



GRASSROOTS NEWS & VIEWS

Photo: Sonja Bloom—Brahman Bulls in Texas



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APRIL 2019

DIRECTOR'S NOTE—SEAN LABRIE

Howdy Folks!

2019 is the start of a new way to operate here at Difficulty Ranch. February 1st I retired from my town job that I have always joked was 'what has allowed me to pay for my ranching habit'. All joking aside my job made it considerably easier for a city kid to buy a ranch and has provided my young family the resources to learn and grow into being good land stewards. Now it's time to get to work and make this operation pay for itself.

We have always bale grazed our winter feed to lessen our tractor hours and improve the soil. There has been great success in both areas. Last year we tore up 72 acres of old hay land, that was not even worth grazing anymore, with a goal to improve the soil by putting it into swath grazing. We seeded oats and a forage brassica mix. On January 7th we then put 120 cows in and controlled movement every 2 days with electric fence. Cows are currently being bale grazed, approximately 14 days, while the swath field dries up. I estimate that we will get approximately 110 days of swath grazing. Doing some quick and dirty math, with input costs, custom work and my labour to move fence, the cost to feed will be approximately \$0.91 per day.

I would like to welcome Jodi Giles to our management team. FFGA's first ever summer student comes from a farming family south of High River and is a student at Olds College. Be sure to say hello when you see Jodi this summer.

FFGA has a full slate of tours and field days planned this spring/summer that include; Dr. Jill Clapperton talking on soil health, Jim Gerrish speaking on grazing management and Kim Cornish's project on Soil Carbon. Check our website for the full itinerary of events.

I am looking forward to the new challenges of being retired from the city. There is going to be more quality time spent with my family, more time riding my horse, more time having a cup of coffee with friends and of course more time to operate and manage a ranch using the opportunities provided by being an accountable, dedicated fulltime rancher. I hope to see you at one of our events.

Cheers,

Sean LaBrie



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Establishing reproductive momentum in replacement heifers



have received had you sold them,” she explained. “I want you to consider both the cash and opportunity costs of taking a female from a weaned calf to a bred heifer.”

For example, Larson noted that a “heifer’s value as a weaned calf accounts for approximately 60 per cent of her development costs,” which is considered an opportunity cost.

Developing replacement females is an investment that can take years to earn back, making it essential to set them up early for reproductive success.

Kathy Larson, research economist at the University of Saskatchewan, discussed the financial considerations of developing replacement females in a Beef Cattle Research Council webinar, including whether to purchase heifers or retain them from your own calf crop.

“Part of that decision needs to involve cost of production,” she said. Depending on these costs, retaining replacements may be as expensive as buying heifers. When calculating the cost of each option, Larson recommends including opportunity costs, which is the revenue given up by choosing one option over another.

“When you retain heifers to develop into replacement females, you’re essentially forgoing weaned calf sales, so you gave up the revenue you could

Using a calculation of estimated production costs against predicted calf revenue, Larson illustrated that it can take an average of five to six weaned calves for a female to earn back the cost of developing her into a bred heifer. This will vary with calf prices and production costs.

“Cost of production varies widely between operations, so go through the exercise of figuring out what your cost of production is, and then figure out what your females need to wean in order to recoup your investment.”

Knowing this, setting up heifers for success in their first breeding season is crucial to begin earning back this investment. “I think it’s important to follow recommended practices to give your heifers the best shot at recouping their development costs,” she advised.

Dr. John Campbell, veterinarian and professor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, recommends creating reproductive goals to meet chal-

lenges specific to heifers. Campbell, who collaborated with Larson on this webinar, referred to heifers as a “high-risk group” for reproductive loss compared to mature cows.

“A lot of disease investigations I go to, the heifers are more severely affected if it’s a reproductive loss problem,” he said. “They have lower levels of immunity, they’re probably more susceptible to infectious diseases and they’re still growing and they’re a lot more susceptible to nutritional challenges.”

Due to this, it’s an absolute necessity for heifers to receive a pre-breeding vaccine for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and bovine viral diarrhoea. If buying replacements, Campbell recommends knowing the vaccination protocols of the herd of origin.

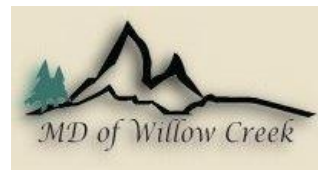
“Closer to the breeding season, usually 30 to 60 days prior to the breeding season, is the ideal time to get that done to provide maximum protection to the fetus.”

There are certain biological challenges in successfully breeding a female.

“If we took a perfectly fertile bull and perfectly fertile heifer and we put them together when that heifer’s cycling and they mate successfully, there’s only about a 60 to 70 per cent likelihood of a calf being born from a single mating,” he said. “If we have poor fertility caused by body condition issues or nutritional deficiencies or

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Thank you for your support!



Opinion: A Farmer's Transformation

Feeding the world while sustaining the health of the planet might be the most important challenge of this generation; success will require the participation of farmers and ranchers everywhere.

Only agricultural producers have the knowledge, the skills, and the land base to effectively regenerate the natural environment. And they can do it—I know, because I've been doing exactly that since 2006.

As a third-generation farmer and rancher in southwestern Ontario, Canada, my understanding of food, farming, and natural systems was influ-

enced by my father and my father's father. But after 13 years in the Alternative Land Use Services, (ALUS, pronounced Alice, as in *Alice in Wonderland*) program, I am living proof that modern-day farmers and ranchers can reconcile the need to produce food while also protecting the environment.

Through the looking glass

The path to understanding sustainable agriculture is different for everyone. My wife, Cathy, and I used to operate a tobacco farm on a sand plain in what is referred to as Carolinian Canada. We employed conventional farming methods until the industry's

decline forced us to rethink our business.

After visiting the great grasslands of the Flint Hills, in Kansas, I became intrigued with the vibrancy of the tall-grass prairie (TGP) ecosystem. But I didn't understand that TGP was native to our area or how and why TGP made sense for our operation. Then, in 2005, I met Dave Reid.

A biologist who grew up on a Norfolk Country farm, not far from me, Reid had heard about a fledgling conservation program concept that was gaining traction with farmers in Manitoba, known as ALUS.

My ears perked up as Reid explained that ALUS viewed farmers and ranchers as critical managers and producers of natural capital, or ecosystem services, such as cleaner air, cleaner water, and increased biodiversity.

As such, farmers and ranchers should be rewarded by the community with annual payments for enhancing or regenerating select parcels of their marginal or uneconomic land to increase their production of these services benefitting the community.

The specific features of each project would vary according to the type of land, but in every case, it would be farmers and ranchers who volunteer to produce and manage the projects.

Most importantly, the program would be delivered within a community context, where local Partnership Advisory Committees (PACs) would govern the decisions made, ensuring that projects are tailored for local conditions and that there is strong community buy-in.

Down the rabbit hole

Looking at all the options before us, Cathy and I decided to proceed with ALUS on our farm as the third participant farmers in what was then a Norfolk County ALUS Pilot program led by the Norfolk Farm Stewardship Council. Happily, we wound up establishing something we never saw coming: a new, multifunctional Texas Longhorn cattle ranch on our southern

(Continued on page 6)

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(Continued from page 2)

something else going on, that number is going to drop significantly.”

Another challenge is the post-partum delay before a cow begins cycling again, 50 to 60 days on average. However, heifers can take about 80 to 100 days after their first calf to begin cycling.

“That’s if body condition scores are good, there’s no mineral deficiencies (and) everything else is taken care of,” Campbell added.

This extended post-partum interval needs to be taken into consideration when planning the breeding season. With gestation at around 280 days, “cows have to conceive within about 83 days of calving if they’re going to calve around the same time every year,” he explained. This is particularly important if the goal is to front-load the breeding season by having 65 per cent of the females bred in the first cycle, allowing for a more uniform calf crop and heavier calves at weaning.

Producers also need to factor in the age when a heifer reaches puberty. “We’re establishing their reproductive momentum the first time they calve, and so in order to have them conceive early... a high percentage of those heifers have to reach puberty close to the start of the breeding season,” said Campbell.

Evaluating heifers for reproductive soundness before the breeding season can be useful. “It’s a management strategy that I don’t think a lot of producers do, but I do think it’s a reasonable one,” he said. “We would just do a physical exam on these, palpate the reproductive tract and subjectively evaluate if that heifer is cycling.”

Heifers need to be bred early in their first two breeding seasons to hit that window of opportunity. “We want them to conceive early in the next breeding season for a second pregnancy, and that’s the challenge because of this delayed time before they start cycling after their first calf,” said Campbell, adding that this is the case even with healthy, fertile females.

A heifer that calves in the first 21 days of the calving season may only

have two opportunities to be bred to calve around the same time next year. For a heifer that calves later in the season, “she’s not going to start cycling until the very last part of the breeding season, so she’s maybe only going to have one opportunity to be bred, if that.”

Given the extended post-partum interval, Campbell recommends breeding heifers earlier than mature cows to hit this target and establish their reproductive momentum. “You might want to consider breeding them for the 20 to 30 days prior to the cow herd.”

Selecting heifers that were calved earlier in the breeding season also increases the likelihood that they will hit puberty before breeding begins. Campbell discussed a large-scale 2014 study that included 2,000 heifers in South Dakota and 16,000 heifers at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, Nebraska. In comparing heifers born in the first 21 days of the calving season to heifers born in the next 21 days, researchers found that the females that calved earlier generally stayed in the herd longer than those born later.

“They tended to continue to calve in the first 21 days of the calving season, and they weaned heavier calves every year for six subsequent calvings because they tended to calve earlier,” said Campbell. “It ended up being almost an extra calf over a lifetime productivity. That’s not the first study that’s shown that, but it’s probably one of the biggest ones and most dramatic ones that has demonstrated the benefits of having those heifers calve early.”

With these benefits for lifetime productivity, it’s worth making the most of an investment in a replacement female by establishing reproductive momentum early.

“We need them to calve early just to give them a fighting chance to calve again as a second-calver. We need to select them so that they’re going to become pregnant early in the first

breeding season. That probably means selecting them from the cows that calve early,” he said.

“We’d like them to have a calf with little or no assistance, rebreed early in that second breeding season and then hopefully stay in the herd for a longer period of time and wean heavier calves.”

Author: Piper Whelan—Canadian Cattlemen. <https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/2019/03/18/establishing>

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SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAYS

FEATURING DR JILL CLAPPERTON, PHD



Jill Clapperton is an Internationally Recognised Lecturer on how to create and manage the long-term health and productivity of soils. Jill was the Rhizosphere Ecologist at Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Lethbridge Research Centre studying the interaction between soils, plants and soil organisms.

TOPICS

- Principles of Soil Health
- Soil, crop & pasture management to optimize soil health
- The deep dive into mixed species cropping and pasture stitching
- Demonstrating healthy soil characteristics & measuring results (rainfall simulator)
- Hands-on field activity

DETAILS

Wednesday June 12th at the Rugby Hall -
Featuring Whiskey Ridge Cattle Co.

8:45am to 4:30pm
Lunch included
FFGA Member - \$50.00
Non-Member - \$60.00

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FENCING & GRAZING 101

SAVE THE
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JUNE 25, 2019 - CLARESHOLM
JUNE 26, 2019 - STRATHMORE



(Continued from page 3)

Ontario farm.

We already knew how to draw on nature's assets to produce healthy and nutrient-dense food, but ALUS introduced us to a regenerative approach to land management. Our first ALUS project was to re-establish 48 acres of TGP on our land.

With its 12-to-16-foot-deep root system, TGP removes up to 1.5 tons of carbon per acre from the air each year. It is also a rare ecosystem that provides habitat for endangered species, such as the American badger and the Bobolink, a grassland bird that depends on grasslands for fledging its young.

Looking for other opportunities to establish ALUS projects on our land, we soon established Norfolk County's first-ever flowering hedgerow. This is a mix of native flowering trees and shrubs planted along the edges of fields to provide important benefits for the farm as well as the environment—it helps reduce wind speed to prevent soil erosion and provides nesting habitat and food for some of our region's 850 native species of pollinators.

Curiouser and curiouser

The results have been noteworthy: our organic soil content has increased by 50 percent; erosion and topsoil loss have been reduced; the amount of carbon that our land removes from the atmosphere has been greatly enhanced; unwanted pests have decreased thanks to the efficiency of native predators; and pollination has skyrocketed.

As it turned out, our TGP grasses, combined with our sandy soils, provided a reliable drought-season feed for our cattle. Not only that, but it also gave our beef a unique flavor. YU Ranch now offers a unique value proposition, with important brand benefits. We produce good food for our customers—and our definition of “good” includes environmental benefits for the community.

We have no regrets. In fact, we owe much of who we are today to that 2006 decision. Our new focus meant that, for us, there was life after tobacco.

The contrast between what we did

then and what we do now could not be more stark. YU Ranch is now a living, breathing testament to the ambitions of our ancestors, one that also embraces a fresh vision of land stewardship.

Our relationship with the land has continued to transform over time. Each decision was our own, but the ALUS program supported our decisions both figuratively and financially, always asking something of us while respecting our autonomy, and our community.

Six impossible things before breakfast

Nearly 600 Canadian farmers and ranchers now participate in the ALUS program, having taken similar steps as Cathy and me. Now the CEO of ALUS Canada, I have had the privilege to connect with many of them through the process of enrolling almost 20,000 of their acres into the ALUS program.

Each ALUS farmer has a unique story, and listening to these stories has given me greater clarity on the approach that needs to be taken for agriculture to thrive into the future.

The solution is always local: it starts with engaging people where they live. Farmers and ranchers respond to their neighbors, such as ALUS Canada's decisionmakers in 21 communities coast to coast.

Both solutions and agricultural producers also respond to market demands. What makes ALUS Canada's approach so innovative is the fact that it creates a marketplace for ecosystem services. The ALUS program creates value for the natural capital produced on farms, sending land managers a clear signal.

The buyers in this marketplace are individuals, corporations, governments, or anyone with a desire to invest in cleaner air, cleaner water, and increased habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

ALUS creates a community of individuals who evolve in their decision making together, and that decision making is always properly supported by science. Through partnerships with leading academic institutions across North America, ALUS has become a fertile laboratory for re-

search.

These partners collect data that demonstrate how ALUS projects are benefiting society, to optimize the effectiveness of program activities and to provide metrics on investment outcomes.

Imagination is the only weapon

A growing group of experts points to the conflict between agriculture and the environment as a classic market failure. In many countries worldwide, including my own, the expansion of agriculture is causing deforestation, lost biodiversity, desertification, and water stresses. I believe we can do better than that.

When markets are designed to improve agricultural producers' livelihoods, and to support practices that contribute to a sustainable future, farmers and ranchers will respond.

When our peers and communities signal to us that we can do more to innovate, that we can provide important solutions, we will harness something even more powerful—farmers' and ranchers' optimism, and their entrepreneurial spirit.

Put those forces together, as ALUS does, and we will witness a massive transformation toward regenerative agriculture.

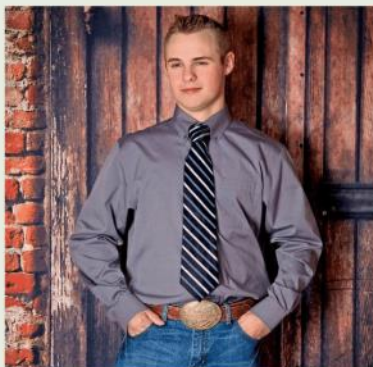
As a farmer and rancher myself, with 13 years in the ALUS Canada program, there is no question in my mind that it is the next generation of conservation.

Author: Bryan Gilvesy. Original article found at <https://foodtank.com/news/2019/03/opinion-a-farmers-transformation/>

Meet Our 2019 Grant Recipients



TRAVIS HUNTER



Travis grew up on a family farm East of Didsbury, Alberta. Travis's family operates Lauron Red Angus and holds an annual bull sale each April. They run around 200 purebred Red Angus mother cows. Travis was a member of 4-H for 10 years with the Prairie Partners 4-H Multi Club for 7 years and the West Didsbury Beef Club for 3 years. Outside of 4-H, Travis was a past director of Alberta Junior Angus Association and has attended many purebred junior shows throughout BC, AB and SK. In the summer of 2017 he was part of team Canada at the World Angus Forum in Scotland, UK and competed in the youth program there. He graduated from high school in 2013 and attended SAIT and obtained a diploma in Power Engineering Technology. He then decided to go back to school for an agriculture related education and is currently enrolled in second year of Agriculture Management at Olds College.

GREGORY HERMANSON



I would like to thank the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association for selecting me as a recipient of the 2019 bursary and supporting my post-secondary education and future career in agriculture.

I am Gregory Hermanson; I was raised on a mixed cow/calf and grain operation North of Hussar. Currently, I am in my final semester of the Plant & Soil Agricultural Science diploma at Lethbridge college. After college, I intend to work in the agriculture industry and continue building my own cattle operation. With the knowledge I have obtained the last several years I hope to build my current ranching operation into an economically thriving operation that utilizes best practices to continue preserving the environment.

I would again like to thank you for supporting my education and future generations of young farmers.
-Gregory Hermanson



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Students make pitch in ag competition

Students in the Lethbridge College Agriculture Entrepreneur in Residence (AgENT) program pitched innovative solutions to industry-provided challenges at the Ag ENT Innovate Ag Competition last weekend.

This event marked the completion of the first year of the extracurricular AgENT program, which first launched in September. Every week, around 30 students from across campus gathered together to dig into issues affecting the agriculture sector, and applied their innovation and entrepreneurship skills they've developed, into a five-minute pitch to a panel of judges. The goal of the event is for students to present an innovative idea in a way that would make someone implement their solutions.

"This is a chance for students to showcase their problem-solving skills and big ideas," says Megan Shapka, manager of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. "We have worked with them this year to instill the entrepreneurial mindset, giving them agency to create their own future as they prepare to enter a workforce that will require them to continually reinvent themselves."

The extracurricular AgENT program is open to all students from across campus, with the first year of AgENT seeing students from six different programs opting-in. While students from the Agriculture Sciences and Agriculture Enterprise Management programs took part, it also attracted students from Ecosystem Management, Computer Information Technology, Civil Engineering Technology, and Business Administration programs, showing that the effects of agriculture are wide-ranging and requires solutions from a variety of sectors.

Throughout the process of developing their innovative solution projects, 26 industry mentors met with the students four times during the academic year, to mentor and help the students make connections and explore their innovative solutions even further.

"Investing in our youth is essential to the sustainability of the agriculture industry," says Melody Garner-Skiba,

executive director, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers and Vice President, Rocking Heart Ranch. "The AgENT program provides industry with an amazing way to connect and foster the next generation of agriculture entrepreneurs by encouraging innovation, diversity and knowledge development. It has been an honour to be a mentor this past year and see the incredible future of our industry first hand with the students in AgENT. I know the future of agriculture is in great hands."

Students presented their solutions to a panel of judges, with the first place winning team taking home \$500, second team receiving \$350, and third

place team taking home \$200. The AgENT program is made possible by the \$5-million gift in 2014 to Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge from Cor Van Raay, a leading Canadian cattle producer, with the program meeting his mandate to spur innovation in the local agriculture industry.

Author: Greg Bobinec Lethbridge Herald. Original article found at <https://medicinehatnews.com/news/southern-alberta-news/2019/04/09/students-make-pitch-in-ag-competition/>



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Vaccines made simple—basics you need to know



Photo: Thinkstock

We have all been there — it's the day before preg check, you need to get your vaccine order in, and you just can't seem to remember what you gave the girls last year.

Was it the one in the turquoise box? The white box? It was the yellow box, that's it!

You put a call into the vet office and it turns out there is more than one yellow box?!? And now they are asking if you want the '5,' 'FP5,' or 'VL5.'

Vaccines are undoubtedly among the most confusing products on the market, and with so many options to pick from, it can be very difficult to keep track of who gets what and when.

Here's some tips that will (hopefully) clear up some confusion and help you decide what protocol is best suited for each class of cattle on your operation.

Modified live versus killed

The two major types of injectable respiratory vaccines are modified live and killed.

Modified live vaccines generate a very rapid and strong immune response; are generally less expensive; provide longer-lasting protection; have a shorter meat withdrawal; and are available in smaller, two-ml doses.

However, there's a trade-off.

Modified live vaccines must be reconstituted with a sterile solution and

be used immediately after mixing. They can also cause abortions in naive animals or those not vaccinated with the same brand and type of vaccine prior to becoming pregnant. Failure to booster annually can also cause an animal to immunologically revert to naive status.

So you must be on an approved modified live vaccination protocol before using these products and exactly follow the label directions before administering to a pregnant animal.

This is where a killed vaccine has a distinct advantage — it can be used in any animal, open or pregnant, at almost any time without concern. (However, booster vaccinations are often required to achieve adequate immunity.)

You can also refrigerate leftover product and use it later.

If you're vaccinating while preg checking, weigh your options and decide whether modified live or killed products are better suited for your operation.

However, if you vaccinate pre-breeding, there is no reason you can't opt for a modified live vaccine, as it will provide the most bang for your buck.

Look for the 'FP' label claim

Whether using modified live or killed vaccine, you will notice that following the trade name there are often a series of numbers or letters (such as: 5, 6, 10, FP5, or VL5).

It can look like alphabet soup, but it's fairly simple.

The number typically signifies how many different strains of viruses or bacteria are included in that product. 'FP' stands for 'fetal protection,' which means the vaccine will help protect against birth of a calf persistently infected (PI) with BVD virus. The calf of a pregnant animal exposed to the BVD virus could be a PI calf and a lifelong shedder of BVD.

If your herd has experienced suboptimal fertility, is turned out on community pasture, or has newly introduced ani-

mal, you should discuss using a product labelled 'VL5' or '10' with your veterinarian. These products provide protection against additional diseases known to reduce fertility and cause abortions (such as vibriosis and leptospirosis).

The 30-day rule

An animal is considered 'naive' when it has not received the same brand and type of vaccine in the past year.

As well, calves often don't have long-lasting immunity from vaccinations at branding and sometimes weaning, so replacement heifers are considered naive for the purposes of pre-breeding vaccinations (even if they meet the one-year criteria). You need to vaccinate naive breeding animals and particularly replacement heifers against common respiratory pathogens known to cause abortions prior to breeding.

However, the IBR (Rednose) viral component in modified live respiratory vaccines causes temporary inflammation in the ovaries. This can affect fertility for one cycle following administration in naive animals.

So vaccinate those replacement heifers and all other naive animals at least 30 days prior to breeding. Booster vaccinations can also be administered within the 30-day window without causing any negative impacts on fertility.

Tetanus threat

Tetanus is caused by a bacteria called *Clostridium tetani*, which thrive in wounds or tissue with little to no exposure to oxygen. Unlike castrating by knife, banding will often cause severe necrosis of the scrotum with pockets of dying tissue not exposed to oxygen — so tetanus is most common with banded bulls.

That makes it imperative to vaccinate with a seven-way or eight-way Clostridial vaccine that has a tetanus toxoid. Contrary to popular belief the '8' does not automatically mean the vaccine provides protection against

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FFGA's Newest Director Marcel Busz

INTRODUCING

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tetanus — it usually means it's also effective against *Clostridium hemolyticum*, the bacteria responsible for Red Water disease.

Cows can also encounter *Clostridium tetani* spores in the soil while lying down to give birth. Once in the oxygen-deprived uterus, this can result in tetanus and subsequent death. So cows can also benefit from a tetanus toxoid.

Pre-conditioning works

There is a vast amount of research on the benefits of pre-conditioning and administering vaccines to calves prior to weaning. These include improved performance and feed efficiency and decreased morbidity and mortality. Pre-weaning vaccinations are highly recommended in all calves, especially if you're retaining ownership for backgrounding, finishing, or development as replacement heifers.

In the right relationship with buyers, pre-conditioned calves may also command a higher price. And they're only going to be more sought after as we reduce our reliance on antimicrobials.

A protocol for your ranch

No two cow herds are alike. Every ranch has its own unique combination of opportunities and challenges.

While there are subtle differences between those different-coloured boxes, in the end, it is far more important that your herd be vaccinated properly.

That means in the right location on the animal, at the right time of the year, against the right pathogens.

Your veterinarian can create a customized vaccination protocol for your herd.

And keep good written records — which aren't old

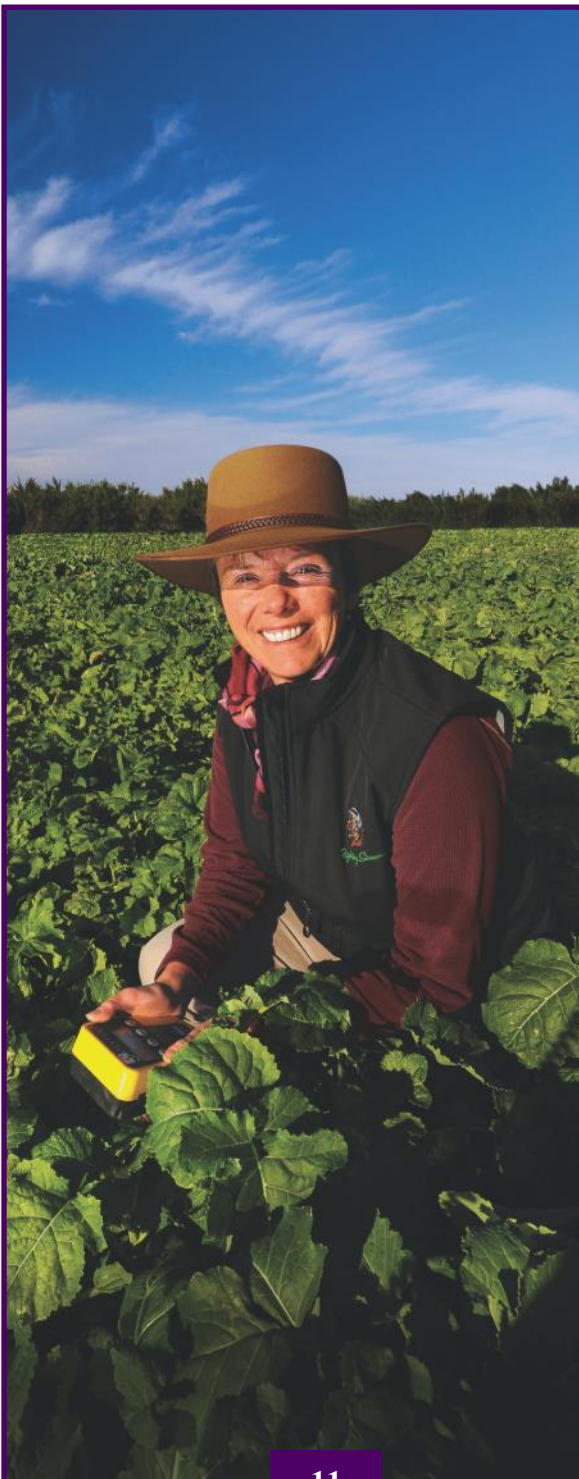
invoices in a shoebox.

On multiple occasions, I've investigated IBR abortion outbreaks and discovered the cause was modified live vaccines improperly administered to naive animals.

When everybody is flowing nicely through the chute (that is until that last-minute weld breaks lose), it is easy to forget that new additions without a vaccination history should always be treated as naive. Our goal as veterinarians is to help you optimize the immune status and health of your

herd through clear-to-follow vaccination protocols that are practical, safe, efficacious, and cost effective.

Author: Elizabeth Homerosky with Alberta Farmer Express. Original article found at <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2018/02/07/livestock-vaccines-made-simpler-the-basics-you-need-to-know/>



SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAYS

FEATURING DR JILL CLAPPERTON, PHD



Jill Clapperton is an Internationally Recognised Lecturer on how to create and manage the long-term health and productivity of soils. Jill was the Rhizosphere Ecologist at Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Lethbridge Research Centre studying the interaction between soils, plants and soil organisms.

TOPICS

- Principles of Soil Health
- Soil, crop & pasture management to optimize soil health
- The deep dive into mixed species cropping and pasture stitching
- Demonstrating healthy soil characteristics & measuring results (rainfall simulator)
- Hands-on field activity

DETAILS

Tuesday June 11th at the Meadowbank Hall - Featuring Rocking P Ranch

8:45am to 4:30pm

Lunch included

FFGA Member - \$50.00

Non-Member - \$60.00

Please come prepared to spend time outside. Dress according to the weather

Register online at
<https://www.foothillsforage.com/events>





LEVEL 2 GRAZING SCHOOL FEATURING JIM GERRISH

JULY 15 - 17, 2019
9 AM - 5 PM

MAYCROFT HALL & WALDRON RANCH GRAZING COOP

SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTER EARLY

FFGA/Waldron Member - \$225.00
Non Member - \$250.00

Topics include; economics of management intensive grazing, electric fencing, permanent vs. temporary fencing, watering sites, water delivery, animal impact and it's effects, kicking the hay habit, livestock health & behaviour, grazing management: affects and applications related to nutrient cycling & soil health, plus much more!

Register online at www.foothillsforage.com/events. Registration includes lunch & morning snacks all 3 days plus a group supper Monday July 15th. You must register for all 3 days (no 1 day option)



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FFGA MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission: Assisting producers in profitably improving their forages and regenerating their soils through innovation and education.

Vision: We envision a global community that respects and values profitable forage production and healthy soils as our legacy for future generations.

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