



Grey Wooded Forage Association

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

Newsletter
Spring
2014

Published by
the Western Star

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www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

**You can now read 'The Blade'
and the Spring & Fall Newsletters
on our website and enjoy reading
our publications anywhere!**

www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

Coming Events

- Cows, Creeks & Communities Tradeshow & Seminar - Pg 2
- GWFA's 30th Anniversary, AGM & Tradeshow - Pg 5
- 9th Annual Community Safety Day - Pg 12
- Rocky Mtn House Ag Society Banquet & Dance - Pg 14
- Western Canadian Grazing Conference 2014 - Pg 16
- Family Firesmart & Tree Pruning Workshop - Pg 16

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latest photos and hear
about upcoming events!

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VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance awareness of the organization as an information exchange centre, illustrating forage and livestock production practices that are environmentally and economically sustainable for the agricultural community.

Approved May 2012

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



What's **NEW** on Foragebeef.ca?

See Front Page News
New information on forage beef
issues from across Canada

**New and Improved Swath Grazing
Manual Available Soon!**
Summarizing research done by
Western Forage/Beef Group and
Others

Coming Soon!
Greenhouse Gas Research Summary
as it affects the forage beef industry



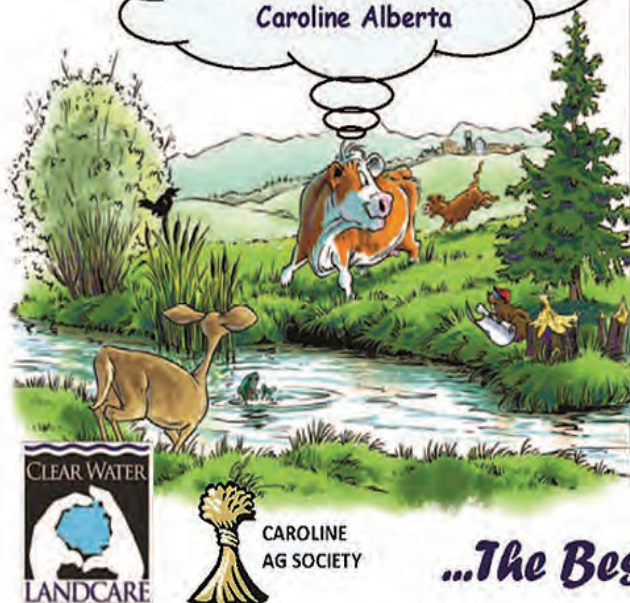
www.foragebeef.ca

2013-2014 GWFA Board of Directors

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Ex-Officio Director	Ken Ziegler	Rocky Mountain House	403-845-8204
Manager	Albert Kuipers	GWFA Office:	403-844-2645
Office Manager	Muriel Finkbeiner	GWFA Office:	403-844-2645
		GWFA Office Fax:	Fax: 844-2642

Cows Creeks and Communities

Thursday, April 24, 2014
Kurt Browning Complex
Caroline Alberta



CAROLINE
AG SOCIETY

Trade Show in the arena
2:30 to 5:30 PM - NO CHARGE
Includes demonstration sessions
at 3 PM and 4:15 PM.

**An Evening Program in the hall includes supper
and evening speakers**
- 5:30 to 8:30 PM -

**Only \$20 per person - limited tickets available
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Caroline Supplies, Clearwater County Ag office,
Caroline Ag Society office and Central Alberta
Co-op (Hardware) in Spruceview.

For more information call 403-845-4444

...The Best for Each...



Manager's Note

by Albert Kuipers



30 years? Wow! Has GWFA really been around that long? Yes, it was in March of 1984 that this organization officially started.

I managed to dig up some information from way back then. To start with, I found an old list of the first Directors of GWFA.

There's one guy who was on that Board who is on our current Board of Directors as an Ex-Officio representative of Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development. Ken Ziegler was instrumental in getting GWFA started back then and he's always been a huge supporter of our organization. Jim Bauer, who was also on that

1984 Board of Directors		
President	George Reid Alhambra	729-3971
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Treasurer	Bill Adair Rocky Mtn. House	845-3540
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Director	Harvey Sharp Winfield	682-2269
Director	Lorne Turner Eckville	746-5639
Director	Dave Willows Winfield	682-2235

first Board, became GWFA's first manager a short time later.

Here's a little something that George Reid, our first Chair wrote for our first GWFA Newsletter. I'd say they got a lot done in that first year.

"The Grey Wooded Forage Association is a long name for a group of people interested in producing more grass.

Prior to April, 1984, the members of the Grey Wooded Forage Association individually tried to find ways of increasing their forage production. This task single handedly is a slow process, encountering many biases and numerous dead ends.

With the establishment of an association that acts as an informed center and explores opportunities to economically maximize forage use, ideas and information came pouring in from members, non members, and other forage associations.

As the president of the Grey Wooded Forage Association, I am proud to say that in this our founding year we have had

four successful tours in and out of the area. With assistance from Plant Sciences Div. of Alberta Agriculture we have a substantial budget and several plots have been started, both for pasture and for feed stock. Now, some of the goals of the association are fast becoming realities."

George Reid



Skipping ahead a few years to 1994, GWFA hired Kyle Greenwood as Jim's Assistant Manager. Little did Kyle know that Jim would be heading for greener pastures a year later. Yes, in '95 Jim, with his wife Barb and their four children moved to Acme to take over Barb's family's ranch.

Kyle then became GWFA's manager, a position which he kept until the summer of 2000. After Kyle left, GWFA hired Maria Favez as manager. Maria served a short term as GWFA's manager, leaving the organization in early 2001.

After Maria left, Gerald Knopp, who was GWFA's Chair at the time, contacted me and asked me if I'd be interested in being GWFA's next manager. I think it was that same evening, or maybe the next that I was interviewed by Gerald and a few other Board members in Gerald's kitchen.

Up until 2003 GWFA had a small office in the Rocky Provincial Building, within Alberta Agriculture's office area. Changes in Alberta Agriculture lead to some office changes which made it necessary for us to move.

Ellen Bonde, our faithful Treasurer and book keeper at the time, found what is now our current office in the Foothills Livestock Co-op building in Rocky.

Right about that time GWFA hired Linda Jabs as our first office assistant. When Linda left we hired Emily Elliott, who was my faithful assistant for a few years till she left to work in an accountant's office in 2007. Muriel Finkbeiner then came on board and is with us today as our Office Manager.

For pretty much all those years the Western Star has been publishing our spring and fall newsletters. Danny Gibson worked with us for many of those years and for the last 10 years or so, his daughter Charlotte has been publishing our newsletters.

Kyle Greenwood began publishing "The Blade" monthly when he was manager. It started out as a one pager and over the years, evolved to the 12 page, full colour publication it is today.

I'd like to say a heart-felt thank-you to everyone who contributed to our organization, from those who managed our organization to the many fine people who served as Directors and volunteers over all those 30 years. Without you this organization wouldn't be what it is today and the forage producers and graziers in our area would have not

ENLARGING THE LIVES OF OTHERS

"Believe in your heart of hearts that your fundamental purpose, your reason for being, is to enlarge the lives of others. As you enlarge the lives of others, your life will be enlarged. And all the other things we have been taught to concentrate on will take care of themselves."

- Pete Thigpen, Former President, Levi Strauss

Last week I had the privilege of touring the plant of a client who hired me to help improve the culture of his organization. As we wandered around, the CEO introduced me to everyone we came across - in the halls, the offices, the labs, and on the shop floors. But he didn't just know everyone's name and title. He made a point, whenever possible and appropriate, of making a brief - and positive - comment about everyone. When he introduced me to the janitor, the caretaker's eyes widened and brightened as the CEO told me how he puts pride into everything he does and that he'll be greatly missed when he retires next month after more than a quarter century of service. Every employee smiled as they were introduced and the CEO said something positive about the unique contribution they individually made to the well-being of this company.

This CEO understands a fundamental responsibility of leaders: to enlarge the lives of every one of their employees.

As I think of my own staff, I realize that I often take them for granted. I give them work to do, put pressure on them to deliver on their accountabilities, and attempt to give them support to do their work. But do I actually make a conscious effort to enlarge their lives? We all get into our routines, our habits, our mundane patterns. In a world of incessant demands, it is easy to lose touch with the people around us and the real work of leadership.

Here are seven ways to enlarge the lives of others:

1. **Care.** Enlarging the lives of people isn't a technique. You can't fake it. People will see right through you. We all get busy and forget to notice people. Your staff will forgive you for forgetting. What they won't forgive you for is not caring. Enlarging the lives of people involves caring about people, not manipulating them. People are uplifted and better by being around people who care about them.
2. **Serve.** Serving means having a commitment to people's growth as much as finding the resources to help them get their job done. Serving means making the success of others more important than your own. Serving means making others look good and being willing to not take the credit. Great leaders know that you can't necessarily make people happy, but you can help them take pride in themselves and their work - by seeing their worth, beyond what they may see in themselves.
3. **Make Time.** Enlarging the lives of others takes time. Take time to learn names. But more than that, take time to learn about what matters to people you serve, the names of their family members, and the kind of things they do when they are away from work. Leadership is more than just wandering around. It's tuning in. It's paying attention. It's being in touch. Carry a notepad and make a note of what's important to the people on your team.
4. **Challenge.** If you are going to enlarge the lives of others you have to push them beyond their comfort zone. You

have to set a standard that stretches them. And you have to encourage them. "You can do this;" "I trust you;" and "I believe in you;" are enlarging statements. Then model the way. When was the last time you encouraged someone to go beyond what's easy? When is the last time you did something for the first time?

5. **Accountability.** Collin Powell, the former US Secretary of State, once said that "everyone on a team knows who is and who is not performing and they are looking to you as the leader to see what you are going to do about it." You don't enlarge the lives of people when you let them off the hook or hold back from having the difficult conversations. Set clear standards and hold people accountable. It enlarges the lives of everyone.

6. **Safety.** Enlargement is about creating an environment where people can grow. Bruce Lipton, a cellular biologist, says that a cell has only two options in life: to grow or to protect. If the cell perceives its environment to be toxic it will go into protection mode. When it perceives its environment to be nourishing, it will enlarge. To enlarge the lives of others, you must create an environment that is physically and psychologically safe - safe to work without harm, safe to make mistakes without fear, safe to be honest without retribution, safe to be yourself without judgment.

7. **Appreciation.** Appreciation is about acknowledging (both privately and publicly) effective, productive action. Appreciation is recognizing people when they take special care in a delivery, when they go out of their way to fix a glitch in a product, when they make a customer feel extra special, when they send the order out early, when they go the extra mile. Appreciation isn't empty praise. Appreciation is genuine recognition when someone makes a difference. It's about catching people doing things right rather than succumbing to the seemingly natural tendency to criticize. Say thank you. What you appreciate, appreciates.

When you are mindful and intentional about making these actions a habit, the lives of people around you will naturally enlarge. As you help people grow in this way, it will inevitably come back to you in the form of commitment, loyalty, and results. As you enlarge the lives of others, your life and your organization will be enlarged. And all the other things we have been taught to concentrate on really do seem to take care of themselves.

What are you doing to enlarge the lives of others? Your staff? Your co-workers? Your customers? Your family and friends? I'd love to hear your success stories.

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Grey Wooded Forage Association

"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

Plan to Attend

!!GWFA's 30th Anniversary Celebration!! **!!Annual General Meeting & Tradeshow!!**

!!May 7, 2014 at the Eckville Hall!!

- ⇒ 4:00 PM: The Tradeshow opens
- ⇒ 5:00 PM: Supper - A delicious roast beef dinner
by Bob Ronnie Catering!
- ⇒ 6:00 PM: **Annual Business Meeting**
- ⇒ 7:00 PM: Keynote Speaker: **David Irvine** on Celebrating
Volunteers/Value of Community!

David Irvine: The Leader's Navigator



David Irvine is sought after internationally as a speaker, author, and mentor. His work has contributed to the building of accountable, vital and engaged organizations across North America. As one of Canada's most respected voices on leadership and organizational culture, David Irvine is the CEO and President of Irvine & Associates Inc., an international speaking and consulting firm dedicated to building strong families, strong organizations, and strong communities. With more than thirty years of experience as a consultant to family businesses, and as an entrepreneur and advisor to executives, David has developed a unique, personal and practical approach to transforming leaders. Every year, thousands of people attend David's inspiring and thought-provoking programs on authentic leadership, accountability, building strong family relationships, and balanced living.

As one of Canada's most respected voices on leadership and organizational culture, David has authored five best-selling books, and has taught courses at three universities and the Banff School of Management. Raised in a rural community, David attributes much of what he knows today to what he learned on the farm and from hanging out with farmers and ranchers. He has a strong commitment to help support and sustain agriculture, the roots of a sustainable, healthy society.

On a personal note, David was a nationally ranked distance runner for more than two decades, and trained with the US Olympic team. He is a father of three and husband of one. David lives with his wife and family in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains near Cochrane, Alberta.

\$25/member - \$35 after the
early-bird registration deadline
of April 30, 2014

\$30/non-member - \$40 after
April 30, 2014

Advance registration only!

You can become a GWFA Member and
pay the Member registration fee -
Memberships are only \$20.00 per
year!!

Please phone

(403) 844-2645 or email

GWFA1@telus.net

for more information

2014 Summer Farm Employment Program

If full time farmers are thinking about hiring a student for summer employment, now is the time to apply. Once again, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development will be offering the Summer Farm Employment Program. This program gives Alberta's youth the opportunity to gain farm work experience and provides wage support to farmers for the months of July and August. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development provides wage support to a maximum of \$400 per month as well as worker's compensation coverage and safety training information.

Employers must own or rent a farming operation in Alberta with gross production of \$25,000 per year and work must be directly related to the farming operation. This does not include domestic work or child care. Employers must recruit their own employee, provide daily supervision and ensure safe working conditions for their employee. Monthly records of time worked must be completed by the employer. Employees are paid by the farmer and by the government for each respective part of their salary, which must meet provincial minimum hourly rates.

Employees must be residents of Alberta, between 15 and 24 years of age and cannot be a direct relative of the employer. Employees must not be working fulltime anywhere else or attending school while participating in the program. If they have been working full time prior to July 1 for the employer, they are not eligible for the program. Employees require a social insurance number in order to receive payment under

this program.

Farm safety is an emphasis in this program and all summer farm employers and employees are required to review a safety DVD together. Employees must complete and pass a safety quiz based on the DVD information in order to be accepted into the program.

Application forms and detailed information are available on Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's website www.agriculture.alberta.ca. Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. Applications can be printed from the website or obtained by calling the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276). The deadline for applying is May 31st 2014 and signatures of both employee and employer must be included.



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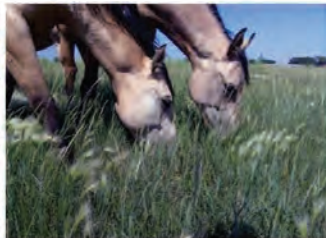
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Land Rent Realities in 2014

2014 could prove to be a tumultuous year for crop land rental rates. The fact that rental rates will likely soften going forward should not be a surprise to anyone. Crop land rents are a function of productivity and price for the most part. Other factors will play a minor role such as proximity to the tenant's existing operation, field efficiency and local competition for available rented land. These other factors are usually fairly static from year to year so the deciding factors going into the next crop year will be the 2 Ps, price and productivity.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's Ag-Info Centre has been fielding anticipated crop rental rates for the coming year since after harvest. This is the typical yearly pattern. The difference this year is the downward pressure on rates. Rental rates started an upward trend in early 2008 and peaked in 2013. Stronger grain and oilseed prices prompted landlords to renegotiate land leasing arrangements, especially those involving cash rents. It is understandable that with increased returns, higher cash rents were justifiable. A common trend during the period 2008 to 2013 was the inclusion of a clause in rental agreements stipulating that rents would be up for negotiation after harvest every year even with 3 to 5 year tenures. This was definitely an advantage to landlords giving the benefit of increasing grain and oilseed prices. The increase in rents occurred at a slower pace than the increase in crop prices, however.

Current crop prices are at about the same level they were in 2007 just before the run-up on prices. This would imply that rents could regress to the 2007 levels but, just as the rise in rents was slow to materialize, so too could be the lowering in rents.

Direct expenses for most crops have increased anywhere from 24% to 53% since 2007, averaging somewhere in the neighbourhood of 36%. At current crop prices, yields would have to be well above average for a producer to realize a positive contribution margin. The contribution margin is what pays the rent. There is one school of thought that advocates cash rent should be one half of the contribution margin. That thinking is certainly not going to gain any traction this year. Above average yields would exacerbate the already oversupply situation we are experiencing thus further delaying any price correction.

When I ran a cash rent scenario using crop prices at this time last year, I came up with an economic cash rent of \$90/acre

using hard red spring wheat, canola and barley in a four year rotation with one year of canola, one year of barley and two years of wheat. When I ran that same scenario using current prices I came up with over a 40% drop in rent to \$53/ac. The yields in this scenario were a respectable 61 bushels per acre for wheat, 77 bushels for barley and 38 bushels for canola.

Cash flow will likely play a part in the 2014 crop land rental situation. Grain movement has been slow making it difficult for producers to market grain. Only about 30% of eligible producers are enrolled in AgriStability and payouts under that program will probably not be realized until 2015 at the earliest. AgriStability does, however, provide a backstop to producers that could mitigate some of the downward pressure on cash rents. Cash advances may cover direct expenses for some smaller producers but for larger producers the advances will only meet half of their needs due to the \$400,000 cap on advances. Cash flow difficulties may put downward pressure on rents going forward.

At the end of the day, landlords will be considering themselves fortunate if they can maintain rents to 2013 levels. Tenants may be willing to ride out the storm in order to maintain their land base but economically that cannot last indefinitely. One thing is certain, 2014 will be a transition year as far as land rents are concerned. But then again, that is the nature of agriculture.

If you have any questions regarding farm management, give us a call at the Ag-Info Centre - 310-FARM (3276).

Ted Nibourg, B.Sc.Ag, M.Ed.
Farm Business Management Specialist
Ag-Info Centre



Red Deer County



Ken Lewis
Conservation Coordinator
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Cell: 403-505-9038
Email: klewis@rdcounty.ca

Check out the Off the Creek Blog:
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Seeding a New Forage Stand: Questions you need to ask Yourself

Whether you have determined that your old forage stand has reached the end of its productive life cycle or you intend to convert annually cropped land to forage, there are certain questions to ponder before the seeding action can begin.

1. What was or is currently growing on the field?

Identify any weed issues to be addressed prior to seeding. Pre-establishment weed control can make or break your stand establishment success. Remember that there will be limited chemical weed control options after seeding. Educate yourself on the carry over and residue effects of the herbicides used in stand termination and pre-seeding weed burn-off. Manage plant residue from the old vegetation well to allow for firm and even seedbed preparation. Be aware of auto toxicity in alfalfa. Existing alfalfa plants can inhibit the establishment of new alfalfa seedlings. Allow sufficient time for auto-toxic chemicals to break down in the soil.

2. What environment are you seeding into?

Know your soil and climate zone to choose species best adapted to your environment. A soil test prior to seeding is a small investment with a big payoff. Knowing what the soil can provide and what the new forage crop requires will determine the amount of fertilizer required. Saline and/or wet soils will require different species considerations compared to dry upland areas.

3. What is the purpose of the new forage stand?

The purpose of your stand will be a key question in determining which forage species to choose and in which proportions. Most stands are used for either hay, pasture or as a dual purpose stand. While a high quality hay stand may include a large percentage of alfalfa, a pasture stand will likely have fewer legumes with more consideration given to non-bloating options such as sainfoin and cicer milkvetch.

4. How long do you wish to use the stand?

Forage species differ in stand persistence. A short-lived forage stand integrated into your annual crop rotation will contain different species than a long-lived pasture stand intended to protect a fragile soil. Finalize your forage species mix based on the combination of your answers. Most seed companies will offer a range of pre-mixed forage stand options but will also prepare a custom mix suited to your specific forage stand needs. Request a seed certificate before buying any seed. This will give you important information on germination, any weed seeds present as well as inert material such as chaff that is in the seed lot.

Nadia Mori, MSc, PAg
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Regional Forage Specialist, Watrous



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Beef Cattle Research Council

In case you missed the Beef Cattle Research Council's (BCRC) first ever webinar, "**Boosting the Calf Crop Percentage in Your Beef Herd**", you can watch the recording now and any future webinars at: [Webinars - Beef Cattle Research Council](#).

As well, you can access a wealth of beef production information on their website from the following links: **Cost of Production First Steps: Production Indicators.**

Learn what to count and when in your herd to see how your reproductive numbers stack up to suggested targets in this article. <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/cost-of-production-first-steps/>

Reproductive Failure

An overview of the two main causes of reproductive failure: nutrition and venereal disease. Includes a video about trich and vibrio. <http://www.beefresearch.ca/research-topic.cfm/reproductive-failure-3>

Neonatal Disease

An overview of how to prevent deaths of newborn calves. <http://www.beefresearch.ca/research-topic.cfm/neonatal-disease-71>

Body Condition Scoring

Information: <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Body-Condition-Scoring>, How-to video: <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/WebVideo-BodyConditionScoring>

Comparing the Canadian 5-point scale and American 9-point scale: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/beef8822](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/beef8822)

Winter Feed Testing

Learn why it's so important and worthwhile to test your winter feed and find the nutritional requirements cows and heifers need during each trimester in this article plus video.

<http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/feed-testing/>

Mineral Supplementation Programs

Two videos: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/mineral-feed-ing-two-videos/>

Biosecurityw

Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard Implementation Manual: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/biosecurity-producer-manual/>, Video: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/biosecurity-video/>

Vaccination Programs

Video: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/vaccination-video/>

Contact Tracy Sakatch for any inquiries regarding research and extension through the BCRC.

Tracy Sakatch, Beef Extension Coordinator

Beef Cattle Research Council, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Phone: 306-850-5026, Email: sakatcht@beefresearch.ca

Website: www.beefresearch.ca

If you're reading the electronic copy of the GWFA Spring Newsletter on the GWFA website you can copy and paste these links in your browser.

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Toll Free 1-855-845-4166

Funding for Tag Readers

Under the Food Safety Systems in Growing Forward 2, tag readers are covered for up to 70% of the cost up to \$5,000. Applications under \$1,000 will not be considered. However there has been a huge amount of applications for this Food Safety System grant and therefore they are no longer taking applications for this term.

The program will reopen on April 1st 2014 and run until March 31st 2015 unless funds run out again as they did this year and they have to close early. If people would like to apply for the grant in the next round, they first need to enroll in their commodity specific On Farm Food Safety (OFFS) program. If they are beef producers, this would be the Verified Beef Program.

Producers need to attend a workshop, or if they have in the past then they do not need to go again. There are no workshops scheduled this year as of yet, but producers can take the course online. Producers interested in taking the course should contact Eileen Leslie at eileen@beefsafety.ab.ca or 1-866-242 7404.

Producers wanting funding from the Food Safety System Grant should not buy the wand reader until they have been approved as registrants as no receipts are retroactive. All purchases must be bought within the term after confirmation of acceptance.



It's a Thought

by Harry Navelpicker



With the ongoing cold temperatures and frequent snow, I'm beginning to wonder if winter will ever end. This last winter seems to have lasted forever. With the deep snows, I've spent almost as much diesel on pushing snow as I have on setting out feed.

Also with all the snow, I've fed the cows in a smaller area compared to most other winters. The manure buildup in the feeding pasture is a lot more this year. But that's another problem. The problem at the moment though is the pressure this'll put on the calves once they're born. Normally, by the time calving season comes around the snow is melted off and the calves are born on clean ground. Not so, this year.

The other driver is the potential value of this year's calf crop. If markets hold out like this til fall, I see this year as the big one. I can only drool about what \$1100 - \$1200 for a 600 lb calf would do. With that, I'm really anxious to bring as many calves through to market as possible. We really apply ourselves to save as many calves as possible each calving season but this year with the strong markets, we also have an economic incentive.

However, the game's not over until the cheque is in the mail. For so many years now, I've figured that this would be the big year only to come home disappointed because of some unforeseen obstacle. BSE and that mess was a big one. Then it was high grain prices followed by the climbing dollar. Always something.

So last week I was over at Jimmy Weekster's house having a coffee and while we were visiting, he suggested that we head over to his computer to look at some numbers. Being the guest and trying to be polite, I agreed and we headed over to his office. Within a few minutes we were on the internet and onto the AFSC website looking for the web page showing us the Cattle Price Insurance Program pages. Once there, Jimmy clicked onto the cow calf section and soon we were looking at a whole bunch of numbers.

Basically Jimmy got us to the page where the folks at AFSC had done calculations of calf price possibilities and associated costs to insure for those prices. If we want, those numbers are for us to choose an acceptable calf price for this fall and the associated cost of insuring ourselves to get that price. Jimmy explained that it's a bit like fire insurance. We want to have the insurance but hope it'll never be needed. This price insurance offers us the assurance that we'll get a certain value for our calves either from the calves themselves plus the pay-out from the program or from the marketplace alone because of strong markets. Naturally I want to sell my calves into a strong market, but in case something unexpected happens, I can still get covered by this program. Of course nothing is for free so the higher the price I want to insure myself into, the higher the premiums are.

Soon it became apparent that through this program, I can eliminate some of the unforeseen risks of the marketplace by buy-

ing this insurance for almost any price that I want with a corresponding premium. And, all of this is available to me until May 30th. All I have to do now is check it out on the web on my own computer at home or go make an appointment with one of the folks at the AFSC office.

GWFA has been partnering with FarmOn Foundation for the development of several short videos. Working with Dr. Vern Baron and Dr. John Basarab of the Lacombe Research Centre and Dr. Tom Flesch of the U of A, FarmOn produced "*Measuring Methane Emissions from Cattle*" and "*Cattle and Methane Emissions - Are we the problem, or the solution?*"

FarmOn has also produced a series of videos in workshops on building electric fences with Albert Kuipers. Alber also helped FarmOn Videographer, Ben Wilson and FarmOn's Chair, Sarah Wray to produce a video workshop on the four basic principles of grazing management.

To view these videos, go to www.farmon.com, or the GWFA website, or the GWFA Facebook page.

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ALBERTA FORAGE INDUSTRY NETWORK

The Forage Voice
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The Value of Alberta's Forage Industry Report
The value of Alberta's forage industry report which was released in early 2013 shows that the value of forage in Alberta is estimated at \$2.5-\$3 billion.

The report generated by Stephanie Kowalski is a tool that Alberta's forage industry has needed for many years. After examining the report, many producers and industry representatives will have a clearer picture of exactly how forage can enhance the value of their forage business. The report is a valuable tool for the forage industry.

The report has brought forage into the headlines and has made a lot of people in the industry aware of the value of forage. It has also made a lot of people in the industry aware of the value of forage. It has also made a lot of people in the industry aware of the value of forage.

Chemistry Tips:
The Alberta Forage Industry based on 2012 Canada statistics, generated by the Canadian Forage Industry Association (CFIA) and the Alberta Forage Industry Association (AFIN) is estimated at \$2.5-\$3 billion. The report is a valuable tool for the forage industry.

www.albertaforages.ca

Choosing a Commodity Futures Broker

Farm managers who wish to expand their pricing alternatives by having direct access to a commodity futures account must use a commodity futures broker. Sometimes known as a Futures Commission Merchant or FCM, a broker can be a valuable asset to the farm manager. For those commodities with a futures market, a brokerage account enhances the flexibility of a marketing plan, enabling the producer to more easily separate the delivery decision from the pricing decision.

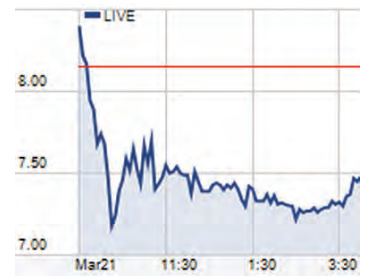
There are several considerations in choosing a broker. First of all, decide on what kind of service you need? Full service brokers can provide market information and guidance, both verbally and via market reports. Discount brokers just enter the orders and report results as instructed, while providing limited or no market information. The financial requirement of a brokerage firm is another consideration. Some firms require a minimum of \$10000 to open an account and other firms will open a hedge account with a few hundred dollars. Access to a bank line of credit may need to be established to manage the account. Also, a minimum income or net worth may be a requirement. However, brokerage firms are usually less restrictive in their requirements of clients who plan to use their account for hedging purposes. That is because a hedge implies that the physical commodity value provides financial backing to the futures hedge.

It's a good idea to interview several brokers by phone before choosing a brokerage firm and a broker. Afternoons after most markets are closed is a good time to talk to brokers, and ask questions such as their firm's financial requirements of a client, services provided and

commissions charged. Commissions are not usually a large factor since, with a hedging program, few trades are likely to be made in a year. However, some firms charge commission both on entry into a trade and exit from a trade instead of just when the trade is closed. If this firm also has a

minimum commission policy, brokerage costs can become more significant to the client hedger, who may want to scale in a hedge with only one contract each trade. You may be able to negotiate that commission is charged only upon exiting futures positions, or that minimum commissions are not applied to your account.

A broker should have an understanding of farming and of the factors that affect prices of the commodities that you are likely to be dealing with. The broker should make you, the client, feel comfortable in conversation, and not be overwhelming or overbearing. They should not suggest speculative trading to a client whose intention is to strictly hedge. From the aspect of client protection, brokers operating in Alberta must be registered with either the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada or the Alberta Securities Commission, depending on whether they are working as a broker directly for a large firm, or as an introducing broker (IB) for an affiliated brokerage firm. These registrations provide assurance that accounting and procedural standards are met and that the firm is financially secure.



By Neil Blue, P. Ag., Market Specialist 780-853-6929
Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development Vermilion

9th Annual Community Safety Day

Practice Safety at Work Home and Play!

Wednesday, May 7 • 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 P.m.
Lou Soppit Community Centre

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Alert Safety - Fire Extinguishing Simulator
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Free Farm Safety Training



This community-based agricultural safety project provides a free individualized safety-training program using SafeThink Agriculture – Alberta. This training program will be provided free to Alberta farmers and ranchers, their family members and any employees they wish to involve. This individualized program can start for you in January, February, March, or April, of 2014. It could also start for you in September, October, November or December of 2014. It only takes one phone call to the number below to learn more about this program.

Art Deane, who is volunteering his time with this project, will facilitate this training at your farm or ranch. Art has agricultural experience from owning and operating a family farm along with teaching safety education in his role as a professor at the University of Alberta where his teaching was focused on developing career and technology education teachers for Alberta secondary schools and adult educators for post-secondary educational institutions in Alberta and British Columbia. He has also worked as a SafeThink coach with HDC Human Development Consultants and been involved in the development of SafeThink Agriculture – Alberta by Alberta Agriculture and Rural

Development. These experiences are the foundation for his interest and commitment to volunteering time for farm safety training with Alberta communities and individuals.

Communities in Alberta are aware of the significant challenge with respect to predictable and preventable injuries and fatalities on Alberta farms and ranches. This project will assist local communities, agricultural societies, and individuals to further address this challenge within their own work life. Art is keenly interested in supporting individuals in developing SafeThink Agriculture – Alberta in their respective communities. As Art works with community members, interested individuals can become community-based agricultural safety facilitators and help develop farm safety leaders in their own community. This development of community safety leaders will be supported by Art.

Contact Art Deane (780) 436-8723, or akdeane@shaw.ca to get more information or to start this program at your farm or ranch.



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These publications are available to you by calling or emailing the GWFA office!

Beef Ration Rules of Thumb

Nutrient Management on Intensively Managed Pastures

Agronomic Management of Stockpiled Pastures

Agronomic Management of Swath Grazed Pastures

Swath grazing

Species and variety selection

Grazing Notebook

YEAR ROUND GRAZING 365 DAYS

Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland

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Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society

Banquet & Dance

INTO THE NEXT CENTURY!

SATURDAY, April 12, 2014

Leslieville Community Centre

"The Emeralds"

Have cancelled due to illness.

The Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society

Banquet & Dance now featuring

"Debbie Dee & Westwind"

Cocktails: 5:30 PM, Supper: 6:30 PM

Awards: 7:30 PM, Dance to follow!

Advance tickets only.

Only \$35 per person.

Tickets available from Ag Society Directors and the Clearwater County Agricultural Services office

at 403-845-4444,

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For more information.

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Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

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JOIN Grey Wooded Forage Association or RENEW your membership!

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and run from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

For more information phone 403-844-2645

Become a part of an enthusiastic group of people who are
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Membership is open to anyone interested in forage production and grazing
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Members benefit by:

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- 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_____

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Address _____ Fax _____

Town _____ Prov _____ Email _____

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Please give us an idea of what area of forage production you are interested in:

Controlled Grazing & Pasture Management: _____

Growing Annual Forages for Extended Grazing or Swath Grazing: _____

Growing Annual Forages for Silage or Greenfeed: _____

Growing Hay: _____ Ration Balancing: _____

Soil Biology: _____ Pasture Rejuvenation or Renovation: _____

Low Cost Cow/calf Production: _____

Environmental Sustainability: _____ Economical Sustainability: _____

COMMENTS: _____



Save the date!

LAND EKG-CANADA School

EKG Blink Monitoring Basics - June 24 & 25, 2014 - Rain dates - July 2 & 3, 2014

Participants will leave this two-day course with well-practiced abilities in choosing monitoring sites, transect layout mechanics, and EKG photo procedures. This class is designed for any rancher or conservation manager seeking a rapid, repeatable monitoring program, right away.

Participants will practice thorough land monitoring basics, soil survey using Alberta Soil Information Viewer, grazing indexing, forage production measurement methods, surface cover percents, and EZ-EKG assessments, but will spend the majority of time learning monitoring mechanics for EKG transect lines.

Additional time will be spent on "situational monitoring" and site recording techniques including an introduction to EKG DataStore. Monitoring kits will be available for those wishing to purchase this item.

Prerequisite: None, bring a camera if you have one.

JOIN TED SUTTON FOR THIS INFORMATIVE 'HANDS-ON' COURSE

For course content information contact Ted Sutton
Tel: 403.764.7402, Cell: 403.909.1772, Ted@ekgcan.com

For registration information and to register
please contact the GWFA office at 403-844-2645



SAVE THE DATE!

Dec 9, 10 & 11, 2014

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Clearwater County and ESRD Present: FAMILY FIRESMART AND TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP AT THE CO-OP

- Saturday April 12th, 2014
 - 2 sessions: 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm
 - In the Rocky Co-op parking lot
 - FREE of charge
 - The first hour of each session will begin with learning how to make your home "Firesmart"
 - In the second hour, kids will be able to play a game using what they just learned while
- Parents can take in a demonstration on pruning trees, bushes and shrubs
- The first 25 people to sign up for each session will receive a complimentary pruning tool along with a pair of kids work gloves and a pair of adult work gloves
- Be sure to sign up early to guarantee your spot!

To sign up or for any questions call Lisa Brown at 403-845-4444