



The Blade

Monthly Newsletter of the *Grey Wooded Forage Association*

October, 2018



COMING UP



Oct. 23	Innisfail	Feed What You Need Workshop, Innisfail Legion
Oct. 25	Rimbey	Feed What You Need Workshop, Rimbey Rec Centre
Oct. 20	Rocky Mountain House	Clearwater County Water Well Workshop
Nov. 5-8	Edmonton	Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference, Edmonton Northlands
Nov. 14-15	Calgary	Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association Conference, Sheraton Cavalier
Nov. 22	Crossfield	Red-Bow Water and Agriculture Conference, Community Hall

For details, please look for posters inside this edition of The Blade.

Contact us:

Box 1448
5039-45 Street,
Rocky Mtn. House, AB. T4T 1B1
403-844-2645
www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

Office - GWFA3@telus.net
Extension - GWFA5@telus.net
Contact our office to be added to our
digital mailing list

Published by:
Brenda Kossowan

Cover Photo:
By Brenda Kossowan

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The Grey Wooded Forage Association is
a member of the Agricultural Research
and Extension Council of Alberta

Office Report

Brenda Kossowan

Midway through their 2018/19 term, the Grey Wooded Forage Association Board of Directors has emerged as a dedicated group of individuals committed to developing and promoting financially and environmentally sustainable management practices.

This is a vital commitment at a time when the effects of climate change have begun to manifest in extreme weather conditions around the globe, including a hot, dry growing season that burned hayfields and pastures to the roots, leaving livestock producers scrambling to find feed for the winter.

The irony of having to start feeding early when hay is in short supply is a factor in the Board's eagerness to help producers explore winter feeding alternatives. The current team of directors has also felt a need to raise the association's profile within the livestock community and with the general public through increasing our participation in projects and events.

To that end, the GWFA has jumped into a variety of events this fall, including hosting "Feed What You Need" workshops later this month, supported by our partners in beef production. Feed What You Need will look at current market conditions as producers cull their cowherds and will then examine feeding options for those who are short of hay.

The two seminars—one in Innisfail and one in Rimbey—will then discuss the usefulness and methods for feed analysis and finish up with a demonstration of the KTT online calculator, developed to help producers evaluate the effectiveness of the options before them.



Directors hope that, besides providing valuable assistance to producers, these events will help draw more people into our association to help spread the word about the work we and others are doing to help livestock producers remain viable against mounting odds.

We will have a presence, along with three of our sister associations, at the Canadian Grassland and Forage Association conference in Calgary on Nov. 14 and 15 and we will have a booth at the Water & Ag seminar hosted by the Red-Bow Partnership in Crossfield on Nov. 22.

Please see the posters for each of these events inside this edition of *The Blade*.

While a core group of directors have been pulling together to keep this association moving forward, we are still looking for more hands.

The board is now actively recruiting new directors to help fill vacancies that have come open in recent weeks. This can be a rewarding job for members who share the ideals expressed in GWFA's mission and vision.

We are also seeking a new Agricultural Field Specialist and have received resumes from a number of qualified and promising candidates, who will be called in for interviews some time this month. We hope to announce our new staff member with the next edition of *The Blade*.

Please watch your inboxes as well as our website and social media pages for updates.

Notice to Producers in Clearwater County

Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services was recently concerned to see that Clearwater County was not included in the initial list of municipalities (prescribed areas) eligible for livestock tax deferral due to the summer drought conditions. In addition to the summer drought recent snow fall has significantly reduced the quality of annual crops in the County, and may prohibit producers from harvesting this fall.

A survey was put together that is now on the county's website, Facebook and Twitter pages asking producers to submit feedback on how the adverse weather and crop conditions in 2018 has affected them.



We are looking at pasture production, changes in herd management, forage yield and how many acres of annual crop are still in the field.

We hope to get a firm understanding of the challenges facing our farmers this season so that Council can advocate to the Ministers of Agriculture at both the provincial and federal levels.

The survey is now open and will be available until Oct. 19.

Please complete the survey online on the Agriculture and Community Services page at www.clearwatercounty.ca or fill out a paper copy at our office on 47th Avenue in Rocky Mountain House.

We very much appreciate your assistance.

Danielle Simmonds
Land care co-ordinator

Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services

Alberta Cattle Producer Plebiscite Regulations Announced

Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is working with industry groups for a stronger Alberta beef industry that invests in the future, drives efficiencies and cultivates opportunities.

Alberta cattle producers can vote to decide if the check-off should continue to be refundable or become non-refundable. Voting is open between October 19 and November 13 at one of the 27 ABP fall meetings around the province, by mail, or in person at the 46 AFSC offices in Alberta. Marketing Council has

sent information packages about the plebiscite to producers and information can be found online at [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apmc16728](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apmc16728).

This producer plebiscite is an opportunity to make a decision on future funding of Alberta's beef cattle organization and industry. ABP has issued over \$20 million in refunds since 2010 and many producers believe that this money would generate greater benefits if invested in industry initiatives.

The basis for the pursuit of a non-refundable check-off is a plan to create the Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund (ABIDF). Plans for the ABIDF and an agreement between ABP and Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association (ACFA) on the allocation of a non-refundable check-off were the reasons ACFA is supporting the plebiscite.

"I encourage all cattle producers to vote this fall in the plebiscite to decide on funding for the future of your industry. ABP and ACFA have committed to working together on trade challenges, farm safety issues, investing in research and many other important issues facing the cattle industry. Please get out and vote," said Ryan Kasko, ACFA Chair.

A successful plebiscite would see the creation of the ABIDF. This fund would support the beef industry through strategic investments of producer check-off dollars in research and technology transfer, market development, education, consumer advocacy, and industry collaboration. The return to a non-refundable service charge would provide approximately \$1.4 million annually in funding for the ABIDF.

"This plebiscite represents an enormous opportunity for producers and our industry. Producers have the chance to decide how their commission should be funded and the industry has the chance to invest another \$2.2 to \$2.5 million annually in strategic projects to make it stronger. This is your decision so please make sure you vote in the plebiscite," said Charlie Christie, ABP Chair. Under the proposed funding structure, ABP will retain \$1.35 per head of the \$2 check-off, which is approximately the amount we currently retain after refunds are issued. The ABP allocation includes 53 cents per head to support the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and a rebate paid to check-off remitters, currently five cents per head. ABP and ACFA agreed that 40 cents per head, close to \$1.4 million per year, would be contributed to the ABIDF. Twenty-five cents per head, around \$850,000 per year, will be allocated to ACFA to cover operational costs and their commitment to the National Cattle Feeders' Association. Producers who do not want 25 cents per head to go to ACFA may apply to have this money allocated to the ABIDF.

The 2018 ABP Fall Producer Meetings schedule can be found on the events page of our website, albertabeef.org

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Harvesting and Using High Moisture Grain in Cattle Rations

Barry Yaremcio, Alberta Ag-Info Centre

Mother Nature has been uncooperative this fall. Rain, snow and low temperatures have all contributed to a frustrating harvest season. There are many acres of crop remain to be combined in parts of the province. If cattle are needing grain supplementation this winter, using high moisture barley is an option.

Harvesting the barley crop at 25 per cent moisture or higher and storing it in a grain bag or silage pit will result in the barley fermenting no different than a whole plant cereal silage. To have a palatable, high quality finished product, packing the grain to exclude air (oxygen) is key. If putting the grain into a bag, the brake on the bagging unit needs to be engaged sufficiently so that the grain is well packed.

When the bag is being filled, the height of the bag should be constant without “hills and valleys” which is caused by the machine rolling too far at one time. The amount of air in the bag is higher when the uneven height is present which can cause problems during fermentation. If filling a silage pit, pack the grain with a tractor no different than whole crop silage. Cover with plastic and seal the pit within three to four hours, if possible.

High moisture barley is beneficial to improve animal performance. Higher moisture barley kernels are swollen due to the moisture present. The pericarp or hull on the outside of the kernel is not held as tightly to the seed compared to when the grain is dry. Rumen microbes and bacteria have an easier time breaking down the kernel and digestive efficiency is increased, by eight to 10 per cent. This eliminates the need to roll or process the grain before feeding.

Average daily gains for growing or finishing animals is also improved by approximately eight per cent as well.

The higher digestive efficiency creates a few problems. With a more complete and rapid fermentation, the starch in the grain is more readily available which can produce digestive upsets such as acidosis or bloat. If high levels of grain are fed in a straw – grain ration for pregnant cows, increase the grain content gradually to

prevent problems. If the ration starts off with approximately six pounds of grain per day, increase the grain portion one pound every second day. This allows the rumen bacteria to adjust to the change which prevents problems.

To determine if the changes being made to the ration are not causing subclinical acidosis, evaluate the consistency of the manure. With a healthy rumen that is functioning properly, the manure “pie” is fairly flat in structure.

If the grain is causing acidotic conditions, the manure will become very wet and sloppy resulting in a “splatter” or “runny” consistency to the manure and it often has a “sour” smell. If this happens, reduce the amount of grain to allow the rumen to recover from the condition.

Be sure to monitor the herd to ensure all the cows have access to the feed and the dominant cows aren’t pushing the younger or weaker cows out and end up eating too much to cause acidosis.

With most grain – straw rations, calcium and magnesium are typically deficient, and phosphorus is adequate. The use of a feedlot type mineral with roughly 20 per cent calcium and three to four per cent magnesium is recommended to prevent downer cows or winter tetany. A 2:1 mineral will not supply sufficient amounts of calcium to the diet.



Photos contributed by
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

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.

The Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership Presents

WATER & Agriculture Conference

**Valuable information for farmers and ranchers
managing water on the landscape**

- How agriculture and wetlands can co-exist
- How the Alberta Wetland Policy impacts producers
- The value of riparian areas and wetlands to producers
- Agriculture's water footprint & social license in Alberta
- Farm adaptation to extreme weather

9:00am to 4:30pm
Lunch included

**NOVEMBER 22, 2018
CROSSFIELD HALL**

#AGWATER2018

\$50

Register by November 16th at:

AGWATER2018.EVENTBRITE.CA

For more information visit the Eventbrite page or contact:
Daniela at Mountain View County
Ph: 403-335-3311 Ext. 204 or darcher@mvcounty.com

Animal Welfare Issues in Transportation

By Roy Lewis DVM (Reprinted from *Alberta Farm Animal Care Insights*, October, 2018)

Animal welfare issues have been discussed and reviewed in the past. Lately, transportation of livestock has come under scrutiny. This article will offer a veterinarian's perspective and provide ways to improve transport decision-making for your operation. Transportation is mainly about trucking between locations such as to the auction market or to slaughter. But the broader definition really involves the movement of livestock whether it is down an alley, down the road to change pastures or taking an individual animal to the veterinary clinic. All of these situations involve some type of transportation.

I find that producers are generally aware of the best ways to transport animals humanely. Stock trailers in my eyes have greatly facilitated this. The avoidance of steep loading/unloading chutes and the ability to open the entire back of the trailer has been a massive step in eliminating certain injuries. The ability of producers to segregate different classes of stock (cows and calves) with divider gates also avoids injuries and unnecessary fighting. One area of concern is the space created between the truck and loading chute. Feet can slip through this gap and cause severe injuries, even broken limbs. Newer trailers have eliminated this issue and flooring with the checkerboard aluminum trailers or the utilization of mats has greatly minimized slipping. A well-maintained stock trailer is an absolute must for any modern livestock producer.

Clean manure out and add fresh bedding after every use, as this is the easiest time and avoids dangerous footing or frozen doors in the winter. In general, the most common abuse of animal welfare during transport is overcrowding, followed by poor stockmanship and driving care.

If commercial drivers follow their weight restrictions they will not overcrowd with market weight cattle, but it is definitely a possibility when moving calves. Once loaded get on the road quickly as stationary pushing and fighting (especially with bulls) may start.

When hiring trucking my only pet peeve of a regulated and highly regarded profession is always waiting until all the trucks are loaded so they can go in a convey. I always fail to see the real value in this and cattle are left stationary for a long time.

Climate must be taken into consideration when transporting livestock. Upper critical temperature is around 30°C and in the cold one must consider the wind chill and type of animals moved. Any animals such as pigs or dairy cattle who are usually indoors will not be acclimatized and will be prone to frostbite on their ears (pigs) or udders (dairy cows). At extremely high temperatures it is imperative to keep the vehicle moving or at least park in the shade if having to stop. This is where the border crossings should really ramp up to facilitate movement of cattle during hot weather and prevent unnecessary long stops for trucks.

Non-ambulatory animals are probably the most at-risk. In Alberta, a downer is considered to be any animal that "cannot

rise, remain standing or walk without assistance." It is almost impossible to move mature downer animals humanely. They need either early veterinary treatment on farm, on-farm slaughter, or euthanasia. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency enforces the Health of Animals Regulations Part XII. They state that you cannot transport any animals with injury, illness or fatigue, which may undergo suffering during the expected journey. This is common sense.

Also eliminate overcrowding, drive responsibly without starting or braking too quickly, and avoid fast lateral movements which can cause cattle to lose their balance. This is especially critical when moving older cull cows.

Always load the lame, thinner animals at the back with lots of room.

Compromised animals are those which have ailments that need special consideration. Things like prolapses, lameness, and penile injuries are prime examples.

These animals need to be segregated and then taken to receive care. Attention to these conditions by a veterinarian will make them more marketable and/or give them the potential for recovery.

There are exceptions, but I would argue most times issues may be handled best on farm.

Phone first and clarify if the clinic wants the animal brought in. I would suggest everyone display a copy of the Transport Decision tree from the Beef or Dairy Codes of Practice.

It gives a clear-cut way to make an actual decision on transporting specific conditions. There is a section on unfit animals for transport that is worth reviewing. Downers, severe lameness and uterine prolapses fit into this category. Animal welfare with transportation is no different than other forms of animal welfare so educate others you see abusing the common-sense rules. Today's stock trailers and the experience of our producers go a long way to alleviate transportation issues, but there is always room for improvement.

Work closely with your veterinarian on the compromised or unfit stock. Use common sense when transporting and always double check trailer door latches before pulling out.



Is your annual compensation review coming this year?

It is time to start planning.

I can help. Give me a call.



ALUS in Red Deer County: Showcasing the “First Five”

By Ken Lewis, Conservation Coordinator

Way, way back in 2013, Red Deer County started our ALUS Program. Red Deer County was the third Alberta community to do this, behind Parkland County and the first community, County of Vermilion River.

So, ALUS was relatively unknown back in 2013, when we first started seeking farmers and ranchers to participate in it. To top it off, we had a limited budget as we were just dipping our toes into ALUS waters.

Despite that, five brave souls decided to dip their toes in with us, and they became the “First 5” in ALUS Red Deer County.

These folks signed five-year ALUS Conservation Agreements with us. 2018 is the last year of these agreements. So, the “First 5” also get the distinction of being the first farmers and ranchers who will be given the option of renewing their ALUS Conservation Agreements. Renewals help strengthen the ALUS Program, as they help us show the world that ALUS Farmers and Ranchers are producing ecosystem services for the long term.



In total, the “First 5” enrolled 125 acres in the ALUS Program and installed over 10,000 feet (3 kilometres) of riparian management fencing. These acres are now producing increased ecosystem services like flood and drought mitigation, water filtration, carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and much more.

These ecosystem services have real economic value to society. ALUS transfers some of that economic benefit to

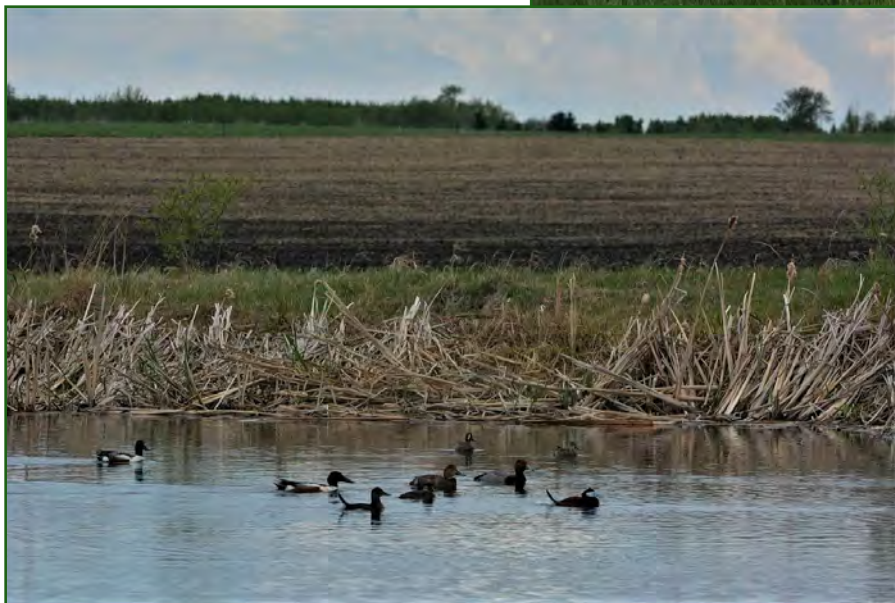
the people who are producing these services; in this case, the “First Five”.

A huge thank you goes out to the Johnson, Burns, Poole, Nicholson and Church families for helping get the ALUS Program started in Red Deer County.

We literally could not have done it without you.

Sheldon Burns planted trees in marginal pastures and shrubs along a stream running through his place. This added to work he had done a few years earlier, when he put a fence up along that stream and planted trees in another marginal pasture.

Photo take June, 2017



Don Church put in a fence to manage a wetland and riparian area in a pasture.

This photo, taken by Jim Fisher in May, 2014, shows four different duck species on a .3-acre pond.

The “First Five” continued

Keith and Tracy Johnson put up fencing to help them manage their wetlands, riparian areas and woodlands. They also put in a pasture pipeline as an alternative water source for their livestock. This photo was taken in June, 2017.



Margot and Dave Poole planted native grasses in marginal cropland beside a wetland. This photo depicts the wetland and seeded area in July, 2017.



Tom and Faye Nicholson put up a riparian management fence along Ghostpine Creek. Later, they planted willows around some ponds. This photo from August, 2017 is at the south end and shows wildlife-friendly barbless wire.





And

Clearwater County Landcare

Presents

Working Well Workshop

Tuesday October 30, 2018

Canalta Hotel, Rocky Mountain House

6:00pm (light supper provided)

Consider how your life would change if you lost your water supply!

Did you know that a poorly maintained water well can put your water supply at risk of contamination and reduce your well yield?

If you are one of 450,000 Albertans who use their water well for household purposes, the key to ensuring your water supply is safe and secure is knowing how groundwater works, learning about your well and understanding how to properly maintain it.

Proper water well siting, construction, maintenance and plugging will help protect your well from biofouling and contamination, save you costly repairs, and ensure your well water yields are sustained over many years.

Find out what you can do to protect your well. Attend the **FREE water well management workshop** being hosted by **Clearwater County Landcare**, and presented by the **Working Well Program**, with technical expertise provided by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Health Services and licensed water well drillers.

During the workshop we will cover:

- Groundwater – how it works
- Water quality and quantity testing
- Well protection – protecting your well from contamination
- Basic well maintenance
- Water sampling – how to do it

To attend the workshop, please pre-register by calling the **Agriculture and Community Services** office at: **403-845-4444** or email dsimmonds@clearwatercounty.ca.

Research update: Ability of Sainfoin and Cicer Milkvetch Populations to Rejuvenate Existing Pastures in Western Canada

By Surya Acharya et al, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Newly established mixed alfalfa and new sainfoin populations developed for mixed cropping can produce high biomass and prevent bloat associated with alfalfa in grazing cattle. However, ability of new sainfoin populations to rejuvenate old alfalfa or grass pastures have not been tested.

A multiyear and multi-location study was initiated to determine if new sainfoin populations developed for their ability to survive in mixed stand with alfalfa can be used to rejuvenate depleted alfalfa and grass pastures in western Canada. For the same purpose, new cicer milkvetch (CMV) cultivars were also tested along with different types of drills that can be used for adequate stand establishment. In this study, sainfoin and CMV performed better in alfalfa pasture than grass pastures. Although we did not setup the experiment for direct comparison, between the two legumes, sainfoin established and contributed more than CMV in both legume and grass pastures during the three study years. Among sainfoin cultivars, old sainfoin cultivar Nova and two new cultivars Mountainview and LRC3432 contributed greater than 20 per cent in alfalfa pasture at Lethbridge and greater than 10 per cent in grass pasture at Red Deer. Increase in legume content in old grass pasture resulted in

increased protein content and improved relative feed value of old grass stands. At Ponoka, however, all tested populations of sainfoin contributed less than three per cent to total DM yield of pasture mixtures. From all the observations made at all three locations we concluded that some sainfoin populations tested may be directly drilled into established pasture for rapid rejuvenation in parts of western Canada.

From the test at Lethbridge it was clear that introducing LRC3432 and Mountainview into a resident alfalfa pasture can contribute greater than 20 per cent in total DM yield. Use of sainfoin cultivars not only adds up in total biomass production but can prevent pasture bloat in grazing cattle.

This test also demonstrated that alfalfa cultivar AC Blue J used in this study can be planted immediately after breaking the old alfalfa stand. Results from this test suggest that direct drilling of some sainfoin cultivars into existing pasture can be a successful rejuvenation strategy for improving productivity and quality of non-leguminous pasture and, in addition can reduce bloat risk associated with use of legumes in most, but not all parts of western Canada.

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www.deltagenomics.com

Expert Help Wanted

Grey Wooded Forage Association

Has two vacancies on its Board of Directors.

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We represent forward-thinking producers in six counties:

**Clearwater County
Lacombe County
Mountain View County
Ponoka County
Red Deer County
County of Wetaskiwin**

Call today, e-mail or visit us online to learn how you can help yourself while helping others!

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Grey Wooded Forage Association

Creating an Awareness of Forages



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PRODUCER GRANT PROGRAM

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

- > Riparian area fencing
- > Portable watering system

MANURE AND LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- > Improved manure storage
- > Relocation of livestock facilities

AGRICULTURAL INPUT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- > Improved nutrient and pesticide management
- > Plastic rollers

*These are just examples of projects that are available under the three categories.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For program details go to: www.cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/STEW_PROD

Phone: Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276)

Email: CAP.ESandCCProgram@gov.ab.ca

Alberta Environmental Farm Plan: www.albertaefp.com



Director Profile—Jess Hudson



I am Jess Hudson and a new director on GWFA. My wife and partner, Cindy and I own and operate a ranch in the Ponoka/Bashaw area, having moved here 25 years ago from Southern Alberta. We have two grown children.

We run a cow/calf and backgrounding operation with a limited land base and use of rented/leased pasture and feed ground. Our strength is our flexibility and creativity to meet the ever changing demands in this industry and on our operation. Our holistic background has utilized a management plan which tries to create life balance, environmental sustainability and profit. We are life-long learners, proactive and innovative in our industry. In the past my experiences have included holistic management training, Ranching for Profit, Alberta Grazing Mentor, Western Beef Forage Group Advisory Board, Bud Williams Stockmanship and many varied experiences in the livestock industry.

My family has roots in agriculture for five generations in Southern Alberta and I feel it is important to look to the future, get involved, and give back to keep this industry vibrant and viable for the generations to follow.

9TH ANNUAL CFGF CONFERENCE

FOUNDATION FORAGE: BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP

NOV. 14-15, 2018



CANADIAN FORAGE & GRASSLAND ASSOCIATION • CANADIANFGA.CA



DON'T FORGET • PRE - CONFERENCE TOUR • TUESDAY NOV 13TH

WLPIP Helping Livestock Producers Navigate Market Challenges

Livestock producers struggling with little or no feed, or low quality feed for their cattle this year are not alone. Backgrounding their calves or buying feeders this fall may be an option for some, but it may not be the right option for others.

World events and their impact can be immediate at times and reaction from futures markets can be just as swift. Changing market opportunities that may take many months or years to form as a result of trade policy announcements or changes in herd size make it a huge challenge to follow markets and make decisions.

But there are a few road markers that can help producers manage some of their risks. One of these price risk management tools relate to the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP at wlpip.ca), where coverage opportunities are available for this fall that would expire into the winter and spring of 2019. Currently a range of options from 16-week policies expiring in January, 2019 to 36-week policies expiring in June, 2019 offer pricing choices through WLPIP.

A good place for producers to evaluate options is to begin with their own numbers. Taking stock of one's resources, including assessing financial strength and the ability to access capital are the obvious factors to look at. Appraising purchase or feeding decisions will require break-even and cost-of-gain calculations specific to the producer's operation. These calculators are available online through Canfax or Alberta Agriculture and Forestry or by using one's own accounting and spreadsheet packages.

Below is the premium table for Feeder policy purchase in Alberta on September 25, 2018. Producers should keep in mind these premium tables, including Feeder policies for the

Saskatchewan/Manitoba region, are only available for purchase for the posted day from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. MT Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Access to these tables are open to anyone and any producer can sign up for a daily premium and weekly settlement email reminder to be delivered to any digital device.

Having an estimate of average daily gain and cost-per-pound of gain will provide the producer with a couple of tips relative to this table.

When is the expected time the feeders will be marketed? While there is no requirement to sell the insured animals, producers need to keep in mind that price protection for the animals is no longer available once the policy expires.

Also the Feeder program works with a 750 to 950-lb animal with a slide adjustment to an 850-lb settlement price for it. Currently Feeder policy in Alberta is using an 11.6 cent per pound slide. This means weights below 850 lbs have their prices adjusted down 11.6 cents per pound, while weights above 850 lbs have their prices adjusted up by 11.6 cents per pound. The policy also provides a four-week claim window up to the point of expiry to provide flexibility as to when the weight is claimed. For example, if a producer is interested in a February 18, 2019 or 20-week policy length, putting on 250 pounds over 145 days on a 600-lb feeder would need a gain of 1.70 lb/day to hit this policy expiry.

The left hand side of the above premium table is the coverage available for purchase at the time of expiry. The table lists the insurance premiums to be paid per cwt (per 100 lb) for the corresponding coverage period of the insurance policy.

(continued on next page)

WCPIP-Feeder							Print	Close
Alberta Premium Table as of : 25-Sep-2018								
Note: These premiums and coverage levels change on a daily basis.								
The following policy lengths are currently unavailable for Alberta: 12 weeks								
Insured Index (\$/cwt)	Premium (\$/cwt)							
	16 weeks 21-Jan-2019	20 weeks 18-Feb-2019	24 weeks 18-Mar-2019	28 weeks 15-Apr-2019	32 weeks 13-May-2019	36 weeks 10-Jun-2019		
190	4.22							
188	3.73							
186	3.32	3.70						
184	2.87	3.28						5.69
182	2.61	2.97	4.12					5.25
180	2.33	2.67	3.71		5.08			4.93
178	2.07	2.42	3.36	4.41	4.65			4.55
176	1.81	2.16	3.05	4.10	4.29			4.28
174	1.57	1.96	2.79	3.71	3.97			3.99
172	1.39	1.77	2.51	3.43	3.70			3.74
170	1.24	1.60	2.33	3.13	3.42			3.40
168	1.12	1.43	2.11	2.85	3.18			3.27
166	0.97	1.27	1.93	2.63	2.88			3.04
164	0.86	1.16	1.68	2.42	2.69			2.82
162	0.76	1.02	1.54	2.17	2.48			2.65
160		0.92	1.47	2.04	2.35			2.48
158		0.82	1.34	1.84	2.11			2.25
156			1.20	1.73	1.94			2.10
154			1.08	1.55	1.80			
152				1.43	1.69			
150				1.33				

(continued from previous page) Top coverage available on September 25 for a 20-week policy was \$186 per 100 pounds (per cwt) at a premium cost of \$3.70 per cwt. Selection of coverage on the left column and determination of the time when the animals will be put on the market will depend, in part, where the producer's break-even and cost-of-gain numbers come in. On a per head basis, this policy example for an 8.5cwt (850-lb) animal would cost \$31.45.

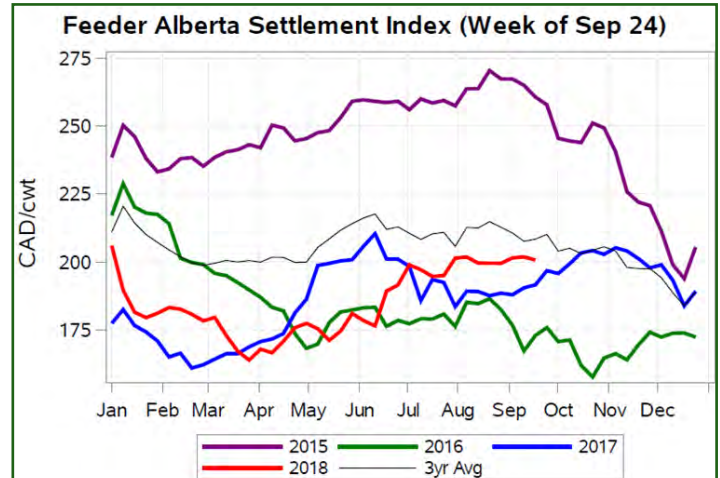
Below is the Feeder Alberta Settlement Index for the week of September 24, 2018 with the 2018 year in red.

The chart, updated weekly on wlpip.ca, shows the price variation in settlements for 2018 and a comparison against previous years and the three-year average.

Feeder Settlement Index for Saskatchewan/Manitoba is also available to claim against, with a policy purchased under this specific feeder index, should this be more appropriate for the producer's market. Settlements are currently about 4-6 dollars stronger than this time for 2017 (in brackets). Feeder settlement for September 24, 2018 was \$200.65 (\$196.43) in Alberta and \$201.50 (\$195.00) in Saskatchewan/Manitoba.

However we are seeing a slightly weaker cash-to-futures basis at this time, in part due to more expensive feed, impacting the cost of gain.

WLPip website offers lots of useful market information from feeder slide adjustments to spread values and currency charts updated regularly to help livestock producers with their decisions.



Branch staff at each one of the AFSC offices throughout Alberta and at AFSC's client contact centre are ready to help with any assistance for policy purchasing or settlement claim decisions regarding price insurance for cattle and hog.

A complete list of AFSC branch offices can be found online at afsc.ca under the "Contact us" button.

Producers can reach the Client Contact Centre by phone at 1-877-899-AFSC (2372), by e-mail to info@afsc.ca or by fax at 1-855-700-2372.



Your operation depends on economic sustainability. Don't let market prices affect your livestock margins and leave you dry. With livestock price insurance you can relax knowing your bottom line is protected. Visit WLPip.ca today and sign-up to receive livestock premium and settlement indices by email.

WLPip.ca • 1.877.899.AFSC (2372) • @AFSC_AB



Grey Wooded Forage Association

2018/2019 Memberships

Memberships are \$40.00 and run from April 1 to March 31

Memberships are open to anyone interested in forage production, grazing management and environmental sustainability

For information call 403-844-2645

Membership Benefits:

- Receive discounts on courses, seminars, workshops, and tours
- Receive The Blade
- Receive Environmental Farm Plan delivery
- Free Equipment Rental (deposit required)
- Access to the GWFA library
- Access to our Member Facebook Group
- A chance to network with like minded producers
- Free Farm consultation service (phone, email, and in person in the office)
 - Farm calls are \$0.55/km travel each way
- Receive an Annual Report

Please fill out and mail the portion below with a cheque or e-transfer of \$40 to:

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

Renewal _____ or New Member _____

The Blade: Email _____ Canada Post _____

Name/Company Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Town/City: _____

Email: _____

Province & Postal Code: _____

Please print clearly

How would you describe your occupation

- Beef Producer
- Sheep/Goat Producer
- Dairy Producer
- Annual Crops
- Forage Producer
- Other _____

How many head of livestock are you managing?

Beef Cows/Heifers: _____
Dairy Cows: _____
Feeders: _____
Ewes: _____
Does: _____
Other: _____

How many acres are you managing?

Pasture: _____
Hay: _____
Crop: _____
Other: _____

What topics are you interested in learning more about? _____

How can GWFA better serve you? _____