

FORAGE FIRST

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78th Edition

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Winter Highlights



Winter feeding our herd (left photo, credit: Kristina Schweitzer); Iris helping us process sheep (right photo, credit: Tara Holmes).

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Lori Vickers, BC Ministry of Agriculture	787 3241
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Inside This Issue:

(for paid up members)

Kristina Schweitzer New Perspectives	pg 2
Fall Equinox Field Day & AGM	pg 3
Model for Sustainable Beef Production	pg 4
Canadian Forage & Grasslands	pg 5
AAFC Forage & Grassland Research	pg 7
ACARN Workshop in Kamloops	pg 11
Nora Paulovich into Hall of Fame	pg 13
Browsings from Other Forage Groups	pg 14
Friends of Forage Ads	pg 15
Upcoming Forage Events & Thank Yous	pg 16

Inserts: (for paid up members)

R & D Project Update,
Forage Fact, PRRD Update
North Peace Rural Roads Initiative

Inserts: (for renewing members)

2018/2019 Membership Renewal Notice

Visit us at www.peaceforage.bc.ca



New Perspectives to the Board

By Kristina Schweitzer

We currently manage 1200 acres of grasses and legumes on a combination of owned and rented land just north of Sweetwater Road between Farmington and Rolla. We have an Angus Charlais cross cow calf operation with 200 cows. We also have 7 or 8 horses and have raised some sheep and goats over the years. My husband Troy works 2 full time jobs, one in the oil and gas sector and the second, managing our operation with me.

We have 3 children: Ashley, 20 years, who is studying environmental sciences, Taylor, 19 years, who has power engineering 4th class and is helping us on the farm and Wyatt, 18 years, who is in his last year of high school. As a family we were very active in sheep, horse and cattle 4H clubs.

With our herd management, we have moved to later calving beginning in April/ May. The days are longer (for Troy's help) and calves have very few "off days" and grow with vigour!! We have mainly a black angus cross cow base crossing with "Lazy S Charolais Bulls" (Troy's parents Roy and Erika Schweitzer from Beaverlodge, AB). We can keep calves on the cows till Christmas time and utilize fall pasture regrowth and bale grazing opportunities, depending on the years weather. The white/tan/grey/black charolais cross calves have a huge growth potential and are well liked in the market place.

My land is very important to me. It has some unique features that provide a solid base for our operation. We have sandy soils and can produce alfalfa/ grass yields that are nothing less than phenomenal. An aquifer supplies all our farmyard and corral system which is a huge advantage as we are not having to haul water or rely on dugout water.

We are a first-generation farm, and purchased it in 2004 during the "low years". We could not have made it through financially without the help of the off-farm oil and gas job. I do support the Canadian oil and gas sector to produce clean environmentally sound energy. The opportunities that oil and gas industry has done for our communities is remarkable and provides many people with incomes to buy beef. The companies we have dealt with have been responsive, respectful and fair when we ask them to deal with washout or other issues that have impacted our land. Although it's hard to "share" our land and resources, I believe in working together for the benefit of all Canadians.

I have been a member of the Peace River Forage Association for several years, and have enjoyed learning at the workshops. The newsletters have captivated me and I found the articles easy to relate to. I took economics and soil science classes while getting my degree in Agriculture and have always been interested in sciences. I was intrigued with the on farm trials and wanted to get involved and study how to improve our farm, in a cost effective way. Once I met some of the people, their communication styles and the way they managed their meetings, I wanted to give back by letting my name stand for election to the board of directors. I have also let my name stand for other boards, including the South Peace Cattlemen's Association and the Sunset Prairie Livestock Association.

I am looking forward to contributing as a director for the Peace River Forage Association as I am passionate about agriculture in the Peace.



Kristina showing the size of swath that was cut as custom silage in the 2018 season.

Fall Equinox Field Day & AGM

by Chris Thomson

The Fall Equinox, September 22, 2018 turned out to be a bitterly cold day for early fall in the Peace. It was a sunny day after many rainy ones, so many farmers took advantage of the drier day to stay home and get fall work completed. A smaller than usual attendance bundled up and ventured outside at the Tower Lake Hall to observe a demonstration of the new Vredo Seed Drill. Julie Robinson and Fred Schneider explained and showed how it would work for seeding in stubble with zero till in smaller plots.

The drill will be available for rent on a per day basis. Fred Schneider is the contact if you are interested in renting. The charge is \$150/day for members and \$200/day for non-members. Many thanks go out to Fred for driving his tractor pulling the seeder all the way from Pouce Coupe to Tower Lake.

Julie showed some of the results of the pest traps and identified the insects that had been captured. There were not as many species as were expected, largely due to the colder than usual weather that the area had been experiencing.

Shauna Bader, Ministry of Agriculture, presented information on nitrate poisoning in cattle and explained events that contribute to this and possible ways to prevent it.

Along with these presentations, there was much discussion and exchange of information amongst the attendees.

As always, Classic Cuisine Catering served a delicious hot meal. Thank you to Shirley Smithard and her crew for always providing us with 5-star service and meals. Gina's cobbler was exceptional.

Chris Thomson, is the membership coordinator and bookkeeper for the PRFA of BC.



After supper, the members were entertained with a stimulating Annual General Meeting. President Darryl Kroeker reviewed the year's events and highlights. A big thank you goes out to 4 businesses who have consistently been supporting the Forage First newsletter production. They are: South Peace Grain, Foster's Feed & Seed, FSJ Seed Cleaning Co-op, and Northline Equipment.

The finances were reviewed, and John Kendrew moved a vote of thanks to the directors for keeping PRFA on a positive track.

Julie Robinson and Sandra Burton are currently the lead contractors on projects. Julie briefly outlined their content. She also reported that Glenn Hogberg has stepped down as Chairman of the R & D Committee after many years of service. Thank you to Glenn for all the "behind the scenes" work he has done for the Peace River Forage Association.

Thank you to Ron Buchanan for his work as a director. Ron is moving on to new ventures in his life and we wish him all the best. With Ron's absence, we welcome Kristina Schweitzer to the Board of Directors. Kristina, we hope that you will find it a rewarding experience and are certainly open to any ideas that you may have. It takes a joint effort to keep the PRFA running as the "top notch" organization that it has always been.



Attendees at the Field Day & AGM looking at the new Vredo Seed Drill for rent from the Peace River Forage Association.

Model for Sustainable Beef Production

by Graeme Finn



Graeme Finn reports on Canada's participation at Global Conference on Sustainable Beef on October 12, 2018 in Ireland.

The news is good. "Canada is ahead of the game when it comes to beef sustainability," affirms Graeme Finn, a member of the Canadian delegation at the conference.

"What we're doing here is right on track to keep the public informed. It's good to see progress from the McDonalds' pilot program to getting a cheque from BIX/Cargill for sustainable beef—and most of all, that other countries are looking to us for guidance. I'm pretty proud of where we are right now in the world."

The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (the conference host) is a global initiative that aims to improve the sustainability of the global beef value chain through leadership, science and stakeholder engagement/collaboration. It is the umbrella organization and governing body for initiatives in member countries, which includes Canada (hence our interest in this).

Of the 245 attendees, Canada had the biggest delegation: 15 people representing organizations as diverse as the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, McDonald's, A&W, BIX, Ducks Unlimited, World Wildlife Fund Canada, and three producers (including Graeme, who also represented the Canadian Roundtable).

On Day 1, Graeme took the Dawn Meats tour. Dawn Meats is one of the largest suppliers of beef into the McDonald's system in Europe at the company's fossil-fuel free (!!!) plant in Waterford. In 2017, the site became the first Irish food manufacturing company to be awarded BITC Ireland's prestigious BWR (Business Working Responsibly) mark.

"Dawn buys all its meat from Verified Sustainable operations," says Graeme. "No common market cattle. McDonalds does the same thing in Canada, so we're aligned with Ireland on that. Cargill and McDonalds are the prime buyers of sustainable beef here. All our own beef goes into that chain, and we get the quarterly cheque."

The tour involved a visit to John and Catherine Powers' farm in Waterford where calves are reared and finished as beef cattle, as part of McDonald's Flagship Farm Program.

"It's all bull meat," says Graeme. "They don't castrate any animals so, obviously, no synthetic hormones. It must be quite boisterous on that farm when the animals are young!"

Days 2 and 3 were in a more traditional conference format. Justin Sherrard, Global Strategist Animal Protein, Rabobank RaboResearch, Food & Agribusiness delivered the keynote address, focusing on leadership and the concept that the customer is always right.

"I didn't totally agree with that," says Graeme. "How can the customer be right if they don't have the correct or the full information? Or if they've watched *Cowspiracy* on Netflix? It does make sense that veggie burgers are trendy in a first-world urban setting but in developing countries, the cheaper option will always be meat. As their standard of living improves, they are moving towards more animal protein."

Graeme spoke about the impact of technology on producers and their operations. He believes that the BSE crisis of 2003 drove producers to know their costs and to improve their winter management, grazing management and traceability - which turned out to be the best thing for the industry as it relates to sustainability.

"We already have traceability," he says. "South Africa doesn't even have RFID tags. The UK and Ireland have passports that follow every animal through the system throughout its life. It's intense! They need to get with the Canadian model."

Other presentations focused on the environmental side of sustainability, reducing emissions through innovative feeding strategies, sustainable beef production on the Canadian prairies and genetic improvement for animals on pasture.

Michael Lee, Chair of Sustainable Livestock Systems at Rothamsted Research, delivered the capstone address focusing on how livestock fit into the environment, not just as meat but also as wool fibre, cosmetics, leather, milk, fertilizer and beasts of burden. All biodegradable. Styrofoam... not so much.

"Attending a conference like this makes us more aware of where the trends are going," says Graeme. "It's important to know what's going on in the world and to know Canada is ahead of the game"



Canadian representatives at the conference.

Canadian Forage & Grasslands

by Julie Robinson & Talon Gauthier

This November we (Talon Gauthier - Peace Region Forage Seed Association and Julie Robinson - Peace River Forage Association of BC), were pleased to be able to attend the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGA) 9th annual conference in Calgary, AB on November 14 & 15, 2018. This was a great opportunity to meet the "Forage Faces" from across the country. Below are a few of the highlights of the new people that we crossed paths with. Their passion for forages was contagious and enjoyable.



Ray Robertson, is the 2018 chair of the CFGA and executive director of the Ontario Forage Council. He is a former dairy and beef producer, who now runs a custom-grazing operation near Markdale, Ontario.

In addition to serving as general manager of the Ontario Forage Council, Ray is the founder and executive director of Grey County Agricultural Services Centre. It is a non-profit organization established in 2000 that provides extension, communication and administration services for agricultural groups and events. Ontario Forage Council is very active and has just finished hosting their thirteenth Ontario Forage Expo. They have held events in Western and Eastern Ontario where they partnered with Dufferin County and Northumberland County Soil & Crop Improvement Associations. They also work with producers on hay marketing and hay listings on their website: <http://ontarioforagecouncil.com/>



Duncan Morrison is the executive director of Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association. Duncan's communication expertise puts him and MFGA in a great position for all the extension and grassroots outreach they are doing.

This winter they hosted their first Regenerative Agriculture Conference, "Adapting to Today's Food and Farming World". This conference was focused on highlighting opportunities to boost farm profits using farm systems and ground level-thinking that enhances available natural resources such as healthy soil and intact grasslands.

Cedric MacLeod is the executive director for the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association. His passion for agriculture and vision for a sustainable national forage association is driving the CFGA forward into the future.



Cedric and his wife own a 105 acre beef operation in Carleton County, NB, Local Valley Beef. They sell naturally produced, grass fed black angus beef. He also runs an agricultural advisory business full-time called MacLeod Agronomics. Cedric specializes in international greenhouse gas and renewable energy projects, working one-on-one with growers. It was interesting that he was involved with the Soil Conservation Council of Canada work that the Peace River Forage Association partnered in on in 2004. His goal? To decrease the environmental footprint of Canadian agriculture, at a profit to its farmers.

Supporting Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association is **Glenn Friesen**. He is the Industry Development Specialist with Manitoba Agriculture. Glenn has extensive experience in crop and livestock production.



He also has a strong working knowledge of the Manitoba crop and livestock industries and brings much enthusiasm for forages to the table.

Canadian Forage & Grasslands *continued*

by Julie Robinson & Talon Gauthier



Bill Thomas, is a retired director of Perennia in Nova Scotia. He is a certified crop advisor with over 25 years of experience in agronomy for both the government and private industry.

Bill worked as the Nova Scotia provincial forage specialist for 16 years before joining the AgraPoint team as a field crop specialist. He has also been a lecturer at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Bill began his career in agricultural research with the provincial and federal governments in British Columbia. His specific skills and strengths include expertise in grazing management; forage quality; nutrient management; soil fertility and management; extension education; adaptive research; and written and oral communication. Bill is compiling literature and research about forage best management practices (BMPs) as identified by CFGA. He is a wealth of knowledge.



Serena Black is the manager of the BC Forage Council and is employed by Industrial Forestry Service Ltd. She has been working in applied agriculture research and extension throughout the Omineca and Cariboo for 7 years.

Serena completed her Bachelor of Journalism from Carleton University in 2010, and her Master of Science in Natural Resources & Environmental Science from the University of Northern BC in 2015. The BC Forage Council is currently working on a soil carbon project with CFGA that the Peace River Forage Association hopes to partner in on this summer. They are also delivering annual extension events in BC and we look forward to collaborating with them on those events in the future.

Kim Cornish is another agriculture enthusiast who attended the conference. She is also contributing to ongoing research and is the director of the Food Water Wellness Foundation and Pachaterrae.



Kim is working on a project that will measure carbon-estimation areas in all types of agricultural land under a broad spectrum of management practices to determine the amount of CO₂ sequestered in the soil in western Canada. The research will be relevant to all farming and ranching operations on all scales. This research will allow Food Water Wellness Foundation to develop a map of numerous important factors including land use history, biodiversity, soil qualities and soil carbon levels. This will advance additional soil research and monitoring across Canada. Producers will be able to use this map to hone their management and make changes to improve their land; it will also facilitate the development of measurement based soil carbon-offset protocols. The research is based on the work of J.J. de Gruijter and supported by Richard Teague.

10th Annual CFGA Conference

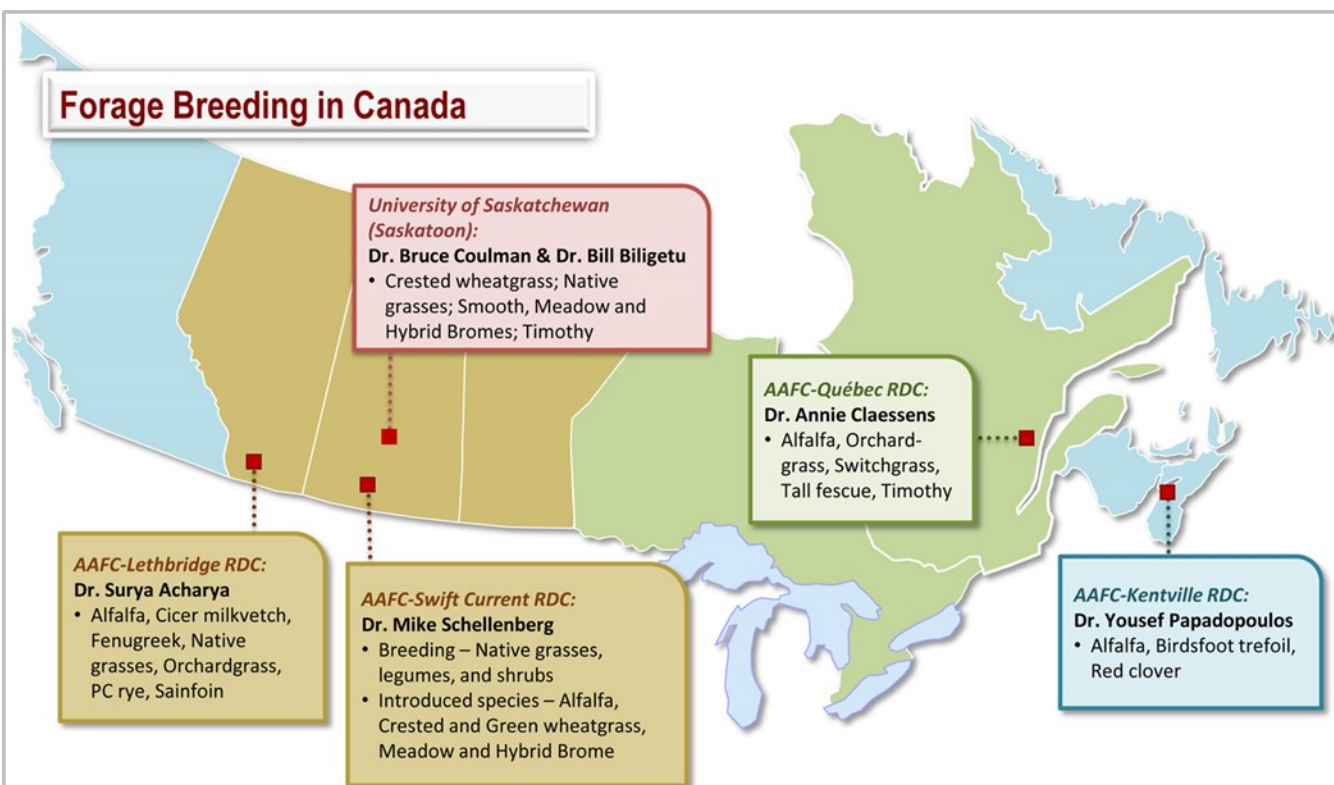
Hosted by the
Canadian Forage & Grasslands Association
will be in
Moncton NB,
November 13-15, 2019.



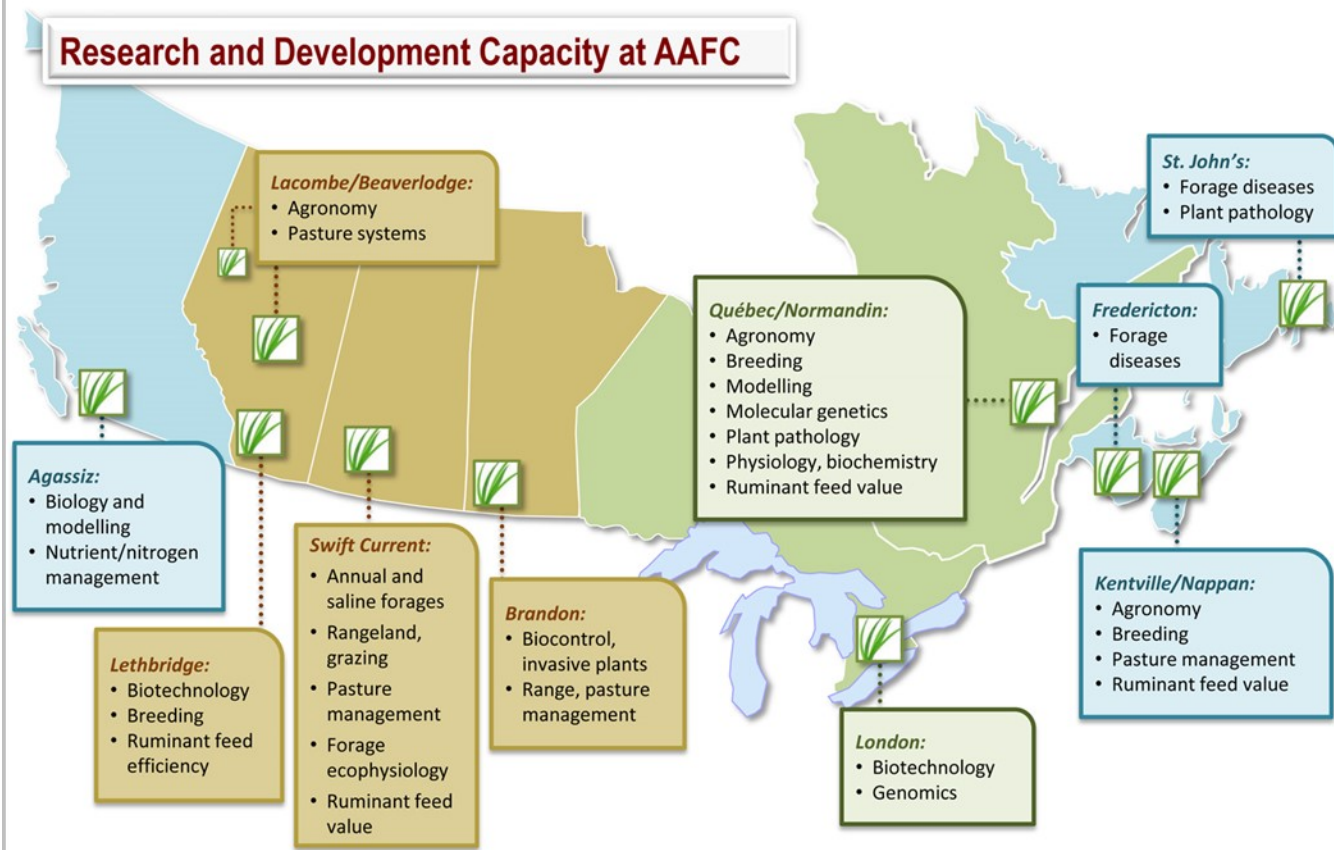
Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères

Special Insert: AAFC Forage & Grassland Research

Forage Breeding in Canada



Research and Development Capacity at AAFC



AAFC Forage & Grasslands Research *continued*

Projects Underway in Forage and Grassland by Research, Development and Technology Transfer Personnel

Project Lead	Location	Prov.	Project Title
Forages - General			
Khanal, Nityananda	Lacombe RDC / Beaverlodge Research Farm	AB	Enhancing turf and forage seed production systems in Western Canada
Pattey, Elizabeth	AgroClimate, Geomatics, and Earth Observations Division	ON	Enhance the sustainability of rain-fed field crop and forage production by quantifying and modelling N ₂ O and NH ₃ emissions and N&P leaching in response to beneficial management practices
Jiang, Yefang	Charlottetown RDC	PEI	Improving crop production resiliency using innovative beneficial management practices
Chantigny, Martin	Québec RDC	QC	Improving soil health and nutrient use efficiency for sustainable productivity in cropping systems supporting intensive dairy farming in eastern Canada
Lajeunesse, Julie	Québec RDC / Normandin Research Farm	QC	Evaluation of carbon storage with different grazing strategies of complex forage mixtures
Royer, Isabelle	Québec RDC	QC	Bioenergy crop production in marginal soils: Capitalizing on organic residues and soil microflora
Lapen, David	AgroClimate, Geomatics, and Earth Observations Division	ON	Emerging ecosystem services of landscape features and biodiverse cropping systems
Iwaasa, Alan	Swift Current RDC	SK	Development of best management practices for cost-effective and successful establishment of saline forages for SK
Bainard, Jillian	Swift Current RDC	SK	Determining the role of endopolyploidy as an adaptation to stress response in forage crops
Bainard, Jillian	Swift Current RDC	SK	Development of best management practices for residue and fertility management of annual polycultures
Stonehouse, Kim	Saskatoon RDC	SK	Demonstrating the effect of fall cutting date on forage legumes
Alfalfa			
Acharya, Surya	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Selection of clonal propagated alfalfa and sainfoin plants under grass or legume competition
Baron, Vern	Lacombe RDC	AB	Increasing fall productivity in winter-hardy alfalfa by selecting for reduced fall dormancy
Singer, Stacy	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Improving abiotic stress tolerance in alfalfa through the simultaneous down-regulation and/or genome editing-mediated knockout of multiple genes
Singer, Stacy	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Unraveling the molecular mechanisms behind abiotic stress tolerance in <i>Medicago sativa</i> and adoption of advanced molecular breeding technology for alfalfa improvement
McAllister, Tim	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Development of novel feed enzymatic products to enhance ruminal digestion of low quality forage fiber
Glover, Kathleen	Kentville RDC	NS	Novel biologicals for mitigation of abiotic stresses in forage legumes and reduced methane emissions by ruminants
Hannoufa, Abdelali	London RDC	ON	Improving productivity and persistence of alfalfa under extreme weather events
Austin, Ryan	London RDC	ON	An integrated systems resource of regulatory sites, chromatin dynamics and metabolomic variance for improved water stress response strategies in forage crops

Projects Underway in Forage and Grassland by Research, Development and Technology Transfer Personnel *continued*

Project Lead	Location	Prov.	Project Title
Bertrand, Annick	Québec RDC / Normandin Research Farm	QC	Novel breeding approaches for improving alfalfa energy concentration and cell wall digestibility
Audy, Patrice	Québec RDC	QC	Genomic mining of the SCRDC rhizobium collection and identification of cold-tolerant strains in association with alfalfa
Lajeunesse, Julie	Québec RDC / Normandin Research Farm	QC	Network for Bioindustrial plants in Québec
Rocher, Solen	Québec RDC	QC	Molecular breeding of alfalfa (<i>M. sativa</i>) and red clover (<i>T. pratense</i>) for superior freezing tolerance.
Brome			
Khanal, Nityananda	Lacombe RDC / Beaverlodge Research Farm	AB	Evaluation of economic and agro-ecological merits of diverse cropping sequences with perennial forage seed and annual field crops
Khanal, Nityananda	Lacombe RDC / Beaverlodge Research Farm	AB	Enhancing seed yield and profitability of meadow brome grass (<i>Bromus riparius</i> Rehm.) seed crop in the multiple harvest years
Clover			
Yang, Xueming	Harrow RDC	ON	Evergreen farming in southern Ontario: more effective use of cover crops in rotations involving corn, soybean, or winter wheat
Foster, Adam	Charlottetown RDC	PEI	Impact of cover cropping on soil microbial biodiversity, disease and pathogen load
Bertrand, Annick	Québec RDC	QC	Leverage and exploit Rhizobium Microbial Collection as a cold soil inoculant source for forage legume crops: clover, birdsfoot trefoil, and sainfoin
Iwaasa, Alan	Swift Current RDC	SK	Evaluation of polycrop mixtures for soil health, grazing capacity and economics
Creeping Red Fescue			
Khanal, Nityananda	Lacombe RDC / Beaverlodge Research Farm	AB	Integrating genetic, agronomic and economic approaches to improving environmental adaptability and end-use quality of creeping fescue
Pasture			
Baron, Vern	Lacombe RDC	AB	Optimizing the order of winter pasture types to increase pasture days, reduce cost and land requirement for wintering beef cows
Reedyk, Sharon (<i>Secondment with ECCC</i>)	AAFC Office, Edmonton	AB	Validating nutrient accumulation and loss patterns in swath grazed fields to minimize risk of loss and optimize nutrient stores.
Floate, Kevin	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Diversity and ecosystem function of insects in cattle dung on pastures
Papadopoulos, Yousef	AAFC Nappan	NS	Sustaining the legume component of grazed pasture mixtures for summer grazing and stockpiling complex mixtures in Eastern Canada
Darbyshire, Stephen	Ottawa RDC	ON	Diagnostics, identification and characterization of attributes of agriculturally important plants: crop/weed species complexes and invasive plants.
Breune, Isabelle	Sherbrooke RDC, Normandin Research Farm, KTT Office	QC	Using the nitrogen nutrition index (NNI) as corn and grasslands fertilization tool
Devillers, Nicolas	Sherbrooke RDC	QC	Potential of outdoor systems as an alternative to conventional pig production
Schellenberg, Michael	Swift Current RDC	SK	Growing winter annual forages in mixtures: assessment of agricultural impacts in a semiarid environment.
Iwaasa, Alan	Swift Current RDC	SK	New forage legumes for sustainable summer pasture mixtures in Saskatchewan

Projects Underway in Forage and Grassland by Research, Development and Technology Transfer Personnel *continued*

Project Lead	Location	Prov.	Project Title
Range			
Hao, Xiying	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Management strategies to improve rangeland soil health and productivity
Kroebe, Roland	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Measuring and assessing Canadian rangeland and other agricultural best management practices with the enhanced whole-farm model Holos
Hodge, Kim	AAFC Office, Regina	SK	Determining the extent, environmental and economic impact of leafy spurge in western Canadian rangeland using an unmanned aerial vehicle
Houston, Bill	AAFC Office, Regina	SK	Accurate mapping of range and forages at ecoregion and provincial scales
Hay			
Smith, Elwin (retired); staffing in progress	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Conserving soil resources and increasing the productivity of cropping systems for the Canadian Prairies
Native Grass			
Schellenberg, Michael	Swift Current RDC	SK	Developing Native Forage Varieties for the Canadian Prairies
Schellenberg, Michael	Swift Current RDC	SK	Development of native and tame forage varieties and mixtures for improved forage and environmental productivity and resilience
Sainfoin			
Acharya, Surya	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Novel sainfoin cultivars for enhancing production efficiency of pasture and beef cattle and building capacity in forage breeding.
Iwaasa, Alan	Swift Current RDC	SK	Sainfoin for Western Canada: Revised Bulletin
Silage			
Block, Hushton	Lacombe RDC	AB	Evaluating the potential interaction between efficiency types for backgrounding weaned cattle and silage varieties differing in feed quality
Beauchemin, Karen	Lethbridge RDC	AB	Mitigating methane emissions to improve the environmental performance of forage-fed ruminants
Bae, Jichul	Agassiz RDC	BC	Sustainable pest management using winter cover crops
Fuller, Keith	Kentville RDC	NS	Characterizing changes in soil processes governing nitrogen availability in response to innovative best management practices on forage-land in Atlantic Canada
Stonehouse, Kim	Saskatoon RDC	SK	Demonstrating the effect of companion crops on forage establishment
Wheatgrass			
Larsen, Jamie	Harrow RDC	ON	Identifying new genes in domesticated intermediate wheatgrass to improve biotic stress resistance
Larsen, Jamie	Harrow RDC	ON	Improving persistence in perennial cereals through examination of flowering time gene expression, cold tolerance and breeding
Houston, Bill	AAFC Office, Regina	SK	Development of field scale practices for establishing and producing AC Saltlander green wheatgrass to improve agricultural productivity of saline areas in the prairies

This report was prepared for the Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Conference, November 14 & 15, 2018 by:
François Eudes, Ph.D., Bill Houston, M.Sc., Tanya Dykens P.Ag., & Sheila Torgunrud, M.A., November 8, 2018

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ACARN Workshop

By Julie Robinson & Greg Tegart

This December Greg Tegart and I were able to attend an Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network, ACARN, workshop in Kamloops, BC. This was a very well attended event, seeing over 60 people on each day. There are a wide variety of interesting people working on climate related topics across BC.

Jason Lussier is the coordinator and project manager for the BC Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network working on various provincial climate change adaptation research, education, and extension projects in the BC agriculture sector.



As a graduate from UBC Jason seems to have connections deep into the Ag sector in southern BC. He has worked for Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust for a stint working on soil restoration research on agricultural land in the Fraser Valley and or for ES Crop consult managing and supervising agricultural research and consulting projects in a variety of crops within the Fraser Valley. Jason's passion for agriculture and soil health are a great asset to his current role as coordinator for ACARN.



Sean Smukler is the assistant professor for Applied Biology & Soil Science at the University of British Columbia. Sean's research program is focused on working with farmers, and other managers of agricultural landscapes to find better ways to monitor, protect and enhance biodiversity and the availability of ecosystem services.

This includes: food, fiber, fuel and timber production, greenhouse gas mitigation, and water quality and quantity regulation. His research focuses on assessing the impact of farm management practices on plant biomass and biodiversity, soil physical and chemical properties, nutrients in water (leaching, and storm and irrigation runoff), and carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions.

Sean is also interested in developing methods to translate these measures of ecosystem function into estimates of the availability of ecosystem services; then to figure out how to accurately bridge results from plot and farm level to those at larger scales, at the watershed, landscape and region using geospatial statistics, remote sensing and geographical information system tools.

Shauna MacKinnon was born and raised in Fort St John and is the coordinator for the Farm Adaptation Innovator Program (FAIP). Shauna is now working for the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative which was developed in 2008 by the BC Agriculture Council to enable a proactive and pan-agriculture approach to climate change issues.

With over 15 years experience in building sustainable food systems she has the skills and experience to turn good ideas into some great achievements.



From building the business case through market research to building a movement through targeted education and engagement, her strength is seeing the big picture and knowing how to draw people into the conversation in a meaningful way. She is a big believer in win-win scenarios and developing long term relationships that can foster lasting change. Her work on the go-to report on Canada's Organic Market and developing a social media campaign to promote the organic sector has been note worthy, but what she has enjoyed the most is having the opportunity to work with all types of people and help them find a way to play a role in building a better food system, and a better world.

...continued on page 12.

ACARN Workshop *continued*

By Julie Robinson & Greg Tegart



Holly Jackson was raised on a ranch south of Kamloops. After living all over the province from Victoria to Fort Nelson, she has returned to her hometown to work as the Communications Manager for the BC Cattlemen Association (BCCA).

Holly has a bachelor of arts and a master of arts from the University of Victoria. She was attending the ACARN meeting on behalf of BCCA and presenting on the wildfire issues in BC the past two summers. Holly shared some of the challenges, collaborations and progress that the BC cattle industry has made regarding the recovery from the 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons.

Andy Black is a Professor for Applied Biology at the University of Northern BC. He has worked at UBC since 1969, when he joined the Department of Soil Science as a biometeorologist.



At the University of Wisconsin Andy worked as a graduate student in Dr. Champ Tanner's agrometeorology/soil physics group. While he was there, he worked on net radiometers, infrared thermometry, lysimetry, Bowen ratio apparatus and eddy correlation sensors. He also worked closely with Wilford Gardner on drainage and evaporation in bare soils. While at UBC the emphasis of his research has been the energy and water balance of forests. For many years he has also had an interest in plant water relations. More recently he has become extremely interested measuring forest-atmosphere CO₂ exchange (even on a long-term basis which may be foolish) and in trying to understand the processes controlling the carbon balance of forests.

Andy has recently collaborated on a project evaluating weather stations and the data collected by them across BC. It was a delight to hear him complimenting the BC Peace Weather network and the data collected. It was an eye opener to realize more uses for the data the Peace Region Climate Steering Committee has been working to maintain.



Siddhartho Paul is a graduate student at University of British Columbia working on soil carbon mapping project in southern British Columbia.

Sidd utilizes this with remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS), water resources, geology, soil sciences, climate change and food security, and digital soil mapping. In the BC Peace region we are discussing a soil carbon monitoring initiative working with the forage seed industry. It will determine how their BMP's tie to soil health and carbon sequestration. Sidd's work is helping inform the direction this initiative may head. He has worked on watershed initiatives in the Peace in the past, co-authoring a geoscience report "Examining Present and Future Water Resources for the Kiskatinaw River Watershed, British Columbia" in 2013 and other articles related to the Peace region.

This conference was interesting and a great opportunity to network with all levels of the agriculture community in BC relating to climate change. Greg and I presented on the Improving Productivity project that Sandra Burton is leading and shared our "Farm Decision Making" matrix that highlights the value of producers input and direction into applied research work. The workshop goals highlight the work we were gathered there to do and include:

- ♦ Connect researchers, policy-makers, producers, and industry specialists from across the province who are working in agriculture and climate change.
- ♦ Highlight social science work in agricultural climate change research.
- ♦ Provide opportunities to collaboratively address complex climate change challenges in the BC agriculture sector.
- ♦ Learn about and discuss existing knowledge transfer initiatives and tools.
- ♦ Establish collaborative network projects under the umbrella of the BC Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN).

Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame Recipients

Three outstanding Albertans are being recognized for their longtime service to 4-H and their communities. **Mark and Pat Sayers**, and **Nora Paulovich** are the 2018 inductees into Alberta's 4-H Hall of Fame.

"The 4-H program would not be possible without the selfless dedication of a group of very passionate volunteers, and this year's inductees stand as a testament to that. These leaders exemplify how generations of Albertans continue to value and enhance the 4-H program in our province. It is an honour to welcome them into Alberta's 4-H Hall of Fame."

*Oneil Carlier,
Minister of Agriculture & Forestry*

The 4-H Hall of Fame recognizes exceptional 4-H leaders for their exemplary service, mentorship and volunteerism in their communities. Candidates are nominated by their 4-H peers and are evaluated based on their demonstrated leadership qualities, community references and contributions to 4-H, agriculture and their local communities.

4-H Alberta is recognized as the premier youth leadership organization in Alberta. Working together in a vibrant, thriving environment, 4-H Alberta leaders connect people, ideas and communities for a lifetime of benefit. 4-H Alberta is the largest youth organization in the province, with more than 250,000 alumni.



Minister Carlier (right centre) with 2018 4-H hall of Fame inductees Mark & Pat Sayer (left) & Nora Paulovich (right).

Biographies

Mark and Pat Sayers, from Lethbridge County, have been dedicated 4-H leaders and volunteers on countless clubs, councils and committees for 25 years. No matter the task or responsibility, Mark and Pat have had a significant impact on the many people whose paths they crossed during their time with 4-H.

Nora Paulovich, from Manning, has been a tireless 4-H leader and volunteer for more than 20 years. Nora combines her passion for the positive development of members with the 4-H motto of Learn to Do by Doing. She is an excellent organizer, 4-H mentor, and able to assist other clubs and leaders when dealing with challenging situations. She has made positive impacts to the 4-H program both in the Peace region and across the province. www.alberta.ca

Congratulations Nora!

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Grant Lastiwka
"Should I seed more?"

Myron Bjorge
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make up
for mistakes."

Myron co-authored
"Alberta Forage Manual"
with Arvid Aasen

Published by
Alberta Agriculture
2009

Browsings & Bites from other Forage Groups

by Sandra Burton

Worth a Read from **The Blade** published by the Grey Wooded Forage Association is an article by Erika Heiberg **The Cows Are Calling: Motivations for Management Intensive Grazing Practices among Alberta Beef Producers** on page 9.

I also enjoyed **The Case for Preserving Western Canada's Grasslands** by Jeremy Pittman, a reprint from his article in Canadian Geographic, July 2018, in **The Blade** on page 12-13. He states that cattle ranching and species at risk go hand in hand. This is not a new concept to many Forage members but what is new is some creative funding partnerships for projects highlighting the synergies and getting the message out beyond the Prairies conservation community and in front of policy makers.

Grassroots News & Views is published by the Foothills Forage & Grazing Association based in High River, AB. In the December 2018 there was an article of interest **Livestock Medication Rules Take Effect Dec 1** by Barbara Duckworth that describes the new federal antibiotic dispensing rules taking effect Dec 1 and the requirement for veterinarian-client agreements and antibiotic prescriptions. (<https://www.producer.com/2018/11/livestock-medication-rules-take-effect-dec-1/>)

AFIN or Alberta Forage Industry Network Update excerpt by Grant Lastiwka.

Since forage stakeholders are so diverse it is hard for the forage industry to be known/ worked with/ represented or even considered as a key agriculture resource. Yet by acreage....**forage and grasslands are the number one crop in Alberta and number 1 in Canada.**

The Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta realized a need for forages and decided to do something about it. In 2009 the Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN) was formed to represent and be a voice for forage stakeholders. Although a lot has been accomplished since then more guidance and stakeholder voices are needed to keep AFIN on track. March 5, at AFIN's AGM in Leduc is your opportunity to do so.

At this time Chris Fulkerth, Plant Science Instructor at Olds College is the chair of AFIN, and Dr. Surya Acharya, Plant Breeder with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is the vice chair. The AFIN board is made up of various people from the Alberta Beef Producers, Ducks Unlimited, ARECA-Forage/Livestock team, Seed industry, Export hay, and a few others producers with a keen interest in forages.

To learn more from the other forage stakeholders and to give direction to the Alberta Forage Industry Network we encourage everyone who feels they have a stake in forages to attend and speak up. If you are interested please call Sandra Burton at 250 789 6885 or Grant Lastiwka at 403 556 4248.

The Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership Presents

FEBRUARY 7 - 2019

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REGISTER ONLINE AT
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\$50 registration fee (student rate \$30)
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or darcher@mvcountry.com

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A banker calls a farmer and informs him he wants to come and find out how he is doing since the bank had loaned the farmer a lot of money. They agree on an appointment and the day comes for the banker to visit.

The farmer takes the banker to the corals first. "It was a bad year for the cattle. I lost \$50 on every cow, but it could have been worse!

Next, the farmer takes the banker to the hog barn. "It was a bad year for hogs. I lost \$10 on every hog, but it could have been worse!

Last the farmer takes the banker over to the grain bins. "It was a bad year for grain crops. I lost \$10 on every tonne, but it could have been worse!

The banker asks, "What the hell could have been worse? You lost money on the cattle, you lost money on the hogs and you lost money on the grain!"

The farmer replied "It would have been worse if I had lost my own money!"

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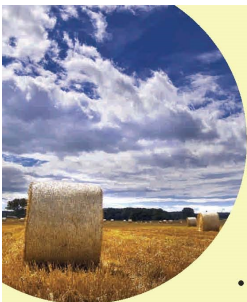
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buying coffee or a meal at one of our events.
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*Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and
a Happy new Year!*

Thank you for your continued support and business!
From NALS team at UNBC to yours
Hossein, Erwin, Charles



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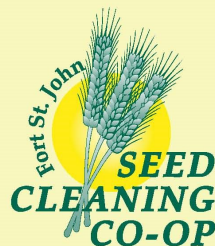
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Upcoming Forage Events

**Thank You to Our
Sponsors & Partners for
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**Fred & Liz Schneider
Riverside Ranch
Shirley Smithard
Classic Cuisine Catering**

**WINTER WORKSHOP
On Soil Health
and the Role of Carbon
Thursday Feb 14, 2019
In Fort St. John, BC**

*For more information
call Julie at 250 262 7576*

PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASS'N & NORTH PEACE APPLIED RESEARCH ASS'N
HOST:

SOIL HEALTH FORUM with optional MICROSCOPE WORKSHOP

Featuring DR. ELAINE INGHAM, DR. YAMILI ZAVALA & JULIE ROBINSON

Monday, February 11th, 2019

**Registration: 10 AM
Forum: 10:30 AM - 3 PM
Microscope Workshop: 3:30-5:30 PM
GPRC Fairview Campus
AC144, Admin Building**

Join Us As We Dig Deep Into Our Soils:

- Biology of Soil Health
- Management of Microbes in the Soil
- Assessing Your Soil with the CARA Soil Health Lab
- Soil Health: The Numbers



Cost: Forum only: \$80/Member \$100/Non-Member Lunch included
Forum + Workshop: \$130/Member \$170/Non-Member

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email info@pcbfa.ca or call 780-835-6799 ext.3
or nora@npara.ca or 780-836-3354



CROP MARKETING COURSE

WHEN: February 26, 27 & 28, 2019

WHERE: TBA in Manning

COST: \$100/participant covers course materials & lunches

INSTRUCTOR: Neil Blue, Farm Market Analyst, Alberta Ag & Forestry



Registration is limited for this 3 day marketing course which will help you understand basis, futures, options, contracts and strategies for marketing your crops. You will also do hands on trading. Please call soon to register @ 780-836-3354 or email nora@npara.ca

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- ▶ Futures Contracts - what they are and how they work
- ▶ Hedging - What it is and what it can do for you
- ▶ Margin & Margin Calls - what they are
- ▶ Business Speculation
- ▶ Put & Calls - what they are and how they work
- ▶ Overview of Grain Contracts
- ▶ Review Pricing Strategies for Farm Commodities
- ▶ Technical Analysis - what it is and how to use
- ▶ Market Information - sources
- ▶ Marketing Plan



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