



Grey
Wooded
Forage
Association

The Blade

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"



SEPTEMBER | 2016

Box 1448, 5039-45 Street, Rocky Mtn. House, AB. T4T 1B1
Phone: 403-844-2645 | www.greywoodedforageassociation.com
Email: Ginette - GWFA3@telus.net | Devin - GWFA5@telus.net



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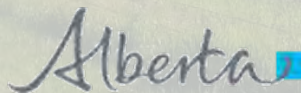


Photo Credit: Ginette Boucher

Mission Statement

*To promote environmentally and
economically sustainable
forage and agricultural practices.*

Vision Statement

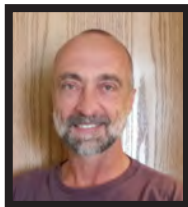
*The community is engaged in
regenerative agricultural
production methods.*



Message from the Chair

By Ken Ziegler

So as I'm contemplating what message I'd like to pass on to you in this newsletter, I'm enjoying the warmth of my home while it's raining out....for the 100th time since the drought ended back in late May. Soaking wet outside is an understatement, but better this than drought. There's always room for gratitude.



So two things come to mind. Firstly congratulations to Ginette and Devin for organizing such an excellent field day on August 17th, looking at the Sainfoin project in the morning and partnering with the Central Alberta Hay Centre in the afternoon, looking at the latest technologies around putting up better quality, high moisture hay. It really was inspiring to see what the mixture of sainfoin and alfalfa can do for high power summer pasture with little risk of bloat. Also, how technology improves our ability to put up good quality feed in spite of a wet year. For the demonstration day, the fellows cut a thick stand of alfalfa on Monday in preparation to show the baling and wrapping on Wednesday. Needless to say, the feed was put up in good form with the capturing of most of the plant sugars.

Secondly, for those of you that are on Facebook, consider joining the Grey Wooded Forage Associations closed group. We are looking forwards to more people joining up and using this forum as a place to network and "continue our connection". Ginette has sent out an email a little while ago inviting you to join. If you've lost that email or would like someone to walk you through the process of getting into the group, give Ginette or Devin a call and they'll be happy to help you.

Finally, for those of you that are committed to moving your grazing animals through management intensive grazing, be pleased with the quality pasture that you now have in September and October. Not only does management intensive grazing give you greater carrying capacity but also offers you the benefit of high quality feed for your animals. Typically this means improved weaning weights and better body condition to the females.

Hope you enjoy this newsletter as always and feel free to pass on to your neighbors that we always welcome new members!

Ken

- SAVE THE DATE -

West Country Cattle Handling Systems: Tour and Demonstrations



Come see improved systems in the West Country
November 2, 2016 - Bearberry (West of Sundre)



Carbon Sequestration, Land Management and Its Value

How do we as farmers contribute and benefit?

December 6, 2016 - Ponoka



Stay Tuned for More Information!

Manager's Notes

By Ginette Boucher

Greetings,

A successful, information packed day was enjoyed by all who attended our "High Legume Pasture Field Tour" and "Feed in a Flash" event August 17th. We were blessed with a beautiful day and attendance of 170 people between both events. Thank you to all who participated and made these events a success.



Murray Abel shared with us the seeding of the high legume plot, establishment of the project, and the challenges with the weather conditions and the weed issues. Murray also took us to an established cicer milk vetch pasture that has seen long term success. Next year we will likely plan an additional tour at this site to see how this plot is progressing. Also a big thank you to Alberta Agriculture & Forestry for the opportunity to have this sainfoin/alfalfa project, we look forward to monitoring the project plot over the coming years and sharing the outcomes of the trial. A big thank you to our collaborator Murray Abel, for sharing his land for the purpose of research and demonstration.

We send a big thank you to Central Alberta Hay Centre, for their hours of preparation for the "Feed in a Flash" event bringing an array of equipment for demonstration purposes. Thanks to Rob Luymes for providing his land for the field day. We plan to host many more of these types of events. It was a great seeing the machinery in operation, ask questions and learn about what's new.

GWFA hosted a stop on the West Country Ag Tour August 25th; our hardy alfalfa project at Doug and Deb Skeels farm. A big thank you to Clearwater County for providing manpower to maintain the plots. The weather was a mixed bag that day, all in all every stop was informative.

Eckville Coop Agro Centre hosted their Forage Tour on September 1st, featuring their corn plots on

Highway 11. The other stops were at Tim Hoven, and Wes Saarelas; featuring Grazing Forage Brassica. It was interesting to see the different management and success each of these producers was seeing. With any luck both Tim and Wes will do a little write up of their brassica experiences.

Our weevil projects are underway, as we wait on the arrival of the little critters; we are preparing the release sites. The weevil project is going to last for the next 5 years. As we do the release of the weevils and monitor the project plots we will keep you informed.

ARECA has secured Blackleg Survey project work for each association willing to do sampling. GWFA has agreed to do 15 sites; this will bring in a nice amount of revenue. Thank you ARECA for providing this opportunity, we appreciate it.

Please make a note of our upcoming events; we are gearing up for a very busy fall, with workshops, and tours/demonstrations. We have several posters in our publication of activities that may interest you. A few of them are FREE of charge, others we are offering a discount to members. Please continue to provide us with your input; this will assist us in delivering key information to you.

We have recently developed a closed GWFA Facebook group for members only. This will enable you to share ideas with other producers, list buy/sell items, find land for rent or equipment etc. All you need is to be a paid member and have a personal Facebook page. If you have a business Facebook page, we can manually enter your business on to our closed group, just contact the office and we will look after it. We encourage you to join our GWFA member forum; the more members who join, the greater the opportunities for interaction, sharing and networking between members.

Best regards,
Ginette

Fall Pasture Management

By Devin Knopp, P.Ag.

Fall is one of the most important times of the year to be closely monitoring your pastures. Management during the fall sets your pastures up properly for overwintering. This is the opportunity to assess areas that may need attention and make decisions for future management, such as overseeding poor areas, or mowing weeds and areas that have undesirable grass/brush encroachment. Fall is also a really good time for a producer to take soil samples and begin planning for next season's plant nutrient requirements, as well as to plan a grazing schedule.



Overgrazing or heavy grazing in the fall before plants are dormant will negatively affect a plant's ability to rebuild their root systems and grow new shoots that will become new growth for next spring. These areas will be slow to recover in the spring, and may not produce as well even when left to recover the following year. It may take longer next season to recover from a fall heavy graze than one that occurred in the spring with ample recovery time. Leaving ample ground cover and shoot growth helps stabilize the plants for dormancy. It also provides a bit more protective covering to the plants during winter and a good organic layer for next spring to help hold onto water. This is especially important in dry springs like we had in 2015 and 2016.

Fall is also a good time to take a look at pastures and determine if reseeding or overseeding should be done. Bare ground is a cattle grazers worst enemy. Mother nature will do everything in her power to cover that ground and usually it's with undesirable weeds. Overseeding or reseeding low production areas puts quality grass forage back, preventing weed growth next year. Reseeding in the fall is best, as forage seeds will overwinter dormant and germinate first in the spring when the soil warms, getting the newly seeded area off to a good start.

While walking your pastures in the fall, it's a prime

opportunity to take a few soil samples. Taking a soil sample will paint a clear picture for your soil needs. It allows you to plan ahead if you need to look at top dressing with fertilizer or possibly looking at other options for nutrient retention. Soil samples are a cheap look at the soil and plant nutrient requirements. If you don't know what your soil and plants need, how do you know what and how much to feed them? Spreading some fertilizer over a pasture may help it to green up, but are you overfeeding or underfeeding your pastures? Overfeeding can cost you lots of money in excessive fertilizer and underfeeding only amplifies the problem as the soil is continually depleted, reducing forage production. It is also important to be sure you have all nutrients available in the right proportions for ideal plant growth. No matter how much nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium you feed your soil the plants will only perform to the level of the nutrient at the lowest level in the soil. The best analogy would be a wooden barrel with different length slats. You can only fill that barrel up with water to the level of the shortest slat.

Weed management is most effective when done in the spring and the fall. Perennial plants are best controlled in the fall as they begin to go into dormancy. If sprayed with herbicide the herbicide will be transported to the roots destroying the plant. If mowed before bloom the plant will exhaust its stores to try and form a new plant to flower and produce seed. If done a few times through the season and especially during early fall such as September, decent control can be obtained on a weed patch.

Fall is an already busy season with silage, harvest, second cut hay and the list goes on. However, not taking some time for a little pasture TLC can set you back next year and beyond. Time invested into your pastures will make for more productive pastures next year.

- UPCOMING EVENTS -

Watershed Friendly Feeding Sites

Winter Feeding Sites to Reduce Impact on Watersheds

October 27, 2016 - 8am-11:30am - Homeglen Community Hall



Enjoy a FREE breakfast before the presentations.



Come hear about the importance of proper winter feeding site selection, including impacts to surface and ground water quality, and soil health and quality.

Canada



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

"Growing Forward 2" program going forward

Stay Tuned for More Information!



Environmental Farm Plan WebBook Workshop

Qualify for "Growing Forward 2" Funding

November 14, 2016 - 10am-3pm - Alder Flats Buck Lake Public Library

FREE Workshop - Light Lunch Provided



MUST REGISTER by November 10, 2016 to reserve your spot.

To Register, contact Kim Barkwell at:

780-387-6182 or email kbarkwell@county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca



The Cow Herd: Setting It Up For Success

November 17, 2016 - Ponoka Legion

Dr. Trevor Hook (Central Vet Services Ponoka)

- Whole herd vaccination programs and neonatal health management.

Kristen Ritson-Bennett (Blue Rock Animal Nutrition)

- Winter feeding programs and pre-breeding nutritional considerations.



Deserae Hook (Saskatoon Colostrum)

- Effective colostrum management.

Stay Tuned for More Information!

Grass into Cash

By Graham Gilchrist, Gilchrist Consulting.

By now, in this year of the soil, you have dug your own soil pit (a backhoe works better), created happy spaces for the earthworms, and developed your multi-species forage resources. You even took the tours of grazing plots.

I want to nudge you to remember that the forage you are growing needs to be converted to cash. To do that you are either selling access or harvest and convert to cash. Your cash revenue can come from renting access to the grass. The harvest side can be both capture and bale (and sell) the forage or using an animal to harvest and then sell the animal. There are various versions of this out there, but the point is to have your forage generate revenue.

From my past experience, maximum production (and maximum revenue) is not the most profitable point. This point is to the left on the production curve and your cost curve is as unique as any other business.

As you build your evaluation of this forage enterprise, I want to share a couple of points. Principal payments are not production costs. Yes, they are a part of your cash flow and change the balance sheet but are not included in the calculation. The same is done with depreciation. This is a tax calculation and does not change cash flow. Lastly, keep out things like unpaid owner labor and opportunity costs.

Is your annual compensation review coming this year?
It is time to start planning.

I can help. Give me a call.



Arriving at after tax cash profit allows you to benchmark this number to other parts of your business. A good example is comparing current liabilities to the after tax cash profit. The simple question is do you have enough cash to pay these liabilities?

Can you get your current liabilities to be \$0.50 (50 cents) or lower for every \$1 in after tax cash profit? Dangerous levels are over 1:1.

The benchmarking can then track sales growth to expense growth over a 3 to 5 year period. Your target should be \$1.15 or better in sales growth for every \$1 in expense growth.

My points all direct you to maximum cash profit. Profit pays for land principal payments, owner withdrawals, life insurance premiums for the estate plan and savings so you don't have to sell the main assets to the next generation to fund retirement.

Can you do all this on a field basis? What is your cash sale per field? My last thought is as you might have to do a rental review on a well site, this information is critical for a rental review.

Graham Gilchrist, P.Ag.
Gilchrist Consulting
587-989-4180



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Veterinary Medicine Beef Cattle Conference

By Kristen Ritson-Bennett, Blue Rock Animal Nutrition Ltd.

I attended the UCVB Beef Cattle Conference held in Calgary in June. This annual conference brought speakers from UCVB, University of Saskatchewan, Colorado State, practicing local veterinarians and industry leaders. The conference focus was on beef cattle health and welfare and impact of such on the economics of your farm. I'm going to give you a recap of the conference and hit the main objectives of each talk or this will be a very LONG article.

The first day had clinical skills offered to Veterinarians and producers alike. Although I didn't attend the clinical sessions, I talked with producers that did, and they expressed that they came away with useful tools that can easily be adopted. There was a review on proper injection techniques, implant injection and how to handle veterinary pharmaceuticals that you often have on your farm. The other interesting clinical workshop was lameness in the feedlot. With lameness being a common concern among producers both from an animal welfare point of view and the economic losses that are associated with it, it was a good workshop for producers and veterinarians to discuss the indicators of foot rot vs. digital dermatitis. So show up next year! Who knows what skills you will go home with!

I'm sharing my notes on the conference and encourage you to go next year! Maybe I won't have to take such a detailed account of everything I saw and heard and can visit with you instead!

Respiratory Disease 101 – Dr. Timsit, Professor University of Calgary

Key points and take-home messages:

- 3 different types of pneumonia (most common to least common)
 1. Broncho-pneumonia (bacterial) - Good response to antibiotics
 2. Interstitial pneumonia (AIP, BIP)
 3. Embolic pneumonia (PVCT)

- Susceptibility increases with co-mingling, poor nutrition, poor weather (wind and dust), transportation, stress associated with weaning
- Cattle are more susceptible to pneumonia compared to other animals because of anatomy
 - Small lungs and very high requirement for oxygen = high lung basal use = higher rates of pneumonia
- Pre-weaning pneumonia (under 20 days of age) most commonly occurs when there has been a failure of passive transfer of colostrum.
 - If you have a high prevalence of pre-weaning pneumonia year to year take a look at your pre-calving nutrition and calving management.
- Pre-weaning pneumonia (from 70-100 days of age) is likely from a loss of herd immunity.
- Clinical Signs: DART – Depression, Anorexia, Respiratory distress, Temperature (Over 104 F)
- Prevention: limit mixing of herds, provide good shelter for wind and cold protection, ensure good calving ease, udder and teat conformation (ensuring adequate colostrum intake) and adequate nutrition for calves and dams (vitamins and minerals)

Practical Biosecurity – Dr. Garry, DVM, Colorado State University

Key points and take-home messages:

- Leave the conference and make some simple changes!
- Your Veterinarian and Nutritionists are tools to be used. They are giving you the information to make decisions
- Primary diseases of concern: Johnes Disease, calf scours, salmonellosis, trichomonas's, BVD,

respiratory disease

- Ask yourself, why do you do what you do and how does it impact biosecurity and biocontainment on your farm
- Many producers do not implement biosecurity until a disaster hits: BE PROACTIVE VS. REACTIVE
- “You will not vaccinate Johnes disease away” (This was not the first time we heard this comment at the conference)
- Biosecurity methods:
 - Animal importation controls, vehicle and human entry controls, animal contact, feed source contacts, newborn calf management, hygiene, manure, disease identification using your tools (Veterinarian, Nutritionist etc.)
 - Plan for control and prevention, have processes in place, monitor and track disease, test and necropsy. If you don't know what you have, how can you manage for it?
- No failsafe methods. You might feel like you are the most prepared and still be exposed to disease. One inch of prevention = a mile of protection

Calf Scours 101 - Dr. Garry, Colorado State University

Johnes Disease in Alberta 2015 – Dr. Crawford Recent UCVM Graduate

Case Report – Still born calf with congenital abnormalities – Dr. Bailey Smith DVM, Dr. Becky Bohlender DVM

Pre-Conditioning Solutions – Dr. Mark Hilton DVM Purdue University, Indiana

Trichomoniasis and Vibrio update: Testing and management options – Dr. Cheryl Waldner, DVM, WCVM Saskatoon

On- Farm Vaccination – Dr. Philip Griebel School of Public Health VIDO University of Saskatchewan

Pink-eye outbreaks on Cow-Calf operations in Alberta – Sarah Cottle, BSc University of Calgary/Research Assistant

Disease Control Strategies, Bovine Respiratory Disease - Dr. Tye Perrett DVM Feedlot Health

Pathogens Associated with Bovine Respiratory Disease – Samat Amat PhD Candidate University of Calgary

The full conference summary is available on our website: www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

So, that's the conference! Look at all the interesting things you missed! I would be glad to get you more information if you are interested in any of the topics. I hope I have at least piqued the interest of all of you “life long learners”. It's up to you as a producer to educate and implement changes on your operation. It can be as simple as changing to using a modified live vaccine instead of a killed vaccine to culturing pink eye ocular discharge and having a vaccine manufactured for your farm. Isn't innovation and technology great?

Kristen Ritson-Bennett BSc. Ag
Beef Cattle Nutritionist, Blue Rock Animal Nutrition
(403) 358 -1674
www.bluerocknutrition.com



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The International Rangeland Congress in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: A Forage Specialist's Report

By Karin Lindquist; Forage Beef Specialist, Ag-Info Centre, Stettler AB, Alberta Agriculture

The 10th International Rangeland Congress, hosted on July 18 to 22 and held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, was a 5-day major event showcasing some of the latest and greatest research being done on rangelands and grasslands all over the world.



Over 500 people from 60 different countries came out for the event. Many came with posters, and many others came with a willingness to meet those of the international rangeland community. Many more discussions, thoughts and ideas were shared on everything from technologies for better managing rangelands, to managing cattle in such a way that helps provide habitat to the Greater Sage Grouse and other species at risk.

I have learned a lot with attending the plenary speeches, short presentations and talking with other delegates, so much that it would be impossible for me to tell all in just a single article for The Blade. The best that I can do is to talk about a few important things that I took away from the Congress.

Much research has been, and continues to be, put in to note a particular value on rangelands and grasslands. The value in itself is more than just a single entity like money; rather it's more complex. Value comes in the form of aesthetics, the various components of what makes up rangeland ecosystem services from water to wildlife, financial with pounds per acre of livestock raised on the land, and a potential incentive for grasslands' ability to store carbon as a tax benefit.

Don Gayton put a value on rangelands in a less materialistic sense. Rather, he challenged fellow delegates to think outside the box and go far beyond data collection and piles of research information to bring a more cultural and spiritual sense to these vast

areas that is on the very fringes of the public eye. The public already has a love affair with forests and wetlands, but very few have the same appreciation for grasslands of the West.

The IRC was also about how to better manage pastures and rangelands. Australia has created several programs where they can monitor huge areas of rangeland of ranches that are literally over 100 square kilometers in size. One such program is called the NRM Spatial Hub, which uses satellite imagery to monitor vegetative cover, and map out infrastructure and grazing habits of livestock.

Miles Anderson of Fir Mountain, SK, manages land between the West and East blocks of Grasslands National Park. He told us of how he manages his land so that the endangered Greater Sage Grouse can live and successfully produce offspring on his land. He was one of the reasons that the GNP reconsidered prohibiting cattle grazing on national park lands; he had more grouse nesting and raising live chicks on his land than on GNP land.

There were other presentations on extension projects going on in the USA, here in Canada, in Australia, and other places around the world. Uses of fire to manage the landscape and control of woody shrubs was one such topic; especially in Uganda, Africa where acacia trees have encroached on the landscape. The study shared at the Congress showed how the timing of burning would best control these large shrubs. Burning late acacia into their rainy season actually was best for encouraged regrowth of herbaceous (non-woody) plants.

Mid-way in the congress we all had an option of where to visit for our mid-congress tours. I had chosen to go on the Western Beef Development Centre tour out by Lanigan, SK. There they showed us their projects on corn grazing, perennial plots with tall fescue, orchard grass, cicer milkvetch, alfalfa,

and smooth and meadow brome, and grazing with russian wild rye and yellow-flowered alfalfa, and hybrid brome with sainfoin.

The last two days of congress followed more presentations, including pastoralism of the Tibetan plateau, and presentations by Duane Thompson of T-2 Land and Cattle Co. by Kelliher, SK, and Leanne Thompson of Living Sky Beef Inc. by Ceylon, SK. Both producers shared their experiences and knowledge in how they implemented best management practices for their operations for the benefit of the land. Duane Thompson made use of lots of legumes in his pastures, whereas Leanne utilized rotational grazing for managing native range.

While the Congress did not answer all questions I would have had for better management of rangelands, I came back with the understanding that, to better manage rangelands and to help

raise their awareness to the public, means getting together like-minded people and working together to accomplish just that. Rangelands are a complex puzzle of people, earth, sky, plants and animals that do not have a one-size-fits-all approach. Rather, they are wonderful things to treasure and to learn more about. We have only scratched the surface to what is possible for preserving, protecting, and maintaining our rangelands and grasslands.



AFSC IMPORTANT DEADLINE REMINDER

AgriStability - September 30, 2016
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Goat Farming

By Amy Leitch, Willow of the Wisp Paddocks.

Hi my name is Amy Leitch, I am a Goat Farmer. Many of you, I am sure, have visions of long hair, flip flops, unkempt yard and an old mamm. Well you are FAR off except the flip flops. Which you can goat farm in flip flops for the most part, it's NOT recommended though. I am a Mother of 4 boys, a wife to an amazing husband of coming 14 years and have a background of 10+ years in Agriculture and Agricultural Consulting. As a child I grew up on a mixed farm of beef, horses, chickens, pigs, grain, hay and silage. I do have a passion for agriculture and it has lead me into a world unexpected: meat goats.



This past year has been our farm's first full year of goat farming. After a couple years of research and communication with existing goat operations, we made the purchase of our starter herd. We have chosen to go with a registered Kiko and Boki (Kiko X Boer) meat goat herd, in addition to our commercial herd. However, my experience can be said to be a little FRESH and absolutely not extensive, but I am excited about these animals and the possibilities they have in the industry.

Goats have taught us MANY things already. I expect they will continue to teach us daily, but the only one I will really speak of right now is FENCING. Our herd is all I can speak on in particular, but goats as I know them, are not TIN CAN eating critters. They are very curious and nibble on everything just as we are drawn to touch and feel items. We have found they can be picky eaters in a sense, which drives them to ESCAPE their designated paddocks. Leading me to the fences, in a year we have tried several styles and combinations of fences.



We have converted older four strand Cattle fence into eight strand barbed wire with the addition of a hot wire 6" off the ground. Naaaaa. It works with the does okay, but the kids slid through without hesitation; our barb wire spacing just wasn't right. There are even a few does who really have a liking for row planted spruce trees who just push through. We continued to change our style.

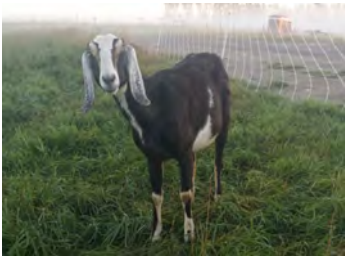
We are now using a seven strand barb wire fence, all new. Spacing is as follows, 4"-4"-4"-4"-5"-5"-10" from the ground up, all tight. No, it is not a tall fence. Yes, it seems off at a total of 36". But other than one special doe who is a unicorn of sorts no one jumps it to the next paddock.



The electric netting is a great option for rotational grazing, expanding a pen for grazing and overall reinforcement of a fence line. No one but one buck has jumped it. That is a completely different article, BUCKS. We use portable solar fencers and good grounding rods; it gives us a lot of flexibility. Though not necessarily a permanent option, daily checks are a good idea. Wind and other items can be a major downfall, if you know what I mean.

In our main pens, which we use for breeding, winter feeding, kidding and night bedding we have gone with welded panels 16'X 52" 13 strand and a shorter welded panel that we added a plank on top of. Yes, they work at keeping all in, except the unicorn goat. Those are just meant to be free I guess to catch a rainbow, but why did it land here on our farm? The panels have a downfall, COST, and our herd is a horned herd. Which means they get their heads stuck through the panel, leaving us the





only option to cut the panel wire to release the animal safely. Before we rescue them with the handy dandy bolt cutters they have called in every predator for a mile or so

with their bleating calls of terror.

Our saga of goat fencing, I feel, won't end soon and yes we are aware of page wire. We are avoiding it, potentially we may need to take a look at it, but I hope not. We will continue to learn from other



goat producers, our own herd, and continue to have conversation with others who have done it before us. I hope I have given you some information to think about, or at least a

smile and a sigh (WHAT are they THINKING...) Our animals we raise (as do yours) encourage us everyday to think, develop better, different, more efficient feeding options, fencing, housing, husbandry and overall welfare. We will continue to learn from them I am SURE of that. Just as sure of the smirk this article put on your face.



Thank you for taking time to read this article.

Amy Leitch

Willow of the Wisp Paddocks

Registered Kiko, Boki Goats & Commercial Meat Herd

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Rain Damaged Forage Information Sheet

By Coop Feeds

In the case of rain, it seems there is always too much or not enough. When making hay, rain between the time of cutting & harvesting has the potential to cause damage in several ways:

- 1. Nutrient loss** – Soluble cell contents (i.e. digestible nutrients) will leach out of the forage during a rain. Nutrient loss will proportionally increase the neutral detergent fibre (NDF) content, thus lowering the energy value of the forage. Heavy rains will also shatter leaves, further reducing the nutrient value of the forage. More nutrients will be lost in heavy rains & on drier windrows.
- 2. Dry matter loss** – Approximately 5% loss for every inch of rain, however, the drier the hay is when the rain occurs, the more dry matter loss will occur. Also, significant dry matter loss (& increased expense) can occur with raking.
- 3. Heating** – Putting up wet forage increases the risk of heating within the stack. This can cause nutrient burning, which will make nutrients less available or unavailable; or worse, could cause spontaneous combustion & hay fires.
- 4. Mold** – Wet forages are more likely to go moldy, which causes palatability & potential mycotoxin concerns.

The type of rainfall also affects the degree of damage – a short violent storm will do less damage than a light, steady rain that lasts all day.

To make quality forage, moisture level is critical for leaf retention & successful storage. The ideal moisture for baling is 15-18%. Less than 15% increases the risk of leaf loss. Greater than 20-22% moisture increases the risk of heating & molding.

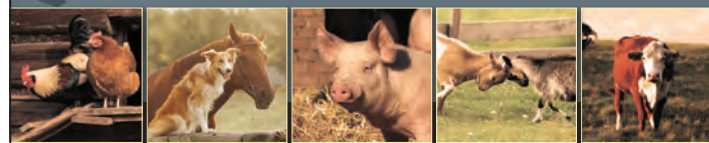
If you have rain damaged forage, it is important to test a representative sample to know what you are dealing with. An analysis will also help determine an appropriate supplementation program. Co-op

Feeds Nutrition & Production Consultants can help you with this process.

Contact your CO-OP Feeds Nutrition & Production Consultant for more information.



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Innovate in Agriculture for Alberta

Moving outside tradition can cause change and adaptation of the “norms we know”, but when we find an “innovative opportunity”, or can “apply the changing technology” in our industry.... we see a great future unfolding before us. In order to support, and remain relevant to the demands of our consuming public, we in the agriculture industry have to create and plan for ways to get the best bang for our buck. New Venture Specialists, who work across the province, constantly strive to provide the best knowledge and resources to producers and value adding food processors.

There are basically 5 ways New Venture Specialists encourage Innovation in Alberta Ag Industry;

1. We are accessible by phone (Ag info Line - 310 3276,) email, or face to face visits to encourage and stimulate your innovative idea, discuss the reality and regulations and quiz you about how this new idea will sustain you, and the world around us!
2. Agriculture staff has written informative articles, business planning supports, feasibility studies, and they are all on the Alberta agriculture

website at www.agric.gov.ab.ca. For a new start up we recommend putting “biz info” in the search bar. Each “stripe” in that field is loaded with good information. Can’t find your way through it? –Give us a call!

3. In the course of sharing with you- our knowledge of networks, and stories of successful new start-ups, – you will learn more about the financing options, marketing strategies, and how to address Alberta’s changing cultural diversity.
4. New Venture Specialists assist with local food production and systems to market them in. Talk to us about diversified crops and livestock, Food and Non-food processing, Organics, Farm Direct sales, and Agritourism opportunities.
5. Help is available! New Ventures can provide support and ideas to get your business growing, and connect you to other processing support and industry professionals.

Our minds are open and we are here to coach you towards smart business moves for your innovative ideas.... Contact a New Venture Coach at (toll free) 310-3276.



ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

General Inquiries:
 Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development
 Toll free help line: 310-FARM (3276)
 or Email: Info@Albertaefp.com

For more information contact the ARECA office:
 Phone: 780-612-9712
 or Email: faye@areca.ab.ca

Alberta Growing Forward 2 *ARECA* *Canada*
 A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Alberta Ag-Info Centre

310-farm

Phone 310-FARM (3276) toll-free to contact Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, or visit one of our field offices across the province for your agricultural information needs.

Canada *Alberta* Government *Growing Forward* A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

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Grey Wooded Forage Association

2016/2017 Memberships

Memberships are available now for \$20.00

and run from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

For more information phone 403-844-2645

Membership is open to anyone interested in forage production and grazing management in an economically and environmentally sustainable way,

Membership benefits:

- Receive discounts on Controlled Grazing Courses, seminars, workshops, tours when discounts are offered.
- Farm calls at \$100/visit and free consulting by phone, email or office visit on grazing management and any other forage production questions, effective immediately.
- Receive *The Blade* monthly via a link sent to you by email each month.
- Receive a printed copy of *The Blade* in the mail monthly for a \$10/year printing and postage fee, in addition to the \$20/year membership fee, effective July 1, 2015
- Receive up-to-date information on GWFA activities via The Blade, the website and by email.

Please mail the portion below with a cheque for \$20.00, or \$30 (\$10 printing & postage fee added) to:

Grey Wooded Forage Association
Box 1448, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B1

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: Renewal____ or New Member____ Your preference: Canada Post____ or Email____
 Name____ Phone____
 Company Name____ Mobile 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:_____

