



Grey Wooded Forage Association

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

**Newsletter
Spring
2012**

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November 28 & 29, 2012

GWFA AGM & Tradeshow, May 2, 2012 - See page 3 for details



Grey Wooded Forage Association

Mission Statement

Approved January 1995

To create an awareness of the potential and utilization of forages, to act as an information exchange center, to illustrate production practices, and to seek knowledge and innovations that are environmentally and economically sustainable for the agricultural community.



This publication is made possible by funding from our two major sponsors, the Agriculture Opportunities Fund (AOF)



What's  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



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GWFA STRATEGIC PLANNING, MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

As GWFA hasn't had a strategic planning session since 1995 and we had begun discussing the possibilities of some future changes, the Board decided that it was time to get at it. With this in mind the staff researched some possible facilitators to help us get through the process effectively. In our search we found out that the Government of Alberta has strategic planning facilitators who available free for non-profit organizations. This lead us to Victor Moisan, a Community Development Officer with the GOA.

On February 1st, 2012 the Board and a few members met at the Lacombe Research Centre to work through the process. Part of this was to review our mission and vision statements. I have included draft versions of both statements here for you to review as we're going to ask for their approval at the GWFA AGM on May 2, 2012. Livestock production was added because forages are primarily marketed through livestock in our area.

Once we had re-worked the se two statements to everyone's satisfaction, we went on to work on our priorities and goals for the 5 years or so. We came up with three main goals under which all of our intended activities fit quite well. These

GREY WOODED FORAGE ASSOCIATION

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

GWFA – The center of choice for gathering and dispersing of forage and livestock information, providing a strong link with producers and the research community

DRAFT 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.

goals outline the roadmap for us to follow so we can stay true to our mission and achieve our vision. The goals we developed are:

- Expand our organization and promote Agriculture to the public.
- Tell our story using the large variety of media available to us.
- Maintain sufficient funding to do the job.

If you have any questions, please contact a Board Member or the manager, Albert Kuipers.



Grey Wooded Forage Association

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday, May 2, 2012
at the Leslieville Hall**

- Tradeshow at 4:00 PM
- Annual Business Meeting at 5:00 PM
- Roast Beef Dinner at 6:00 PM

followed by

Forage Research Updates

with

Dr. Vern Baron

Please phone

(403) 844-2645 or email GWFA1@telus.net

for more information and to register.

Only \$20 per person, \$25 after April 25, 2012

Registration Deadline is April 30, 2012

(Memberships are only \$20.00 per year and will be available at the door)

Manager's Notes

By Albert Kuipers



When should I plant my swath grazing crop? This question has been asked many times over and has been answered many ways. There are lots of opinions on this subject.

Let's take a look at some research done at the Lacombe Research Centre that takes a look at the effect of planting date on swath grazing yield and livestock carrying capacity. Going into this, one thing is quite clear - carrying capacity affects the cost per day to winter the livestock.

As most of us already know, swath grazing can reduce the cost of wintering beef cows by 40%. Harvesting, hauling, feeding and manure handling costs are either eliminated or significantly reduced by the use of swath grazing. However, the costs of production are there and represent as much as 75% of the total cost of swath grazing. By increasing yield, and in so doing, carrying capacity, cost per cow day can be reduced.

Generally it is recommended to plant small grain cereals as early as possible to maximize grain yield. Ok, but we want to maximize forage and grain yield, and have the grain in soft dough stage around the middle of September. Tall order? Could be, depending on the cereal species you want to use.

At the Lacombe Research Centre forage and beef researchers compared two varieties of barley with oats and triticale. What they found was that with barley, later planting resulted in lower yield. Delaying planting till the third week of June resulted in a late August swath date. Earlier planting resulted in higher yield, but the swath date had to be early as well.

Oats and triticale were less affected by a late planting date. Yield of oats was the slightly, negatively affected by planting date and yield of triticale did not appear to be impacted by delayed planting.

Oats had another problem though. Carrying capacity for the high yielding oats was limited by low digestibility and high fiber. Basically, the oats was less palatable and the cows wasted more of it than the barley or triticale.

What this research is telling me is that, if you want to plant barley, delaying seeding to late June reduces yield, but earlier seeding results in an early swath date. Neither situation works well for the swath grazer.

Oats yield wasn't reduced near so much, but digestibil-

ity issues resulted in lower carrying capacity. We've also had many comments from producers who have used oats for swath grazing that wastage is high in oats swath grazing.

Yield in triticale was affected the least by planting date. When planted in the third week of June, triticale out-yielded oats by 22% and barley by 46%. Beef cow carrying capacity for triticale was 30% more than barley and 35% higher than oats.

So, what this really comes down to is choosing the right cereal species for the job. While barley is commonly used for swath grazing, it seems to be ill-suited to swath grazing. To get to that September harvest date you have to plant as late as July, but such a late planting date will most likely seriously reduce yield and carrying capacity.

With oats it seems that we can have great yield. Carrying capacity, however, is limited by the digestibility and palatability of oats at the soft dough stage. Some producers have swathed oats much earlier, sacrificing yield for forage quality and palatability.

With triticale, you have the most planting date flexibility. Planting between June 7th and June 23rd resulted in swath dates between September 7th to September 25th. Carrying capacity was reduced 14% for the latest planting date.



Dr. Vern Baron in a field of triticale destined for swath grazing



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TOP LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WHO MARKET AGRIFOOD PRODUCTS TO SHARE SECRETS TO SUCCESS

Beer, barbecue sauce and baby food will be featured at the Agriculture and Food Council of Alberta's April 26 Issues and Solutions Forum in Calgary called "Successfully Commercializing an Agricultural Idea."

Everyone is welcome to register for the event at which Manjit Minhas will share the entrepreneurial insights that propelled the company she founded at 19, Mountain Crest Liquors, to become the first successful beer company to enter Canada in decades with the launch of Mountain Crest Classic Lager. After purchasing the second oldest brewery in the United States, the brewery Minhas owns with her brother is now the 11th largest in the world, selling quality beer in Canada, the U.S., and overseas, with revenues exceeding \$85 million in 2009.

Jennifer Carlson Broe, President of Baby Gourmet Foods Inc., will kick off the day with her account of launching an organic baby and toddler food company at the Calgary Farmers Market and, with the financial backing of angel investors, moving on to supply the shelves of Wal-Mart and other popular grocery stores.

Karen Hope will provide marketing insight with the five key ingredients to brand success from the experience of growing two businesses in highly competitive markets. As the pioneering former managing partner/marketer for Cattle Boyz Foods Ltd., Hope grew Cattle Boyz BBQ Sauces into a national brand name, and is the key consultant for her own marketing company, The Marketing Edge.

Sami Jo Small, Goaltender for Canada's Gold Medal-Winning Women's Hockey Team, will provide a change of pace at lunch with her account of adjusting to whatever role life throws at you and making the most of it. After being told, a night before the Gold-medal game, that she would not be starting, Small was devastated and angry. But she rose above these negative feelings and embraced her new role with enthusiasm.

Tickets are available for purchase online at <http://www.agfoodcouncil.com/news-events>. Register by the Early Bird Deadline of April 1 for the best deal.

For more information, please call Communications Manager Rachel Peterson at 1-780-469-3714 ext. 226, or email communications@agfoodcouncil.com.



Director's Corner:

Hi, I am Doug Skeels. My wife and I run a cow-calf operation near Dovercourt. We tried something new (to us) this winter – bale grazing cows with only an electric fence to ration out the feed. This demonstration is being done in conjunction with an Agriculture Canada study on fertility and how nutrients move in the ground, as well as the effects on soil moisture and temperature.

From my point of view, this is a simple, low-cost and effective feeding system for pregnant dry cows. I was worried about the feed that I expected the cows to foul and then refuse to eat, so we set out bales to last to approximately mid March at 30% wastage with 55 cows. We started January 6. At the end of January, we could see we had misjudged the feed and so moved another 14 head of cows in. We moved the cows home on the 17th of March with still about 2 weeks of bale grazing left, because they were expected to be calving by April 1st. The warmer than normal winter certainly reduced feed usage, and what is fouled and left is very little.

So for ten weeks of cows eating bales, I did not need a machine to feed. We only moved electric fence two times per week. It will be interesting to see what the results on the Ag



Canada part are, but I will do this again.

I am finishing my second year as director with Grey Wooded Forage Association. The time has sure disappeared. I would recommend a position as director to anyone interested in trying new ways of dealing with forage and livestock.

Doug



Mark your calendars for

“COWS, CREEKS AND COMMUNITIES”

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

At the Kurt Browning Complex in Caroline Alberta

11:30 to 7 pm

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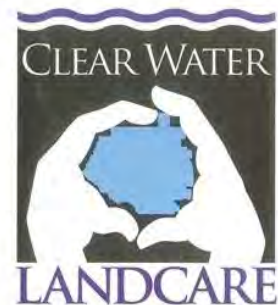
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Shrinking Cow Herd Fuels High Prices & Higher Risk for Alberta Cattle Producers

Prices Trigger Growing Interest in Cattle Price Insurance Program (CPIP)

While calving season is underway, Alberta's beef cow herd continues to shrink – setting the stage for a smaller calf crop and tighter cattle supplies this year that are fuelling higher cattle prices and growing interest in Alberta's Cattle Price Insurance Program (CPIP).

"Feeder cattle prices hit record levels in February and remain about 20 per cent higher than this time last year. Cattle futures also look strong for the second half of 2012," says Scott McKinnon, an Alberta market analyst with Canfax, a division of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association that tracks cattle prices across North America.

"Supply is a big factor influencing prices," says McKinnon, noting the North American cattle herd dropped sharply in the last decade and Alberta's cow herd declined steadily amid eight years of losses caused by BSE, drought, and economic recession. The province's beef cow herd sits at 1.66 million head as of January 1, 2012 – down 1.5 per cent from last year, according to Statistics Canada.

Sluggish Consumer Demand; Shaky Economies

Today, many producers have sold off herds to cash in on current prices, as others retain heifers to rebuild their herds, taking more feeder cattle off the market. "We'll probably see at least five years of strong prices as supply slowly increases, although that may not translate into profit for everyone," says McKinnon, explaining higher operating costs and increased calf prices are squeezing profitability for cattle feeders.

"The tone is definitely optimism, but there's always something that can throw a wrench into things," he says, pointing to the European debt crisis, volatile markets, and a sluggish North American economy that has consumers reluctant to buy expensive cuts of beef. "Weather and disease issues are also 'what ifs' in the back of producers' minds that could impact prices and profitability in 2012," says McKinnon.

Risk Levels Not Seen Since the 90s

So many 'what ifs' along with high prices have triggered increased interest in CPIP price insurance among producers and lenders. "We're seeing producers take on risk levels not witnessed since the 90s, as far as investment per head at today's prices. That's why we're actively encouraging them to consider price insurance," says Reg Schmidt, general manager of the Feeder Associations of Alberta (FAA), which helps producers across the province finance cattle purchases with a Loan Guarantee Program. The FAA added a line to its loan forms allowing producers to finance CPIP premiums with their loans.

"When prices reach record highs, they're more likely to fall than climb higher," says Schmidt. "Price insurance lets producers put a floor on the price they'll get for their cattle in the future. If markets drop, they can bank on that guaranteed Alberta floor price. Or if markets climb higher, they can sell the



Brenda Campbell says tight cattle supplies are fuelling higher prices and growing interest in Alberta's Cattle Price Insurance Program (CPIP). She is seeing a lot more producers inquire and sign up for price insurance lately as higher prices create higher risk.

cattle at a higher price." "I worry most about farmer-feeders and backgrounders," says Schmidt, explaining they buy high-priced calves on the spot market and sell them as heavy feeder cattle to feedlots grappling with high operating costs and price pressure from packing plants. "They could get crushed from both sides if they're not using risk management."

"Producers are very aware of the risks. We're getting a lot more inquiries and writing new policies for CPIP Feeder. We've also had strong attendance at CPIP-Calf information sessions," says Brenda Campbell, a Field Analyst with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), which administers CPIP and the Hog Price Insurance Program (HPIP) on behalf of the provincial government. CPIP-Calf was just launched last March, with policies now available until May 31.

Record High Floor Prices

Because CPIP is market-driven – based on forecasted Alberta cattle prices – the floor prices being offered have also climbed to record highs, reaching more than \$900 on a 600-pound calf. "I've spoken with cow-calf producers who are excited by the prices they can lock in," says Schmidt, explaining in today's volatile markets, price insurance protects them from being caught in a down cycle when they sell.

Most producers insure floor prices at the top end of CPIP premium tables to cover record high input costs, says Campbell, "although many still choose lower level disaster coverage to protect them from more extreme price drops when marketing their cattle." She adds, "If average Alberta cattle prices drop lower than their floor price at the end of the policy, a payment is mailed within a couple weeks. And they don't have to sell the cattle to make a claim."

Ted Ford, who runs a cattle operation near Westlock, says if he'd used CPIP on his fed cattle in 2009, he would have avoided major losses that year. "It was my own

Cont on pg 6

Shrinking Cowherd cont.

stubbornness that kept me from taking coverage back then. I like that it gives me a floor price and lets me enjoy any upside potential on prices.”

Alberta Advantage

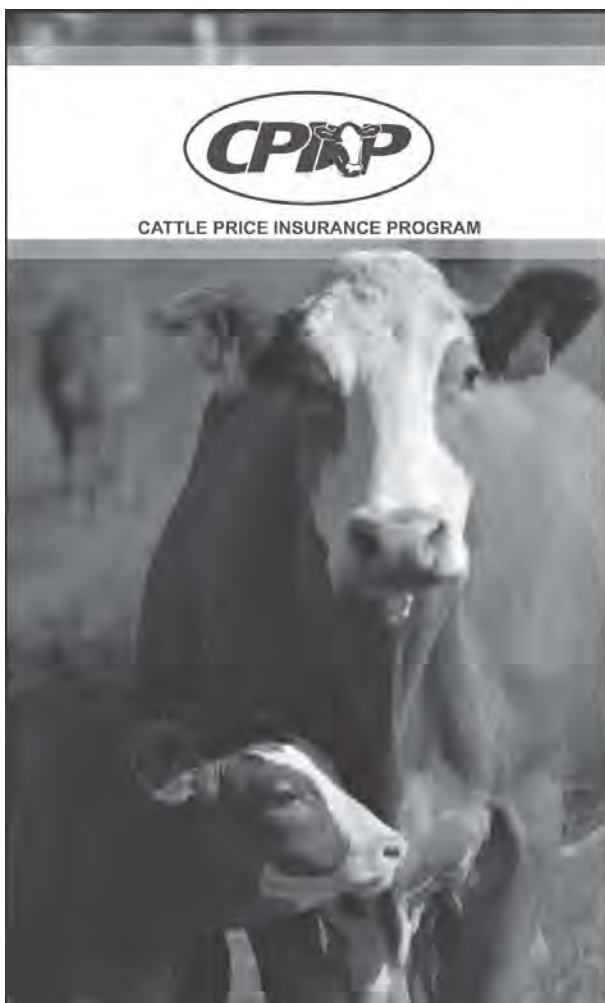
CPIP is an Alberta-only program that gives cattle producers in this province a definite advantage, and can make it easier to access credit from banks, says Travis Toews, president of the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association. Ed Knash, Vice President of Agriculture with ATB Financial agrees. “Price insurance is one factor that can I prove a customer’s risk rating, giving them greater access to capital and better lending terms.”

At the end of the day, price insurance protects even the smallest producer from a drop in market prices – something they typically have no control over, says Campbell. She adds

no minimum number of cattle need be insured and producers aren’t required to insure the whole herd. CPIP floor prices and premiums change three days a week reflecting futures markets. Producers can now request premium tables be emailed to them each day.

For more details about price insurance for calves, feeders, fed cattle or hogs,

visit www.afsc.ca under ‘Risk Management’ or contact the AFSC call centre at 1-877-899-AFSC (2372).



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or stop in at any **AFSC District Office.**



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Peter Strasser’s bus card size ad—same as last year.



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It's a Thought by Harry Navelpicker

I didn't know that Jimmy Weekster has a younger sister! Yes, it's true! I just put two and two together last week while attending the Animal Care Conference in Red Deer. It was during coffee break standing along the snack tables where Darla and I began to chat.

We had just heard two excellent speakers discuss the thoughts and wonders of today's North American food consumer. The first speaker had done an excellent job presenting the case of consumer concern. He figures there are two issues travelling along side by side. The first and old one that we in the industry are familiar with relates to food safety and animal science. Yes I purposely used the word science. For example science says that it's ok to house the chickens in the barns that way we do, or it's science that says that it's ok to house the sows the way we do and we can give the people all sorts of numbers to back us up, but rather than engaging fully into the conversation they then glass over.

So what's up? Why don't they just accept the facts as shown by numbers and get on with it? Why does the main population just continue to feel edgy about how we do things, especially in the confined feeding operations or as some call them, the "factory farms"? **Could the reason be that they don't trust us?**

Well the truth is that they're not so much interested in the practices that we employ but rather the way we do them. It's not an issue of science so much as it is an issue of ethics. Are we trustworthy? Their concern is that we in modern agriculture have lost the ethic in how we care for our animals. The base of their concern stems around the Ma and Pa farm where Pa used to get up early each morning and caringly fed and bedded the animals so they are were nourished and comfortable. The twelve cows and the 32 chickens had the opportunity to yawn, to crow, to stretch and to enjoy the day. However, as the size of farms increased, Pa no longer does his chores with the pitchfork or with the grain pail. The farm has grown to 1200 cattle and 32000 chickens which are fed with the silage wagon and with the conveyer belt. With numbers like this how can Pa adequately take care of so many animals with the same level of attention? Can he still be trustworthy? Surely he must take short cuts and neglect some animals simply because there are so many, they wonder. Surely for the sake of the masses, his ethic will have changed as well!

So how do we respond? Well certainly not with numbers first.

Rather we respond in an inviting way that offers them assurance that we do care for the animals. Firstly we listen to their concerns and engage in understanding their hearts. Then we respond with quiet sincerity. Try this, "Thank you for asking how I care for my animals. Let me assure you that I make sure that each day my animals are well fed with the best selection of feeds, vitamins and minerals so that their bodies are healthy. I make sure that they are as comfortable each night as is needed so that they live long healthy lives. I take care that they are protected from predators and that they are also protected from hurting each other. Please know that I do all of this simply because it's the right thing to do". And be willing to give details too!

Once they realize that our fundamental ethic is to take good care of the animals, the other issues become relatively small. With a good basic ethic in place, they can then open their minds as to the details of how, when and what we feed them, provide them comfort or protect them. With that assurance in place they are then able to enjoy the foods that we provide them in this modern day of animal agriculture.



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Local Food & Healthy Landscapes

About 150 people attended the Local Food & Healthy Landscapes Seminar we held on March 21st featuring Joe Salatin from Polyface Farm in Virginia, USA. With the help of Lacombe County's staff, Blayne Petrowicz and Dion Burlock, we put together and promoted this event in less than a month.

We also had an excellent panel of local food producers and marketers. Mary Ann Stevenson, Iain Aitken, Tim Hoven and Jeff Senger did an great job of explaining how they go about producing and marketing their products they make available to local food consumers.

We also had an excellent tradeshow featuring a large variety of vendors from local food producers to soils and fertility experts and even bank representatives. The tradeshow added a valuable dimension to the event and showcased many businesses and organizations we hadn't known about before planning this event.

We would like to thank all those who helped to make this evening the huge success it was, especially Lacombe County, who also sponsored the event. We would also like to thank sponsors Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development, Alberta Financial Services Corporation, Progressive Foods and Rocky Ridge Goat Farm.



The forage industry is significant in Alberta. According to the most recent census of Agriculture (Statistics Canada) there are 28.8 million acres of forage land in Alberta.

Up until 2002 the the Alberta Forage Council represented the interests of the forage industry in Alberta. However, in 2002, the Council merged with applied research associations to become the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA). ARECA has evolved to become a broader umbrella organization representing the whole agriculture industry in Alberta. Several consultations were held with all facets of the Alberta forage industry between the years 2007 and 2010 to see if there was an interest/need to to have an organization representing the forages in Alberta. This resulted in the formation of the Alberta Forage Industry Network Society or "AFIN" in 2010.

The objectives of AFIN include:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among pro-

ducers and other stakeholders in the forage industry

- To champion research, education and extension for the management and use of forages
- To foster communication between the forage industry, governments and the public
- To represent the Alberta forage industry nationally and internationally
- To manage, sell, lease, mortgage, dispose of, or otherwise deal with the property of the Society

AFIN is directed and managed by an eight member board of directors along with an advisor from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and an advisor from the Agri-environment Services Branch of AAFC. The board Members are located across the province. For more information and contact information about the AFIN board of directors please referred to the "Contact Us" section of the AFIN Website.

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March 19, 2012

New loan program helps Alberta producers *Program features flexible terms and access to funds*

Edmonton... A new Revolving Loan Program provides eligible Alberta agriculture producers with access to funds in a more flexible way.

Under the program, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) clients have greater control over when they can access funds, up to their established limit, through a pre-approved, self-selecting, renewable lending agreement with competitive interest rates.

“There are times when Alberta producers require additional funds to grow their operation and to continue to be competitive in the global market,” said Evan Berger, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. “Young producers, in particular, face many challenges. Financing opportunities such as this may aid in removing hurdles young producers are currently facing.”

The Revolving Loan Program offers competitive rates and gives clients the unique option of setting their rates for one, two or three years. Clients are also able to re-borrow funds that have been repaid, up to their maximum approved limit.

“The demand for loans through AFSC has grown steadily over the last seven years and is now approaching \$500 million per annum,” said Brad Klak, AFSC President and Managing Director. “The program was developed in response to client feedback and requests from agriculture industry groups seeking an alternative delivery approach to AFSC’s traditional term loan programs.” AFSC will start accepting applications on April 1, with initial disbursements on May 1. For program details and information, visit www.afsc.ca or call 1-877-899-2372.

Media inquiries may be directed to: Kelly Rich, VP Lending Agriculture Financial Services Corporation 780-415-1214 kelly.rich@afsc.ca or the Agriculture and Rural Development Ag Media Line 780-422-1005

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

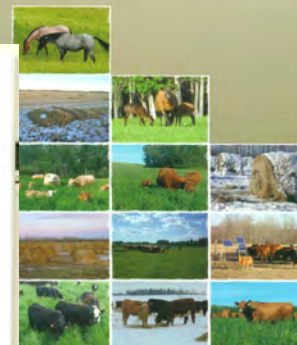
Alberta

Stock-poisoning Plants of Western Canada

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



Pasture Planner



A Guide for
Developing
Your Grazing
System

AGRI-FACTS

October 2004

Agdex 420/52-4

Beef Ration Rules of Thumb

AGRI-FACTS

August 2004

Agdex 30/53-1

Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

AGRI-FACTS

October 2008

Agdex 420/50-4

Agronomic Management of Stockpiled Pastures

AGRI-FACTS

September 2008

Agdex 420/50-3

Agronomic Management of Swath Grazed Pastures

Feed, feeding, cow management and pasture disposal are all factors that can account for up to 10% 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 systems is swath grazing.

Swath grazing

Swath grazing occurs when annual or perennial forage crops are swathed and left in the field for cattle to graze in late fall and winter. The practice eliminates associated costs:

- baling or silaging
- feed hauling and storage
- equipment operation for winter feeding

Labour costs may also be cut by a third compared to conventional winter feeding, and winter disposal costs will be reduced as less manure will accumulate in a feeding pen as cows are grazing in the field.

Swath grazing has advantages over grazing stockpiled standing crop. Producers using grazing stockpiled standing crop:

- Grazing time and dry matter intake are reduced when cows graze standing forage during cold or snowy periods in the winter.
- Snow cover can be a problem with grazing standing forage. Cows will graze standing forage through up to 0.5 m (1.5 ft) of snow, but only if a large amount of biomass is available.
- Grazing efficiency is poor for standing crops in early winter throughout the pasture eating the heads first and trampling much of the rest of the crop in the process. Swathing consolidates the crop and can make it more accessible, increasing dry matter intake and improving grazing efficiency.

Many factors come into play to determine forage quality, quantity and cost of production in a swath grazing system. Some of these factors, such as weather, are uncontrollable, but beneficial management practices can reduce the risks and increase the benefits of swath grazing.

Understanding the risks associated with swath grazing and the strategies developed from more than a decade of research will help producers get the greatest benefit from a swath grazing system.

Species and variety selection

When selecting the crop to grow, choose a species with good dry matter (DM) yield potential that provides a palatable forage with quality characteristics suitable to the livestock who will be grazing it. There are both annual and perennial species that fit these criteria.



Courtesy: Alberta



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Hillcrest Community Hall, AB

(7 miles west of Bowden)

4:00 to 9:00 PM

YOU WILL LEARN:

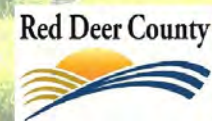
- Basic grazing principles
- Caring for the environment while looking after your pasture
- How to keep your land productive, healthy and beautiful

Register Today by contacting one of your Hosts:

Grey Wooded Forage Association (Albert Kuipers): 403-844-2645

Mountain View County (Amber Hines): 403-335-3311 ext. 135

Red Deer County (Ken Lewis): 403-342-8653



COST: \$30 / person (includes Supper and Resource Booklet)

Get more green from your green!

Sign up today, for the ***CONTROLLED GRAZING SCHOOL***



What is “controlled grazing”?

- A grazing management program based on maintaining control of animals, animal numbers and the length of time each area is to be grazed or rested.
- The Controlled Grazing School will teach you how you can do this on your farm.
- Learn in class and “out on the grass”

June 19, 21, 26, 28

****Different topics covered each night****

5:30 to 9:00 PM

Olds/Bowden area (east)

Cost: \$15 per participant, per night (includes suppers)

Register Today by contacting one of your Hosts:

Grey Wooded Forage Association (Albert Kuipers): 403-844-2645

Mountain View County (Amber Hines): 403-335-3311 ext. 135

Kneehill County (Bowen Claūsen): 403-443-5541

Red Deer County (Ken Lewis): 403-342-8653



!!!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:_____



Western Canadian Grazing Conference & Tradeshow

**November
28 & 29, 2012
in Red Deer!**

Planning has begun for the Western Canadian Grazing Conference 2012. It will be held in Red Deer at the Sheraton Red Deer Hotel (was the Capri) on November 28th and 29th, 2012. Yes, all you local GWFA members, it's on our home turf.

To make this conference the best yet, we need your input. What do **YOU** want to learn about? Who would **YOU** like to speak at this conference? This is your opportunity to have input in one of Western Canada's leading biennial agricultural conferences.

There are two ways in which you can help us have a great program:

1. You can join the WCGC Program Planning Committee, at least for the first few meetings to give your input into the topics for the conference. Once the topics and speakers are lined up, we can take it from there.
2. You can send Albert your ideas by email to gwfa2@telus.net or phone me at **403 844 2645**.

I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas!

Many people from ARECA's member associations, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development and the Agri-Environmental Services Branch of Agriculture Canada will be developing an excellent conference for you. Many agri-businesses will contribute to the success of this conference through financial sponsorship and assistance in developing this conference as well as being involved in the tradeshow. We really appreciate all of these friends for their involvement as the combined efforts of all of them will make this conference the best yet.

