SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — Winter 2020

Feed What You Need

by Lacey Gould, Chinook Applied Research Assoc. (CARA)

Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA), Special Areas, and Alberta Agriculture recently partnered to host three "Feed What You Need" sessions in Handhills, New Brigden and Consort. These hands-on workshops focused on giving producers the best tools needed to help herds get through the winter on low feed supplies. Livestock Nutritionist Lacey Gould (CARA) helped producers use their individual operation information and Cowbytes software to find the most efficient use of resources considering their herd requirements.

When producers are looking to ration, feed testing is the number one priority. This information helps you to get the most out of your feed supplies while understanding what is in the feed itself. In 2019, protein levels have been lower across the province so assuming your feed is adequate this year isn't necessarily correct.

At these producer sessions, the Rules of Thumb were presented. One rule is that **Proteins** (7-9-11; the building blocks) should be looked at as the crude protein value. An average mature beef cow requires 7% crude protein in a ration mid-pregnancy, 9% in late-pregnancy and 11% after calving (lactation). Always watch manure! High levels of undigested fiber (a bigger pyramid) means low protein in ration. A second rule - **Energy** (55-60-65; ability to use the building blocks for growth and production) - talks about the Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN %) value. An average mature beef cow, to maintain her current condition, requires 55% mid-pregnancy, 60% late-pregnancy and 65% TDN during lactation.

Monitoring Body condition score can identify energy requirements.

Producers were taught how to input feed tests into the Cowbytes program and specifically choose the type of cattle they wish to feed. Depending on how you feed your cows, your waste factor can be a lot bigger than you think. The Rule of Thumb says that if you see it on the ground, you have 15%. Many operation have over 20% feed waste every winter, and don't realize that this costs in excess of $40/cow. Also remembering chopping feed can amount to losses consisting of the forage leaves and fine particles, which has the highest nutritional quality. This could mean that you could be losing as much as 25 to 30% in feed value by using these methods. By not taking a realistic waste number into consideration you could seriously shortchange feed supplies.

Another reminder was vitamins in stored feeds are minimal, if at all. A proper vitamin supplement (A-D-E), especially vitamin E, is essential for a cows growth and production. Vitamin E should be given at 300 IUs during pregnancy and 600 IUs during lactation. It is also important vitamin E is given minimum 6-8 weeks prior to the start of calving so cows have a storage available at calving. Minerals are all very important to consider. If you are grazing corn - or any high mature grain diet - make sure you are supplying enough calcium to account for the high phosphorous content in the high grain feeds. The calcium to phosphorous ratio for a mature cow should be within the range of 2:1 and 7:1. Other macro minerals and micro minerals are important and are connected to the growth and production of the animal.

In terms of feedstocks, this winter will see many producers using a lot of straw, tough grain and supplements to get herds through. Not all straw is created equal, so it is important to get your all your feed tested, with a focus on protein and NDF content. This past season saw a lot of bales put up with high moisture, so watching for ergot and mycotoxins is especially important. You should be testing when any evidence is seen, such as colored mold.

Feed tests can now be submitted at the Hanna and Consort Special Areas District Offices, in addition to CARA, for convenience of producers.

REMINDER!

Western Cattle Price Insurance Program for calves opens up

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Western LPIP
LIVESTOCK PRICE INSURANCE PROGRAM

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — Winter 2020

Youngstown Accepting Ag Plastics

As part of the 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recyle It!' program the Youngstown Regional Landfill - partnering with CleanFarms - will soon be accepting rolled grain bags and twine for recycling from Special Areas residents. Under the pilot project, 20 collection sites have been opened up across Alberta, including neighboring Drumheller & District Regional Landfill and Coronation transfer station.

Under the pilot program, only tightly rolled grain bags no wider than 4 ft are accepted. Before rolling be sure to shake to remove debris and secure rolled bags to prevent unrolling. No sileage wrap of any kind is accepted under the recycling program, but it can be rolled and brought to the Youngstown Landfill for disposal at a charge of $50/tonne.

Twine after being shook out and placed in CleanFarms collection bags is accepted at the Youngstown Landfill or the Hanna waste transfer station. Net wrap is not being accepted. Any hay or contaminants, nylon twine, loose materials or bags from seed, feed or fertilizer are not being accepted.

You can recycle rinsed pesticide jugs under 23L with caps and labels removed at some waste transfer stations in the Special Areas. For locations and hours of operation click here. Any pesticide containers over 23L must be returned to the retailer and will not be accepted at the waste transfer sites.

You can access the full set of **resolutions** that your provincial **Agricultural Service Boards** passed at their recent conference by clicking here

COMING SOON! Shelterbelt Planning Workshop

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — Winter 2020

Coyote Populations Rising

by Jesse Williams, SA2 Agricultural Fieldman

Maybe it was the increased rodent population this year, but increased numbers of coyote sightings through this fall and into the winter months could mean trouble for calving season. Not only do coyote populations appear to be higher, coyotes being particularly aggressive in contact with humans and guard animals are being reported.

Adult coyotes typically have a range of 12 square kilometers, but there are instances where they can be 2 to 3 times larger. Home ranges usually overlap only slightly, with non-resident coyotes passing through but avoiding the resident coyotes. Coyotes generally breed in February/ March, having their litters of 5-7 pups 63 days later in April/May. Dens are often made in previous skunk, badger or fox homes, making it important for producers to control these nuisance pests as well.

If coyote predation is suspected, producers need to do a thorough investigation to determine if the coyote fed on an already dead carcass or killed livestock. Some indicators to look for include: bruising at puncture sites (live animals), if there are membranes on the bottom of newborn calves' hooves (no membrane indicates the animal walked), and inspecting lungs for signs of breathing. In calves less than a week old, coyote attacks are typically found at the flank area with feeding on the organs closest. In sheep, coyotes typically puncture their throat to kill, followed by feeding on organs at the flank. Wolves, which are not typically found in this region, often target calves 7-9 months old and will attack the hindquarters first, unlike a coyote. If you need support with potential coyote predation, call your local Ag Fieldman.

Preventing predation is the best approach to protecting livestock. Disposal of any dead animals should be done to reduce coyote attraction to the herd. If off-site disposal (rendering or composting) is not possible, place dead animals in a pit, cover with lime and bury to a depth of 2 meters.

Herd management is also important, going hand-in-hand with best management practices of maintaining a cow herd. By keeping an extra eye on first calvers, using a short calving season, maintaining regular surveillance of your herd during calving, and using low birth weight bulls to minimize difficult births, producers can give herds the best chance at survival. Preventing the most vulnerable calves and new mothers from wandering away from the herd will decrease predation. Guard animals such as dogs, donkeys and llamas have also proven effective.

If you have implemented all of these strategies but are still experiencing coyote predation, any Albertan resident may hunt coyotes without a license on land to which he or she has the right of access. Your Ag Fieldman may be able to assist by providing neck snares, toxic neck collars for sheep, sodium cyanide M-44 propellant, or 1080 compound poison tablets for baiting. Your Ag. Fieldman will work with you to confirm best practices are in place, including a possible on-farm inspection, before moving on to these additional control measures. If you do kill a coyote preying on livestock, you may be able to redeem money from certain retailers. Trapping of coyotes requires a resident fur trappers license from Alberta Fish & Wildlife.

If you experience an overly aggressive or potentially rabid coyote, please report it to your local Ag Fieldman.

CATTLEMEN'S *Young Leaders*

Applications are now open until April 1, 2020.

Tax Credit for the 2019 Tax Year open to Canola Farmers in Alberta

To learn more, click here.

REVIEW OUR NEW COMMUNITY PASTURE POLICY

Job Opportunity - Assistant Community Pasture Range Riders (open until February 21, 2020)

COMING SOON! Native Bee Box Workshop

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — Winter 2020

Ag Events In Your Area

Passing on the family operation to the next generation isn't as easy as it used to be, but with the proper tactics, it can still be done.

- **February 6, 2020**
- **Consort Gem Center, 12:00pm– 5:00pm**
- **$25/person or $40/farm unit (includes lunch)**
- **Register by calling CARA at 403 664-3777**

11:30 Registration
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Succession Planning
& Tax Strategies
5:00 Wrap Up

February 3	**Navigating Farm Grants Individual Producer Sessions– Consort & Area** Special Areas Consort District Office - 9am to 3pm **Call to book your time slot*
February 11	**Environmental Farm Plan Workshop—Hanna** Special Areas Board Room - 1 to 4pm
February 12	**Environmental Plan Workshop– Consort** Neutral Hills Learning & Community Connection Center - 1 to 4pm
February 13	**Environmental Plan Workshop– Oyen** Big Country Adult Learning Center - 1 to 4pm
February 25	**VBP+ & BIXS Workshop - Spondin** Spondin Community Center - 12:45 to 3:30pm

Preregister at:

Call CARA at 403 664-3777

Or

email at cara-3@telus.net

MINI SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE

- February 20, 2020
- Oyen Legion Hall, 9:00am– 3:00pm
- Register Online Here or Call CARA
- $100 per person or $150 per farm unit
- Lab sessions available Feb 19-21 for additional learning opportunities

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — Winter 2020

Livestock Traceability Changes

Under the authority of the Federal *Health of Animals Regulations*, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing significant amendments to the traceability reporting requirements for livestock in Canada.

Under this new proposal, reporting of information, referred to as "data requirements", would be required any time an animal is moved from one premise to another. When a ruminant would move from a premise the operator of that premise would have to report the movement within 7 days, including their approved indicator identification number (CCIA RFID #), premise ID, date, time and license plate number of the trailer (if applicable). The same would be true when a premise received an animal. If an animal was moved to an exhibition, such as a fall fair, cattle show, etc., the operator of the exhibition, would have the same 7 days to report this movement. The CFIA aims to strengthen Canada's livestock traceability system with these amendments, hoping to address the gaps previously identified in consultations during 2013 and 2015.

For community pastures in the Special Areas, it would be up to the producer entering the pasture to report the departure from their premise to the community pasture. When animals are moved - with or without being loaded - it would be the sole responsibility of the producer to report the movement to CFIA within 7 days. The community pasture operator would not be required to report movements. With an auction market the auction market operator would have to report the receipt of animals within 7 days, but the data required would be limited to quantity and species, not the individual identification (CCIA #) of each animal.

There is not yet an official date for these proposed regulations to come into effect. CFIA will be publishing the full proposal in the winter/spring 2020 edition of Part I of the Canada Gazette. Stakeholders would have 75 days to review and provide comment. Agricultural Service Boards aren't willing to wait though. At the Jan 21 -24, 2020 Provincial ASB Conference, members from across the province passed a resolution asking CFIA to postpone these amendments until such a time that the "data requirements" can be accurately collected by producers and farm operators.

If you've ever used a Canadian Cattle Identification (CCIA) tag, you know that they come with their own set of difficulties. In a 2017 tag retention study conducted by CCIA, they reported that while birth to yearling stage retention is high (96-100%), tag retention is unsatisfactory for the lifetime of a mature cow (82%). Readability is another common complaint with these approved indicators. Growing Forward funding which producers had used to purchase CCIA tag readers at a discounted price has been discontinued, with no alternative funding identified. Anecdotally, producers have expressed frustration to ASB's over the compatibility of readers to CCIA tags, especially in groups of cattle purchased from multiple sources.

If you were able to age verify your calves (which is no longer a legal requirement), retain your tags in your animals, and keep all your records up to date, under the proposed amendments you would have only 7 days from the time of movement off your farm to report through the Canadian Livestock Traceability System. This deadline seems quite tight seeing how movement of groups of cattle often concentrate in spring and fall.

DID YOU KNOW?

WL Ag Supply Flaman Rentals now rents 30' John Deere 455 Box Seeder Drills for all your grass seeding needs.
Call (403) 854-2474 to book!

Through Ducks Unlimited's Forage Program you can receive a **rebate of $100 per 50lb bag of Proven Forage Seed** to convert cultivated land to hay or pastureland. Contact your Nutrien Ag Solutions Retailer (Delia, 403 364-3735) for more information.

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — Winter 2020

Watch Those Bins

by Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

It was a difficult and stuttering harvest this last year with short periods of combining between showers and cool temperatures.

"You might breathe a sign of relief when harvesting is complete, but it really isn't done until the grain ends up at the buyer's and is paid for," says Harry Brook, crop specialist at the Alberta Ag-Info Centre. "Maintain vigilance when the crop is in the bin. A lot of this year's crop is not totally dry and will need aeration or drying before selling. "

If grain is placed in the bin damp or even wet, safe storage time is limited before it degrades or attracts grain insects. Brook adds that aeration is best used for reducing crop temperatures to extend that safe storage.

"However, if you are trying to use aeration and supplemental heat, be aware the air requirements to make that work are much higher than for merely reducing the crop temperature."

Aeration for purposes of cooling only requires an airflow of 0.1 to 0.25 cubic feet per minute per bushel (cfm/bu).

"If you are trying to use supplemental heat, you need to up the airflow to 0.25 to 0.50 cfm/bu. Dryeration - using aeration for drying - takes a long time, taking 200 to 400 hours to drop moisture 1 to 3%. Grain drying uses the highest airflow. To dry up to 4 to 5% moisture from the crop, you need fans to push 0.75 - 1.0 cfb/bu to dry the grain. This can take up to 750 hours."

He adds that there can be problems when trying to dry grain in the bin. Once the drying front starts moving, it should not be stopped until it passes through the entire bin. The bottom of the bin will be over-dry when the top is dry. "Moving the grain will help equalize the moisture, but you don't want to over-dry grain as that could result in income lost that could be paid for by the grain buyer."

Seed Type	Moisture Content (%)
Barley (feed)	14.8
Barley (malt)	13.5
Canola	10
Chickpeas	14
Corn	15.5
Domestic Mustard Seed	10
Fababeans	16
Flax	10
Lentils	14
Oats	14
Peas	16
Rye	14
Soybean	14
Triticale	14
Wheat	14.5

Maximum moisture content levels for straight grade seed.

Beware of moisture circulation in the bin. Cold air outside will cool the grain against the bin sides and moisture will move down the outsides of the bin the come up the middle. "If there is any place for the moisture to accumulate, it will be just below the top and middle of the bin."

Green seed or immature seed in the bin may also contain more moisture and add to the problem. "This is why it is imperative when harvesting immature grain to keep it cool. If moisture does move and centralize in the bin, it starts to heat and that attracts grain beetles."

"Cool, wet harvesting conditions are potential ingredients to cause storage problems," Brook adds. "You have spent a lot of money and time getting the harvest in the bin. Take the time to monitor the stored grain condition and keep the bins cool. Don't get an unpleasant surprise when selling the grain with discounts for heated grain or insect problems."

START THINKING ABOUT SPRING SHELTERBELT PLANTING NOW!

CAP Funding Available

ASB RENTALS– GET YOUR NAME ON THE SPRING LIST!

Tree Seedling Planter **Pipe Plows for Livestock Waterlines** **Fabric Layer**

Contact your local Ag. Fieldman or District Office for more information.

18-30 Years old? Apply to be a member of the NEW Canadian Agricultural Youth Council!

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

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Ag Events In Your Area

Ladies Calving Clinic

BYEMOOR COMMUNITY HALL

FEB 12

SPEAKERS 4:00 PM
SUPPER 6:00 PM
SPEAKER 7:00 PM
COST: $30/PERSON & INCLUDES SUPPER, DOOR PRIZES & SWAG BUCKET

USING GENOMIC TESTING IN A COMMERCIAL HERD
NICKI WESTERSUND, NEOGEN CANADA

THE JOYS OF HAVING A NURSE COW & WHY THEY TRY TO DIE
DR. TAMARA QUASCHNICK
STEADFAST VET

VERIFIED BEEF PRODUCTION PROGRAM
MELISSA DOWNING, VBP

CALVING HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS
DR. BEN SCHULTZ
MAVERICK LARGE ANIMAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
STETTLER COUNTY (403) 742-4441 EXT 110
STARLAND COUNTY (403) 772-3793
SPECIAL AREAS 2 (403) 854-1114

REGISTER AT:
WWW.CALVINGCLINIC2020.EVENTBRITE.CA

Special Areas Board
STARLAND COUNTY
COUNTY OF STETTLER NO.6

SAVE THE DATE!

Ladies Calving Clinic

Pollockville– Hardgrass Hub

March 5th, 2020

4:00PM– 9:00PM $25/person

Mini Tradeshow , Supper & Local Veterinarians
Call CARA at (403) 664-3777 to register!

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

February 13, 2020 10:00AM– 2:00PM

County of Newell Building, Brooks
Call Catherine at (403) 794-2293 to register

Topics include:
New Technology, Soil Sampling & Soil Analysis
AOPA-Manure Storage Guidelines
NRCB Complaints & Statistics
EFP & CAP Funding

COMING SOON! Crop Planning Workshop

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Notes from the Field — Winter 2020

Clubroot - It's All Around Us

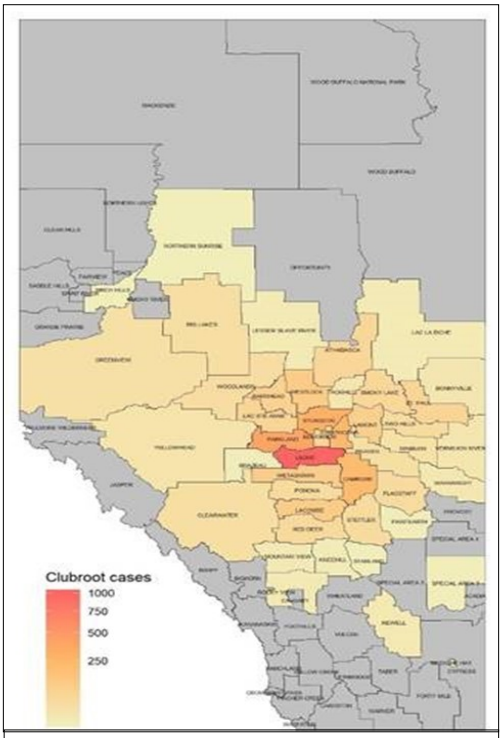
by Jesse Williams, SA2 Agricultural Fieldman

We've been hearing about it for years. Surveys have been conducted. It's a northern problem, right? WRONG.

2019 clubroot surveys indicate this soil-borne disease of cruciferous crops is now a province-wide problem. While no fields have been identified in Special Areas, we are now sharing borders with multiple clubroot positive municipalities. It's only a matter of time.

Two (of eleven) fields surveyed in Starland County were positive for clubroot in 2019 located NW of Rumsey and NW of Delia. To the north, Paintearth County found their first positive field in 2017 east of Brownfield. Our southern neighbor, Newell County, has had positive fields since 2007.

This soil spore disease can be devastating to canola, mustard and other cruciferous crops. The first line of defense is scouting. Special Areas conducts random clubroot canola surveys on behalf of Alberta Agriculture, but it's imperative landowners are looking for symptoms too. You should be scouting throughout the whole crop year as the clubroot pathogen and primary disease symptoms occur underground and can be difficult to see from the road. Above ground symptoms, like early maturing patches, may only be visible when the pathogen levels are very high. It typically takes 6 to 8 weeks for root galls to form, so it's a good idea to pull plants later in the season (about two weeks prior to swathing) to assess for gall formation. Click here to learn more about scouting.



2019 map of confirmed clubroot cases in Alberta, courtesy of Dr. Strelkov, University of Alberta.

Management practices are essential to keep your fields clubroot free. These practices include a minimum of 1 in 4 rotation, using clubroot resistant varieties, and following equipment sanitation guidelines. The Canola Council of Canada has an excellent video with management strategies available here. Remember clubroot is a soil disease; it can be transmitted to a field even in non-canola years and be present at low levels. Minimizing soil movement is essential, particularly at field access. As landowners or leaseholders, you have the right to negotiate sanitation practices on your property with stakeholders.

Special Areas does have a Clubroot Policy which says when land is verified positive for clubroot no host crops can be seeded on the property for 4 years and the Clubroot Management Plan developed by Alberta Agriculture must be adhered to. This policy states neighboring landowners, fertilizer, oil & gas, and utility companies will be informed. Special Areas rental equipment will not be rented to land with positive clubroot. If a positive field is seeded back to a host crop within the four year period, the crop will be destroyed.

Your Agriculture Fieldmen

JESSE WILLIAMS

SA2

(403) 854-5625/
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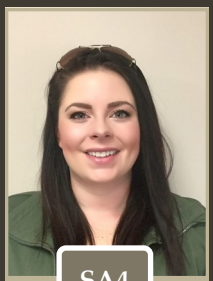
DON HOGAN

SA3

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

JUSTINE SIMPSON



SA4

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

We offer support for programs including:

- Plant identification & noxious weed control
- Grazing management & strategies
- Pest management & controls
- Canadian Ag Partnership (CAP) Funding
- 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.

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