

*By: Deb Skeels*

My name is Deb Skeels. My husband Doug and I farm in the Dovercourt area. I am new to the board but have been to several functions put on by the Grey Wooded Forage Association and others. Doug was a director in the past so I knew of all the interesting programs and ideas that were out there.

In the beginning of our rotational grazing, I would occasionally help Doug put up and take down electric fences. I use



to think, what a lot of time spent doing this for what benefit? Turns out, there was a great benefit to our operation. Over the years Doug has increased the production of our fields greatly. The time spent is worth it! As well as the way it settles the cattle. There is no stress moving our herd. Their only complaint would be if we are not at the field by 5:30 to move. Seems they can tell time or is it the sound of the truck? Not to sure, but they do let you know if you're late!

Oh and by the way, do not judge by my husband's grazing abilities on "my" horse pastures (shall we call them dry lots). I am hoping a few years on the Grey Wooded board will improve my grazing abilities!

# Sainfoin – A Great Perennial Legume

Submitted by the Ag-Info Centre

Are you thinking about seeding a new hay or pasture field in the next few years? If so, consider trying something new and adding sainfoin to the mix.

## What is sainfoin?

Sainfoin is a cool-season, perennial forage legume. It was introduced to North America from Europe and parts of Russia and Asia. It develops a deep, branched tap-root and numerous fine lateral roots. It is a non-bloating legume that is suitable for mixtures with alfalfa or cool-season grasses, such as Crested Wheatgrass, Russian Wildrye and Western Wheatgrass. Sainfoin has good longevity under optimal growing and management conditions.

## Where should it be seeded?

Sainfoin is best adapted to the Brown and Dark Brown soil zones, and the irrigated areas of southern Alberta. It favours well-drained, light and medium textured soils with good water-holding capacity. It has poor tolerance of acidity and salinity, but handles those soil conditions better than alfalfa. It has good tolerance of alkalinity and drought. Sainfoin grows well in areas that receive 300mm or more of precipitation in a year. However, it is sensitive to flooding, wet soils and high water tables.

## Are there any special seeding requirements for sainfoin?

Sainfoin is quite large-seeded compared to the other forage legumes. Even with its large seed size, it still needs to be seeded shallow, no more than 3/4 inches (2 cm) deep. Be sure to inoculate sainfoin with the correct rhizobia species before seeding to facilitate nodulation. It germinates well, but can establish slowly. In general, spring-seeded sainfoin stands are well established by the fall. There may be some hard seed, but you generally don't need to scarify seed before seeding. It has been suggested that sainfoin is seeded separately and at a right angle to other forages if in a mixture. If seeding sainfoin alone, it is not recommended to use a companion or cover crop.

## What seeding rate should I use?

The seeding rate of sainfoin should be based on the pure live seed (PLS). Suggested seeding densities are 40-60 seeds/metre of row (12-18 seeds/foot of row) and 175-250 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> (16-23 seeds/ft<sup>2</sup>). Your final bulk seeding rate will vary with row spacing, seed quality and seed amendments. You can calculate your seeding rate using the 'Forage Seed Mix Calculator' found on Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's website ([www.agriculture.alberta.ca](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca)).

## Can sainfoin be used for hay?

Sainfoin grows upright, making it easy to harvest as hay. It also has excellent leaf retention. If cut at 50-100% flowering, you will maximize yields. It can work in either a two-cut system under irrigation or a one cut system in drier areas. Sainfoin has a higher moisture content than alfalfa, but still cures well for hay. It yields about 80-90% of alfalfa hay.

## How about in a pasture system?

Sainfoin is best suited to a rotational grazing system. It can be grazed mid-summer or stockpiled and grazed in the fall. You will have maximum yield when sainfoin is grazed at 50-100% bloom, but you will get better regrowth when it is grazed in the vegetative stage. Sainfoin relies on its residual leaf material and stem buds to support new growth more than alfalfa does. This means it is important to leave residual sainfoin after each

grazing period. Newer varieties, like Mountainview, have improved re-growth compared to older varieties.

Sainfoin has good leaf retention and frost tolerance, making it ideal for fall grazing. Be sure to rest it four to six weeks before a killing frost in order to allow the plants enough time to build up their carbohydrate reserves to survive the winter. It is a good management practice to allow sainfoin plants to reseed themselves every few years. This helps maintain its presence in the stand.

Recent studies conducted in Alberta and Saskatchewan have looked at the potential of including new sainfoin varieties in alfalfa pasture for grazing. They have found that these new varieties are more competitive and have improved re-growth rates compared to some older varieties. These studies have also shown that including 20-30% sainfoin in an alfalfa pasture significantly lowers, and in certain cases eliminates, the risk of bloat.

## What is the forage quality of sainfoin?

Sainfoin is highly palatable, with cattle often selecting it over alfalfa when grazing. Research has shown it has lower acid detergent fibre and neutral detergent fibre levels than alfalfa, along with increased digestibility of its stems.

Sainfoin is a non-bloating legume due to the presence of condensed tannins. These tannins bind to protein in feed, allowing it to be digested as bypass protein. This avoids the problem of large amounts of protein being quickly digested in the rumen, which can lead to bloat.

**For more information, contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).**

**Contact us to read  
'The Blade' online on our new  
website:**

[www.greywoodedforageassociation.com](http://www.greywoodedforageassociation.com)

**\*Email us for a username/password and enjoy  
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## Participate in Wireworm Control for your Farm

Wireworm populations and their damage to crops are increasing and you can help to find a solution for your distinct farming area. Wireworms are the larval stage of click beetles.

Lindane (e.g. Vitavax Dual, etc.), and organochlorine insecticide, kept wireworm levels low for several decades on the prairies. However, this insecticide has been banned since 2004 due to its detrimental effects on human health and the environment. As wireworm damage in field crops rebounds, entomologist, Dr. Bob Vernon, is heading a research team investigating new approaches to keep wireworm problems in check.

A silver bullet approach has disappeared and the wireworm is not like other insect pests, where dealing with only one species makes control measures relatively easy. There are some 30 different wireworm species that exhibit variable life cycles and behaviours. Wireworm species vary from region to region and a single field may contain more than one species and therefore more than one type of wireworm behaviour. Instead of persisting for only one season like some insect pests, a single worm-like larva can feed on plant roots and germinating seeds in the soil for 3 to 5 years, depending on the wireworm species, before developing into the adult click beetle stage. Larvae burrow higher or lower in the soil profile in response to soil temperature and moisture conditions. While some seed treatments (e.g. Cruiser Maxx and Raxil WW) can protect crops for a growing season by repelling the wireworms, these products do not cause wireworms to die and their populations can continue to increase to the point where crop protection with seed treatment eventually fails. The effectiveness of these seed treatments also varies with different wireworm species. Clearly, this new generation of wireworm control requires a more integrated approach.

Wireworm losses are generally greater in crops grown on medium-textured (silt) soils, and continuously irrigated fields are at higher risk. Crop injury is less likely in fine textured (clay) soils but heavy infestations do occur in light textured (sand) soils. Wireworm damage shows up as early as crop thinning during stand establishment and most loss occurs during the earlier part of the growing season before larvae burrow in the soil to escape warm summer temperatures. Wireworms feed on the seeds, roots and stems of developing seedlings, often burrowing into the stem of larger plants at ground level. Unlike cutworms, wireworm larvae appear to shred or produce holes in seedling stems at, or below, the soil surface, rather than cutting them off. While central leaves die, outer leaves often remain green for some time before eventually wilting and dying, resulting in thin or patchy crop stands. Crops grown in recently broken sod are especially vulnerable for one or two years, then damage decreases rapidly only to gradually increase in succeeding years if no wireworm control measures are applied and cereal crops are in the crop rotation. Wireworms prefer eating annual and perennial grasses, so due to extensive egg-laying in these habitats, populations can build-up in fields that have extended periods of pasture or cereal crops. This means that wireworm risk remains high when canola, potato, sugar beet, etc. are subsequently incorporated into the field rotation after cereals and pasture. When wireworms complete their life cycles


and adult click beetles are formed in a year when cereal crop is planted, the conditions are optimal for a huge, single-year increase in wireworm populations in that field. This increased threat will persist for the next 3-5 years until the adult click beetle generation is eventually formed again. This scenario may account for situations where wireworm populations are reaching epidemic proportions in some areas and in some fields.

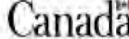
By sending wireworm samples to Dr. Vernon and his technician, Dr. Wim van Herk, you contribute to finding a solution for your unique grain growing region. The research team needs to know which specific wireworm species dominate in your area so the correct control option(s) are selected. To obtain live wireworms, you may need to bait them by burying whole potatoes or bait balls (gauze packets containing about 1 cup of wheat seeds, bran, or other cereal-based product) about four to six inches deep at marked locations randomly across a field (or, if the crop is up, in thin patchy areas) in either early spring or early to mid-August when the worms are nearer to the soil surface. Dig the bait up 10-14 days later (no longer or the bait become repulsive), searching for wireworms and their tunnels. Collect wireworms, along with some of the field soil (not too wet), and put them in a hard plastic container for shipping. There may be more than one species present, so collect as many as possible. Mail these wireworm sample(s) to Dr. Vernon at: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 6947 #7 Hwy, P.O. Box 1000, Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0.

Please include a brief description of where the sample was collected (nearest town or address), what crop the wireworms were found in, any information about previous rotations in that field over the past 4 years, your name and phone number. Once identified, you will be contacted with the results.

As damage to field crops escalates, please consider playing a part of the wireworm control solution for your area by submitting samples from your farm to the wireworm research team.

By: Neil Whitley

 Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada    Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada





## Crop Cocktails – Good for what Ails the Land

The Manitoba Zero Till Research Association (MZTRA) has taken the initiative to set up an annual forage trial to evaluate the potential of sowing seed blends in an annual crop rotation to improve soil health and provide a grazing option to give summer pastures a rest. It's one treatment for the benefit of two systems, says MZTRA livestock and forage coordinator Andrew Kopechuk. Before setting up the 2008 demo trial, Kopechuk attended a field day near Bismarck, North Dakota to learn more about the crop cocktail concept.

Kopechuk's recipes for the annual forage blends for the trial include certain species for certain reasons. He considers root type (tap or fibrous), nutrient suppliers (nitrogen fixers and low-energy input requirements), productivity under various climatic conditions (warm-season and cool-season plants), plant type (grass and legume), competitiveness (for weed control), economics (input cost), as well as the availability of seed. He also considers the nutrient requirements of the livestock to come up with palatable and balanced blends that will increase or at least maintain the rate of gain.

The main consideration is that the blend include varieties of crops that grow well in your area and serve your purpose at a price that's within your budget.

In the demo year, he used four blends of five or six species. Each of the blends was sown on each of four plots in a five-acre area at a MZTRA research farm north of Brandon. The initial plan was to sow the plot early enough so that it could be grazed midsummer. Due to the late spring, seeding was delayed until June 17 and the plots were swathed on August 19 for swath grazing. He calculated that the five-acre plot would have provided about 30 days of grazing for the 26 steers. The steers were removed after nine days because the producer wanted them back to take advantage of a jump in market prices.

Grab samples taken before swathing and at weekly intervals were analyzed for yield and feed quality. Kopechuk also observed the steer's preference for each of the blends as well as the re-growth. He noted that the blends that were the least expensive and contained varieties that grow and re-grow well in the Brandon area, weren't the steers first choice. Those mixes included German millet, oats or barley, and forage peas as the main ingredients, with a bit of forage turnip in the mix.

The blend favoured by the steers was the most expensive blend of corn, annual ryegrass, hairy vetch, forage turnip, peas and red clover. The yield was comparable to that of the cheapest blend, however, the re-growth was rated higher. The cost of the blends ranged from \$22 per acre to \$77 per acre.

Kopechuk designed the 2009 trial with six seed blends, each containing six to eleven species. The total plot size was cut down to two acres, divided crosswise into three equal blocks, then cross divided into six strips to create 18 plots. The blends were sown in random order across each block.

They used a plot air seeder to sow the blends directly into the stubble from the 2008 trial. He notes that there was a bit of separation of the small seeds and large seeds in the tank. To avoid seed separation worries when sowing large areas, he suggests splitting the small seeds and large seeds into two compartments. Weed control was limited to a pre-emergent application of glyphosate a few days after seeding.

The two acres of forage blends provided 14 days of grazing for 34 steers. Access was controlled with an electric wire running across the six strips so that the steers always had access to an equal amount of each blend.

Kopechuk says the steers didn't seem to show a preference for any particular blend. He did switch from the rough-awned barley variety used in the demo year to a forage barley variety in 2009, which made a difference in the palatability of the mixes that included barley. The higher stocking density may have increased competition for the forage.

His visual assessment of the re-growth was that blends three, five and six - basically, those with hairy vetch in the mix - showed good re-growth, while blends one, two, and four, had the poorest re-growth.

Baseline soil tests were taken in 2008. They will continue to take soil tests to measure the increase in organic matter and soil nutrients over the period of the trial. The steers were weighed in and out of the trial as well. There were no significant changes in weight gains or losses.

Taken from the AGCanada.com website. The following link includes a complete view of the blends used in the trials: <http://www.agcanada.com/canadiancattlemen/2010/02/08/crop-cocktails-good-for-what-ails-the-land/>

Please call **GWFA Manager, Albert Kuipers at (403) 844-2645** or your local County Agricultural Services staff if you would like to complete an Environmental Farm Plan. **Your EFP is required** to apply for funding to the Environmental Stewardships Plan Program of Growing Forward. Grazing & Winter Feeding, Integrated Crop Management and Manure Management are the 3 Stewardship programs that will be available in Growing Forward 2.

**Alberta EFP**  
Environmental Farm Plan



LivestockTransport.ca



**'Like' Grey Wooded Forage Association on Facebook and enjoy viewing our latest photos and hear about upcoming events!**

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# Explore Local Initiative's New Media Webinar Series

## *How do I Twitter, Tweet, or Facebook for business success?*

New media is where it's at for effective inexpensive methods to get to your customers... but where to start? Social media is everywhere. It can be an inexpensive way to get your message to people and for others to make referrals. Think of it as word of mouth via the internet, but it's important to know how to use it for your business.

A series of new media webinars will run from September 2013 to February 2014 to introduce various social media tools and best practices to effectively use them to get your message out about you and your business. These new media tools can be used to engage customers and business advocates in communicating about your brand, your business and how to find out more about your products."

Understanding the various formats of social media and how to approach it are some of the topics covered in the webinar series Alberta Agriculture will be having in monthly sessions.

This is the first component in this new media series of

six webinars, guaranteed to expand information to improve on your engagement with customers. A webinar is an online method of attending a workshop without leaving home. So it's a great way to access the information right from your computer. It saves travel and the webinar will be available after for a short time to review online. The webinars are **FREE** and are for one hour each month, so a low investment of time.

## Developing Customer Engagement and Loyalty

**September 17, 2013 - 9:00 – 10:00 am**

(Mountain Daylight Time)

**"What is new media?" "How can I use it to engage more customers?" "How can I enhance my customer loyalty efforts?"**

Rob Eirich, VP Marketing for RDTV and host of *This Country Called Agriculture* will answer these questions, plus discuss how to integrate a plan for content and traffic to deepen your connections with the best customers and evoke emotional responses for your brand to ultimately drive your business sales!



The Alberta Lake Management Society welcomes you to join our guided tour of watershed beneficial management practices. Bus leaves from Lakedell Hall at noon, Saturday September 28.

1. Gone Green Farms: Connecting people to their food
2. Darrel Fipke: Custom grazing operation using riparian fencing, alternate watering systems, and rotational grazing
3. Pigeon Lake Watershed Association: Grandview Creek Restoration
4. Fish & Game / ACA: Tide Creek Conservation Site

**For more information and to register, visit [www.alms.ca](http://www.alms.ca)**

Thank you  
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**For more information on this webinar and others, and a link to register online, go to the GWFA website:**

**[www.greywoodedforageassociation.com](http://www.greywoodedforageassociation.com)**

For more information or if you have questions about the *Explore Local Initiative*, contact Carmen Andrew at 403.340.5542 or [Carmen.andrew@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Carmen.andrew@gov.ab.ca)

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For more information contact

**Russel (403)749-2780**

Email: [horvey@telusplanet.net](mailto:horvey@telusplanet.net)

Website: [bigdealgalloways.com](http://bigdealgalloways.com)



# Local Food Workshop

Featuring **Joel Salatin**

**October 24 & 25, 2013**

**Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre  
Olds, AB**



**Joel Salatin:** *Ballet in the Pasture at Polyface Farm, Local Food to the Rescue, Relationship Marketing and evening presentation Watch Where You Step*



**Doug Weatherbee, the Soil Doctor:**  
*Soil Health & Production and Healthy Soils breakout session*

**Breakout Sessions:** *Grass Finished Beef, Pasture-Raised Poultry, Healthy Soils, Challenges of Going Organic, Livestock Processing Regulations, Reaching Your Regional Market, Marketing Options and Strategies.*



**Cost: \$150.00/Person  
\$100.00/Student**

**Workshop includes Keynote addresses, breakout sessions, tradeshow, banquet and evening speaker!**

**Contact Albert Kuipers for more info, to register or for sponsorship opportunities!**

**Registration Deadline: October 15, 2013**

**Please call (403) 844-2645, or email Albert at [gwfa2@telus.net](mailto:gwfa2@telus.net)**

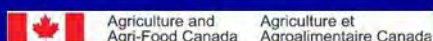




# Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères

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### Platinum Partners



Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada AgriMarketing Program

### Silver Partners



### Become a CFGA Sponsor

Platinum - \$10,000

Gold - \$5,000

Silver - \$2,500



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**2013 CFGA Conference & AGM**  
**Dec 9th, (Tour) 10th & 11th (Conference), 2013**

hosted by the: Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN)

**Taking Forages Mainstream-"Challenge,  
Pitfalls, and Opportunity"**

**Pomeroy Inn and Suites**  
Olds, Alberta

JOIN US on December 9th if you wish to go on the full day tour to see firsthand examples of Alberta's thriving and diverse Forage Industry. Tour stops are yet to be determined but we are planning to see Densified Hay Processors, a Hay drier, innovative winter grazing techniques, grazing native rangeland, etc.

The evening of the 9th is an opportunity for networking and a time for Forage Associations and others from across Canada to get together.

On the 10th, various speakers will discuss leading edge forage information followed by a formal banquet, the CFGA Leadership Award, and a speaker presentation that evening.

On the morning of the 11th, the forage program presentations continue. The afternoon of the 11th will be the Annual General Meeting to set the course for the next year.

Please consider attending this Canadian event and have your input into the future of your forage industry.

More details will follow over the next few months!

Find us on Facebook 



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

**2013 –2014 Memberships are available now for \$20.00**  
**and run from April 1,2013 to March 31,2014**  
**For more information phone 403-844-2645**

Become a part of an enthusiastic group of people who are  
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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.....  
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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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_



# AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

October 2004

Agiles 420/52-4

## Beef Ration Rules of Thumb

This fact sheet 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 silage to grain.

#### Crude protein

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

# AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

August 2004

Agiles 130/536-1

## Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

# AGRI-FACTS

Practical Information for Alberta's Agriculture Industry

September 2008

Agiles 420/56-8

## 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

estimating and environmental risks

### Inputs and pathways

several pools of nutrients include organic matter, growing plants, roots, plant litter, living animals including large herbivores, above and below ground invertebrates (microbes) and soil microbes, and the atmosphere.

Nutrient cycles develop as nutrient pathways from one pool to another. The processes and pathways are different for various regions, but nutrient balances over the cycles. Balances are made up of inputs, outputs and losses of nutrients in the pasture system.

Inputs = outputs + losses  
Inputs are removed or lost as export

# Pasture Planner

## Stock-poisoning Plants of Western Canada

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

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

Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

## Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland

## Grazing Notebook



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Agronomic Management of Stockpiled Pastures

Stockpiling pasture is a form of deferred grazing. The producer stockpiles the forage grown during the spring and summer for use when the pasture is in short supply or when cows need fall or winter feed. This practice can mean savings for the producer:

- harvesting, hauling and feeding costs associated with minimized
- range is
- peat
- limits winter
- ye in the
- season may be
- is by using
- fall and early

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.

Stockpiled forage for pasture can mean savings for the producer

### Species selection

Species selection depends on the system being used. Ideally in cut-and-graze or multi-pass rotational grazing systems, a species used for stockpiling should be able to do the following:

- regrow rapidly following early harvests to provide at least 2,000 kilograms (kg) of forage per hectare (1,785 lb./ac) for good fall grazing
- maintain high quality following fall frosts

If grazing is to occur after snowfall, forage mass needs to be higher as grazing efficiency is reduced and grazing losses increase. Using an erect species makes it easier for cows to get at the feed under the snow.

In a single-pass system, a species that maintains its quality as it matures is a good choice.

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