SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — December 2017

Auger Safety

It's time to move the auger to a new grain bin or a different facility. Here are a few safety reminders when transporting and placing an auger.

Transporting

- Transport your auger empty and in the lowered or "full down" position. The lift arm of the undercarriage should be seated against the down position stop with slight tension on the winch cable and at least three complete wraps of cable around the winch drum. The hitch pin should be securely attached and a safety chain secured between the auger and towing vehicle.
- Do not transport the auger at speeds in excess of 20 MPH. When traveling on the highway be sure to have the auger properly marked with a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem.

- Be alert to overhead obstructions and electrical wires. Remember, electrocution can occur without direct contact, due to arcing. Failure to stay clear of electrical wires will result in electrocution.
- Never allow persons to stand underneath or ride on the auger when it is being transported.
- Never move the auger manually. Use a vehicle. When releasing from or attaching to the vehicle, test the intake end for downward weight. Lift it slowly and keep the intake end no higher than the vehicle tow bar. Don't push the undercarriage.

Placement

- The auger must be on a level surface, attached to a vehicle, and wheels must be free to move when raising or lowering. Keep the travel distance to a minimum when placing a raised auger.
- During placement, make sure the entire area above the auger and in the line of travel is clear of obstructions and electrical wires.
- Move the auger slowly into the working position with the towing vehicle, not by hand. Make certain everyone is clear of the work area.
- Once in the place, the auger should be anchored at the intake end and/or supported at the discharge end. The wheels on the auger and the power source should be chocked on both sides.
- Do not attempt to increase auger height by positioning wheels on lumber, blocks or by other means.

Additional Safety Items

Common injuries with augers include amputations, lacerations, broken bones and electrocutions. Taking a few precautions can help prevent these injuries.

- **Keep shields and guards on augers and PTO's.** The intake screen is an important safety feature that allow grain to flow through but keep hands and feet out. Replace any damaged intake shields or install on older augers that might have been purchased without an intake screen. If you are using a PTO driven auger, follow all precautions for operating a PTO including having the proper shielding in place.
- **Establish a work zone.** When operating an auger, having a work zone helps to keep children or visitors out of a very dangerous area. Numerous injuries with augers have involved children who fell into augers or unknowingly placed their hands into a running auger. Post a few signs or use temporary markers to help instruct family members or visitors to stay out of the active work zone.
- When kept in good maintenance with shields and guards in place and following safety procedures, augers are valuable pieces of equipment for moving grains and feeds.

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Notes from the Field — December 2017

Canadian Agricultural Partnership

From Lacey Gould—Chinook Applied Research Association

On July 21, 2017, the Ministers of Agriculture reached agreement on the key elements of a new Federal, Provincial and Territorial Agricultural policy framework. This Framework is called the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) and is to replace Growing Forward 2 (GF2) on April 1, 2018. With a $3 billion dollar investment, the CAP will allow producers to continue to have access to a number of Business Risk Management programs aiming to strengthening the agriculture industry.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP
Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

Six priority areas were discussed as a focus for the CAP framework: Science, Research, and Innovation; Markets and Trade; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Value-added Agricultural and Agri-Food Processing; Public Trust and Risk Management.

What does that mean for the local producer?
Specifics on programs have not been finalized, however with the six priority listed areas above we may see some of the same programs as seen in GF2. There are no guarantees until final announcements have been made.

What should you do? PREPARE!
GF2 programs required various assessments and plans depending on the program; On-farm Stewardship program required completing an Environmental Farm Plan; Food Safety Producer program required Verified beef training; On-Farm Water program required a Long Term Water Management Plan; Livestock Welfare Producer program required a Welfare assessment and the Biosecurity Producer program required a biosecurity assessment.

April is a busy time for producers, whether you are finishing up calving, starting calving, prepping for seeding - this is not a great time to be sitting at the table filling out paperwork. Having completed your Environmental Farm Plan, Verified beef training, Long-term water management plan and/or taking an assessment of livestock welfare and biosecurity on your farm may help prepare you for a quick few page application come spring. Completing these plans may not only be helpful with future CAP applications they also are valuable with future planning on operations. The various programs identify risk areas within an operation which may typically be overlooked; help prioritize risks based on severity and highlight the management areas which put you in a low risk category.

We will be posting any updates to the CAP on our website, Facebook and in our newsletter. We are also planning various workshops throughout the Special Areas and M.D of Acadia that will help prepare, such as EFP workshops. Call the CARA office with any questions you may have at 403-664-3777.

Beef Cattle Research Council Webinar

Understanding and managing forage diseases.

There are a number of pathogens that can result in diseases in forages which impact yield, quality, and profitability. This webinar will provide an overview of those pathogens as well as some management strategies to help prevent disease.

When: Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00 pm
Interested but aren't available that evening?
Register anyway! This webinar will be recorded and posted online at a later date. All registrants will receive a link to the recording and additional learning resources. By attending the live event, you'll have the opportunity to interact and ask questions too.

Click here to register.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — December 2017

Winter Feed Supply Strategy

From Agri-News Weekly

Livestock producers have at least four months of winter ahead of them. "It's best to develop a strategy to get the most out of your feed supply at the start of feeding season, and it's not too late," says Andrea Hanson, beef extension specialist, Agriculture and Forestry. By testing the various feeds and knowing the nutritional values of each, producers can avoid future issues and know that they are feeding the right feeds at the right time. For every dollar winter feed costs are reduced, the net return or benefit to the operation is over two dollars.

Many of Alberta's commercial cow herds are into their second trimester of pregnancy in November, and a cow's needs are quite different in her first, second and third trimester of gestation.

First trimester – if cows came off pasture with a body condition score of less than 3 on a scale of 5, these thinner cows will require more feed to stay warm through the winter and grow a healthy calf. Thinner cows would benefit from being sorted from the rest of the herd and fed separately, or perhaps with the first calf heifers.

Second trimester – As long as the cows are in good condition, cows in this trimester just need to maintain body weight. "Crop residue or swath grazing are two great feed sources that can reduce the overall cost of feeding the herd," says Hanson. To fully use feed while keeping nutrition at a consistent level, limit grazing is recommended. If the herd is provided the entire area at once, the cows eat all the heads and finer matter first, leaving the stems and course material for later. This is counter-productive at a time when their plan of nutrition needs to be increasing, not decreasing.

Throughout the time the cattle are on a cereal based diet (high in phosphorus), monitor their calcium/phosphorus ratio to ensure this remains optimum. Magnesium is typically deficient in cereal crops, increasing the risk of downer cows, or winter tetany. Feeding a 3:1 mineral during this time may be necessary. The addition of limestone to a 1:1 or 2:1 mineral is recommended.

Third trimester - As a cow gets closer to calving, her dietary requirements for calcium and magnesium increase due to the growing calf and the cow's production of colostrum. Four to eight weeks before calving the cow's body begins to mobilize calcium and magnesium from her bones to develop the colostrum. As a cow ages her ability to mobilize those minerals decreases and along with high milking cows that just require more calcium and magnesium in general. "During the third trimester, producers should start to supplement the cow's diet with an alfalfa grass hay to bump the calcium content in the ration and provide more protein," says Hanson. "Legumes are high in calcium so saving that alfalfa or alfalfa/grass hay for the last months of the third trimester and into lactation is a good idea."

Monitoring the weather throughout the winter feeding season is also extremely important. Cows can withstand cold temperatures as long as they have the body condition (fat) to insulate them. Days of cold weather with no extra energy provided can decrease a cow's body condition. A 1350 lb. cow at the end of her second trimester, with a BCS of 3.5 on swath grazing can eat free choice barley/oat greenfeed without any nutritional concerns in a daytime temperature of -10 C and a 10 km/hr wind. When the weather changes to -40 C for a daytime high and the same wind speed, in order for her to maintain her body weight, she needs to consume an additional 5 lbs of barley grain.

"Feed is the biggest expense in a cattle operation," says Hanson. "Producers need a strategy for their feed supply at the start of the year when they have more choices and can ensure that the right feeds are provided during the best time of the feeding season." If feed resources need to be purchased, finding the proper forage or grain can ensure that the cows' nutrition is optimized.

Contact:
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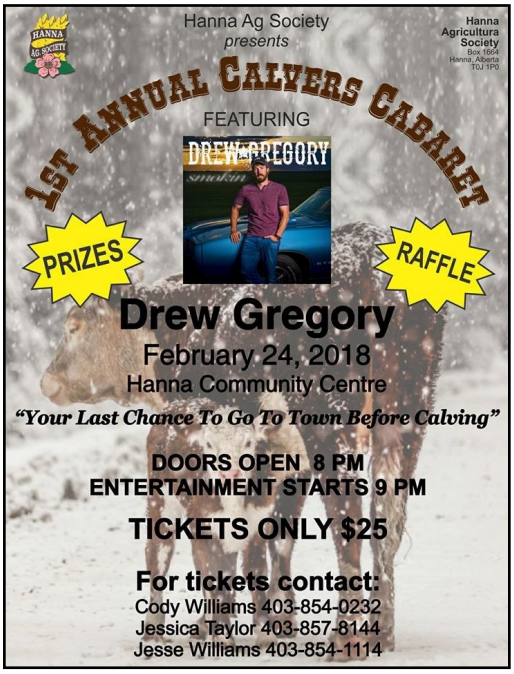
403-948-1528

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — December 2017

Upcoming Events in the Special Areas



Watch for these CARA events happening throughout the Special Areas early in the new year!

- Winter Grazing Field Day (mid January in Consort)
- Ladies Calving Clinic (mid February in Consort)
- Crop Strategy (mid February in Oyen & Consort)
- Farm Safety Presentations (early February in Consort)
- CARA's Cooperators Appreciation Night (February in Cereal)
- Youngs Ranchers Forum & Young Farmers Forum (Special Areas 2 & 3)

Your Agriculture Fieldmen

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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	Special Area No. 3	Special Area No. 4
Hanna District Office (403) 854-5600	Oyen District Office (403) 664-3618	Consort District Office (403) 575-3523

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