

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD



Notes from the Field — September 2017

2017 Farm Family Awards



Congratulations to the Schonhofer Family of Majestic Ranches Ltd near Buffalo, AB. They were awarded the Special Areas No. 2 Farm Family of the Year and were honored at the Calgary Stampede.

Wanted: Harvested Fields



CARA staff will be conducting pest surveillance surveys for the 2017 season. We are looking for wheat fields within the Special Areas.

If you would like to submit your fields for one of these surveys please contact Olivia at the CARA office or email cara-3@telus.net.

Want to see a certain kind of event come to your area, let us know! Fill out this 5-minute survey to help guide us in creating future events that will benefit you and your operation. The survey is completely anonymous & we welcome all suggestions! <https://goo.gl/vMHg47>

AgSafe Alberta launches new program

ALBERTA, August 2, 2017 – AgSafe Alberta hired three Advisors to deliver on-farm safety consulting services to the province's farmers and ranchers, as part of a seven-month farm safety consultation pilot project.

Farm and ranch safety has always been a top priority for the agriculture community in Alberta. Farmers and ranchers take the safety of their farms, their families and their employees very seriously. Though all farms have some degree of safety measures in place, many farm managers recognize there may be room for improvement. Some producers are looking for guidance to get started with on-farm safety programming, while others want to establish more formal safety management systems on their farms.

"We're moving into an exciting time for farm safety in Alberta," says AgSafe Alberta Extension Coordinator, Donna Trottier. "We're changing the acceptance of safety principles on the farm and opening the doors to a farm safety culture that

includes farm families, farm employees and farm managers alike, adopting safety as a part of everyday farm life."

To help producers customize safety programming to match the needs of their operations, AgSafe Alberta hired three farm safety Advisors with experience in agriculture and expertise in safety management planning.

All the AgSafe Alberta Advisors have tools and resources to guide farmers, farm families and employees through an introduction to farm safety. Trottier explains, "farm safety can start

with a small step, using one of the QuickStart guides, and building into a full safety management program over time. If there are farmers who want to go the extra mile and establish a full farm safety management system, the AgSafe Alberta Advisors are available to provide the required technical expertise and guidance".

Alberta

farmers and ranchers are advised to take advantage of this great opportunity to receive guidance and assistance in building their own farm safety programs. AgSafe Alberta is committed to tailoring farm safety programming to individual operations and to the level of complexity chosen by the producer.

"We are thrilled to embark upon this journey of providing exemplary farm safety services, and enhancing the culture of safety alongside the remarkable farmers and ranchers in Alberta. Our tag line is "YOUR SAFETY, YOUR WAY" and we want to deliver services with that mandate," explains Trottier.

AgSafe Alberta Advisors

The team of AgSafe Alberta Advisors include Maria Champagne, Sherri Marthaller and Dan Trottier. "These advisors are eager to assist farmers and ranchers in building right-sized safety programming that will facilitate the adoption of farm safety practices on the farm," explains Donna Trottier. "Let's put them to work!"

To read the full article or for more information visit www.agsafeab.ca



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Canadian Beef Industry Conference A Big Success

Tuesday August 15th kicked off the [Annual Canadian Beef Industry Conference](#), which brought together over 800 beef enthusiasts from across the world to discuss Canada's proud legacy of beef business. Conference participants were engaged, topics were pertinent and meetings were important. The theme of this year's conference was "Sharing Common Ground" with emphasis on Canada's beef trading partnerships across the globe.

For those not able to attend a Canadian Beef Industry Conference, you can search the hashtag [#CDNbeefConf](#) on social media to get a taste of the audience's highlights and take-aways. This three day conference had presentations to suit all corners of the beef industry, including cow/calf producers, feeders, finishers, packers, wholesalers and consumers.

National topics included creating value and enhancing beef quality through a review of the [National Beef Quality Audit](#), a panel discussing international Canadian beef buyers and how the Cana-

dian and US beef industries can benefit from working, trading and learning together.

Closer to the ground, [Dr. Matt Spangler](#) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln showed producers how they can integrate genomics economically into their commercial herds, while Dr. John McKinnon

through economics on buying versus raising.

The last day of the conference was dedicated to Canadian and international beef market outlooks from CanFax manager Brian Perillat and RaboResearch Sr. Analyst Don Close, followed by a Canadian economy outlook from BMO Financial Group Chief Economist Doug Porter.

Cattle associations such as the [Canadian Beef Check-Off Agency](#), [Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Council](#) and the [Young Cattlemen's Council](#), held their annual general meetings at the same time as the conference. The [Cattlemen's Young Leaders](#) graduated their 2017 class of mentees-including three from Special Areas-while welcoming their newest class of beef enthusiasts.

The new class includes another Special Areas local, Melissa Lee, who runs a purebred Angus operation near Oyen.

The 3rd Annual Beef Industry Conference will be held August, 2018.



The Cattlemen's Young Leaders 2017 Semi-Finalists, who competed for the 16 final mentorship positions at the Canadian Beef Industry Conference.

from the University of Saskatchewan explained how producers can use feed analysis to manage mycotoxins and feed less traditionally desirable feed sources safely. A well received presentation from Kathy Larson with the [Western Beef Development Centre](#) helped producers calculate the cost of developing replacement heifers and walked

Dwindling Summer Pastures—Some Strategies to Cope

There are a number of things producers can do if dryness is affecting their pastures.

"Growing conditions are all over the map this year with some Alberta cattle producers dealing with too much rain and some with too little," says Andrea Hanson, beef extension specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF). "For those producers coping with summer pasture that is going backwards quickly, there are ways to manage what forage you have left. For some, it may even be that the forage in the pasture is holding

up but the water source has dried up or is questionable and hauling water is too difficult."

If pastures are affected, it's likely the crops in the area are affected as well. "You may want to consider whether some of the crops' quality and kernel weight will be sufficient to take it as grain or whether cutting it early and using it for livestock feed would make more sense. If your operation doesn't grow grain crops, speak to your neighbours, as they may be considering alternative measures and could be open to crop shar-

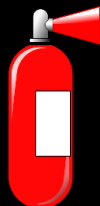
ing. Also, be aware of nitrate issues, as annual crops that are stressed can be high in nitrates."

Another effective way to manage forage is by managing cattle. "Weaning early reduces the amount of feed, energy and protein required by the cow and allows her to increase or maintain her body condition which is vitally important for her fertility. However, early weaning does involve planning on your part. The younger the weaning age of the calf, the higher the energy and protein levels will need to be fed. (cont'd on next page)

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BE READY FOR A GRASS FIRE—CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT

With drought conditions comes increased risk of grass fires. Be sure to check all of farm equipment for fire extinguishers, brooms, shovels and/or water tanks. Review what to do in case of a fire and ALWAYS call 911 immediately. Know the legal land location where you are working or your blue road sign for emergency personnel to respond as fast as possible.



Dwindling Summer Pastures—Some Strategies to Cope (Cont'd)

Calves older than 120 days can be backgrounded on pasture and have comparable performance to normally weaned calves (200 days) as long as there is plenty of high quality forage available."

A 3 year Alberta Beef Industry Development fund project evaluated three stages of weaning to determine the effect on the cow and calf performance and what that meant to the financial bottom line. "What they found was that early weaning is a great tool for stretching pasture resources and reducing the cow's nutritional requirements while adding body condition to the cow going into winter. As long as properly planned, there are little to no detrimental effects on the calf. AF has a [factsheet on early weaning](#) that can help with this." Plan out your feed supply sooner than later

so you can start to shop around for what you need. "You can stretch your feed supply by using crop residues and straw but you need to know what you're feeding. Test your feed types to know what you are working with so you aren't guessing what the nutrients in the feed are. While there is a cost to testing, there is

a much greater cost to over or underfeeding your cattle."

Hanson adds it's important to be tough when it comes to culling and to get those cows pregnancy checked. "Feed costs are the number one expense in cattle operations and those cows that aren't pregnant only eat into your profits. Having a more diligent culling program will free up that extra feed for those cows who are pulling their weight and will add to your future profitability."



For more information on managing the cow herd in dry conditions, contact the Alberta Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) or visit:

- [Beef Cattle Research Council](#)
- [Foragebeef.ca](#)
- [Alberta Agriculture and Forestry](#)

Contact:

[Andrea Hanson](#)
403-948-1528

Canadian Beef Industry Conference

August 15-17, 2017—Calgary, AB

REGISTRATION
OPEN NOW

The 2nd Annual Canadian Beef Industry Conference
"Sharing Common Ground"
August 15-17 2017 at the BMO Conference Centre in Calgary, Alberta



Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing

December 5-7, 2017—Edm., AB

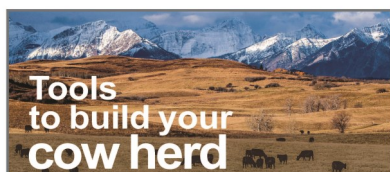
For more information, go to www.specialareas.ab.ca or visit us on our Facebook page and Twitter @SpecialAreas.

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Upcoming Events in the Special Areas



Tools to build your cow herd

This workshop will discuss how genetic and genomic tools can help identify superior animals to develop a productive and profitable cow herd. With weather related challenges in recent years there is a huge variability in feed supply and quality; speakers will discuss potential health and nutrition related problems producers may face this winter and how to minimize difficulties during calving and breeding seasons. A local veterinarian will speak on local health issues and concerns.

Agenda	Speakers
9:00 a.m. Registration	
9:30 a.m. Welcome / Introduction	Local Forage Association
9:45 a.m. "My Herd and Me" Genetic tools for the commercial herd	John Basarab
10:45 a.m. Break	
11:00 a.m. Lunch	
11:00 a.m. DSM - Vitamin requirements for cattle	Brian Campbell or Mark Engstrom
1:15 p.m. Current feed issues in Alberta and upcoming challenges	Berry Yernool
2:15 p.m. Break	
3:15 p.m. Proper nutrition increases animal performance and reproductive efficiency	Berry Yernool
3:55 p.m. Local issues and concerns	Local Veterinarian

Registration: Pre-registration is required, includes lunch, and nutrition breaks
 Registration Fee: \$30 per person
 Registration deadline: 7 days prior to event and no refund after deadline
 For more information Contact: Andrea Hanson at 403 948-1528 or 310- FARM (3276)

Growing Forward 2
 Alberta
 Canada

MEAT GOAT SEMINAR

Tuesday November 21, 2017
 Stettler Agri-Plex Pavilion
 9:00am - 3:00pm

Save the Date!

JOIN THE BATTLE RIVER RESEARCH GROUP TO LEARN THE IN'S AND OUTS OF RAISING MEAT GOATS!
 WHETHER YOU ARE THINKING OF GETTING GOATS OR ALREADY HAVE THEM WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

TOPICS INCLUDE: NUTRITION, BIOSECURITY, TIPS ON KIDDING AND "HOW MEAT GOATS PAID MY MORTGAGE!"

COME LISTEN TO A VARIETY OF SMALL RUMINANT VETERINARIANS AND EXPERIENCED PRODUCERS IN THE BUSINESS!

For more info or to register:
www.battleverresearch.com/upcomingevents
 780-582-7308
events@battleverresearch.com
 Cost: \$40/Includes Lunch

Battle River Research Group



Join us November 8 & 9 for BeefTech — a interactive beef industry learning event.

Explore and experience emerging technologies and innovative management practices. Learn how to implement technology in your beef operation to improve production and increase profitability.

- Hands-on workshops and labs
- Technology demonstrations
- Technical learning sessions

Featured Keynotes

Robert Saik, Agri-Trend - "The Agriculture Manifesto"
 Andrew Campbell, Fresh Air - "Stand Up for Your Industry!"

Your Agriculture Fieldmen

JESSE WILLIAMS

DON HOGAN

JUSTINE SIMPSON



SA2

(403) 854-5625/(403) 854-1114



SA3

(403) 664-3618/(403) 664-5585



SA4

(403) 577-3523/(403) 575-5525

We offer support for programs including:

- ◆ Plant identification & noxious weed control
- ◆ Grazing management & strategies
- ◆ Pest management & controls
- ◆ Growing Forward 2
- ◆ Environmental Farm Plans
- ◆ Shelterbelt programs & planning
- ◆ Animal predation concerns
- ◆ Equipment rentals including RFID tag readers & pest traps
- ◆ Concerns related to *Soil Conservation Act*, *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, *Animal Health Act*, and other legislation.

Special Area No. 2

Hanna District Office
 (403) 854-5600

Special Area No. 3

Oyen District Office
 (403) 664-3618

Special Area No. 4

Consort District Office
 (403) 575-3523