



GRASSROOTS NEWS & VIEWS

Cowboy Take Me Away—Lee Gunderson



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October 2017

Director's Note

It is already October, where did the summer go?? Its only the 3rd of October and we have already had one ugly snow storm, what will the winter look like? Have you got enough feed for your animals? How is your water situation looking like?

With this past summer, our water systems (and many neighbours too) are looking ahead to some snow. We have creeks that are dry when no one has seen them dry before. Dugouts are very low and it really makes a girl wonder what next year will look like if we don't get some moisture. But I can't control the weather, I can only control my management decisions.

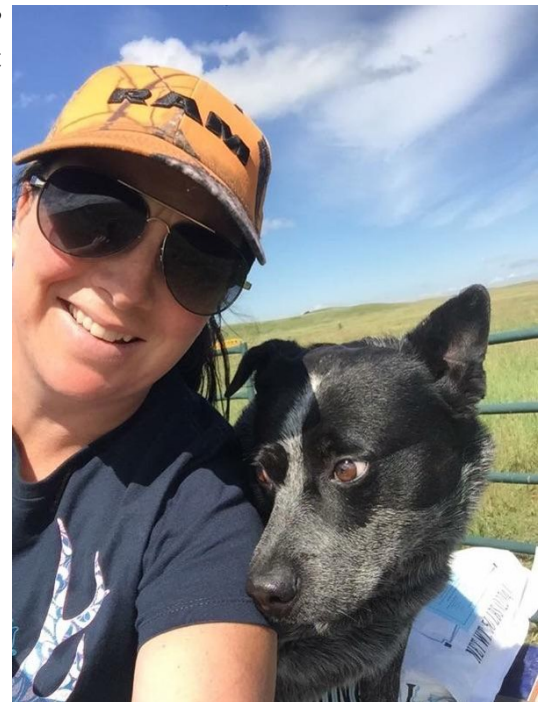
One that we have been looking at lately, is our water system. Should we be switching to solar? How can I improve what I have? What is working for my neighbours? To get some answers, I plan to attend our upcoming Off-Site Waterers & Watershed Management Workshop in Standard, AB on October 19th. There is going to be some really good speakers and I am really looking forward to getting their advice on our system. Hopefully I will see you there, perhaps you can give me some tips too!

What is the next big-ticket item when it comes to cows? Feed! Do we have enough? How much is it going to cost to feed the cows over winter? What is the feed value they are getting? Is the ration complete?

We usually feed swath grazing but with the little rain we had this summer, it didn't grow so that isn't going to be part of our winter feeding program this year. So how will we supplement our feed program? We have been eyeing some opportunities on our neighbour's grain land that will extend our hay inventory and we also have some grass stocked up to help us out as well.

Every opportunity we have, has a cost so we always look at that as well. How does grazing the neighbour's grain land compare to rolling out hay? What are the costs per head? (Are you including machinery cost, depreciation and your labour?) What is the feed value of the grazing? At the end of the day, the decision has to make sense for your operation, your bank account and of course the welfare of the cows.

If you need some help making these decisions why not come out to the Low Cost Winter Feeding Workshop on November 16th in Fort Macleod? If nothing else, it will get you out of the house for a much-needed winter break. Come on out and share a coffee with us! Happy winter feeding!



*Tamara Garstin
&
Dewy*

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Where Do the Cows Graze in Alberta?

While the Alberta cow herd has stopped shrinking, it has not yet rebounded back.

“The positive returns for the cow/calf producers over the last few years indicates the Alberta cow herd has finally stopped shrinking,” says Herman Simons, farm business management specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. “In fact, the total beef cow numbers for 2016 show a small increase of about 13,500 head as compared to 2011.”

The largest reduction in cows since the 2006 census inventory was in the Edmonton-Calgary corridor in 2011.

“Since then, this region has rebounded somewhat while the North-East and the West have continued to shrink in total head of cows,” says Simons. “The southern region (all counties below Calgary) seems to have rebounded the best – however, this region also saw the lowest reduction in numbers. The south had a reduction of 48,000 head in 2011, as compared to 2006, which is ‘only’ an 11% reduction as compared to most of the rest of Alberta (Peace, West, North-East and the Edmonton-Calgary corridor) which saw cow herds reduce between 28 and 37% in the same period.”

Simons says it is welcome seeing some stability, and even a minimum amount of growth, in a sector that plays such an important role in the Alberta economy. “All regions (other

than the West and North-East) have seen an increase of cow numbers since 2011. Most of that occurred in the South (8% increase from 2011) and East (5% increase from 2011).”

At the same time, he says, the number of farms is reducing. “This decline seems to be faster for the beef sector in Alberta as compared to the average of all Canadian farms. There was a reduction of just over 10% of Alberta cow/calf producers in 2016 from 2011, as compared to the Canadian average of about 6% for the same period for all farmers.”

This reduction in the number of farms means herds are getting larger. In the last 15 years, the average herd size has increased by 50% from 63 cows to 95 cows per farm. There is a large difference between the different counties. Larger farms are found in the counties of Ranchland No. 66 (average herd size of 231 cows), Special Areas 2 & 4 (173 & 194 head respectively) and Cardston County (170 head). The counties with on average the smallest herd size are Mackenzie (34 head), Strathcona (40 head), Fairview (52 head), Lamont and Sturgeon Counties (54 head each).

Simons says cows are also moving away from their traditional areas. “For instance, the counties along the Hwy 2 corridor between Edmonton and Calgary have seen a drop of close to 40% in number of cows since 2001, when almost 500,000 head were

grazing in this region, to just over 300,000 in 2016. High land value and improved crop revenue are likely to have played major roles in this.”

Southern Alberta seems to be one of the exceptions to this as cow numbers have rebounded to pre-BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) levels of about 398,000 head and are almost at 404,000 head in 2016. “The current challenges related to the bovine tuberculosis (TB) issue are not included in these numbers, as TB became an issue after the census data was collected. The counties of Cardston and Cypress are notable as the cow herd increased from 2001 levels by about 12,500 head to just over 107,500 total in 2016. With almost 62,000 beef cows, Cypress County had the highest numbers in Alberta in 2016.”

Eastern Alberta has mostly recovered in cow numbers as well. The current numbers are at about 374,000 head in 2001, down to just over 371,000 in 2016.

“The only other region, other than Southern Alberta, that has seen an increase in cow numbers is the Peace, likely due to lower land values and the availability of more marginal land. Cows numbers there have increased by about 15% from 2001 to about 123,000.”

As always, says Simons, it’s clear that profitability is the driving force behind

Thank you for your support!



Where Do the Cows Graze in Alberta? Continued ...

decreases and increases of production. "Having said that, it also seems that other factors are at play that determine the location of the beef herd. Grassland is competing with crop production and it seems that where good productive dryland is available cows are slowly moving away as that grassland is converted into crop. These animals are instead moved towards areas where there is more low cost, marginal land that is more suitable for grass and forage production than for crop."

For more information contact:
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(403) 742-7571

Source: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/newslett.nsf/all/agnw26944](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/newslett.nsf/all/agnw26944)

From the September 25, 2017
Issue of Agri-News

THIS COULD BE YOU.

Even with cows.



Photo: beerstagram.com

Low Cost Winter Feeding Workshop

November 16, 2017 ~ Fort Macleod, AB





Featuring Jim Bauer and local producers on their winter feeding systems and strategies. Topics will include: winter grazing strategies, bale grazing, swath grazing, standing grazing, and stockpiling grass.

Register at: <https://winterfeeding.eventbrite.ca>
Or call: 403-995-9466

Regions:	Number of Beef Cows by Region				Year to Year Changes				
	2001	2006	2011	2016	01 to 06	06 to 11	11 to 16	06 to 16	01 to 16
Ed'ton-Calgary Corridor	489,970	420,812	292,057	301,990	-14%	-31%	3%	-28%	-38%
Peace and North	106,614	187,722	120,050	123,043	76%	-36%	2%	-34%	15%
North East	382,866	381,888	290,427	256,192	0%	-24%	-12%	-33%	-33%
South	398,516	421,291	373,144	403,728	6%	-11%	8%	-4%	1%
East	374,143	437,446	355,114	371,506	17%	-19%	5%	-15%	-1%
West	200,389	182,859	127,908	115,776	-9%	-30%	-9%	-37%	-42%

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Opportunities Exist in the Public's Misconception of Agriculture

"It's time for us to **step up and help shape our industry**. Because if we don't, our industry might not **be what we want it to be.**"

Mark Sengels, Agripreneur
South and West Farmers

Agriculture
income flows export

Most Canadians still picture Old MacDonald's farm when they think about the ag industry – and that's never been further from the truth.

An Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) qualitative research study discovered a low level of awareness exists, particularly among urban residents, about the current state of ag and its contribution to provincial, regional and the national economy.

Overall a majority of respondents believed that the Canadian ag industry was shrinking in size, was slow to adopt technology and that the country was a net importer of agricultural products.

These findings aren't shocking revelations to those of us in the industry. Turning on the TV news or scrolling through social media feeds, you'll find many of these outdated and incorrect views presented as fact on a daily basis.

The study also concluded that most of the participants' views and impressions were formed based on their experience as consumers. Because very few respondents had actually visited a working farm or agribusiness, they were basing their opinions solely on their experiences purchasing food at grocery stores.

With such limited exposure to the industry, how could we expect people to think anything

different? But that's where we come in. We need to get in front of the Canadian public in a big way – and why not start with the huge impact ag has on the Canadian economy?

We have over 2 million jobs and growing, bring in billions of dollars to the economy and produce the safest food on the planet – facts that impact every Canadian.

And the good news is that people are open to hearing from us. When asked who respondents would trust to educate them about the industry, producers and agribusiness employees were at the top of the list. In fact, the survey recommended that producers sharing their own stories would be seen as significantly more credible and more likely to engage the general public.

Image matters

What these results show is the importance of public perception. People trust us, which means that what we say and how we say it,

impacts the entire industry. And ensuring that our industry and its value are better understood will support our long-term success in a number of ways:

- ⇒ We can attract more young people to the industry.
- ⇒ We can ensure the industry has the financing it needs to grow – investment flows to industries that are progressive and have a bright future.
- ⇒ We can build trust and confidence among consumers. Our industry produces safe, high-quality food using sustainable measures. We need consumers to see this and believe this.
- ⇒ We can help all Canadians see that support for agriculture is an investment in our country's future.

Source: *Agriculture More Than Ever*
[https://
www.agriculturemorethanever.ca/](https://www.agriculturemorethanever.ca/)

Spain & Portugal Agriculture Tour WE HAVE A THIRD TOUR! Feb 11-25, 2018



Includes everything from local farm visits producing beef, field crops, vegetables, purebred Spanish horses and olive oil, to sightseeing in Barcelona, castles, and palaces, to shows, beaches, and performances all along the Mediterranean coast.

Deadline to Register is Oct 31st!!

www.foothillsforage.com for more information

Foothills Forage & Grazing Association 2018 Bursary

Type:	Bursary
Value:	\$500.00 (opportunity for multiple recipients)
Program:	Any post-secondary program is acceptable given the applicant can make a compelling case for how their education will contribute to the future of the forage and livestock industry in western Canada
Other Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Applicant must be a resident (or past resident) of Alberta in the FFGA region which includes the county or MD of Mountain View, Kneehill, Big Horn, Rocky View, Wheatland, Vulcan, Foothills, Ranchland, Willow Creek, Pincher Creek, Newell, Cardston, or Kananaskis- One page write up on how their education will contribute to the future of the forage and livestock industry in Western Canada
Donor:	Foothills Forage & Grazing Association
Year of Study:	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , or 4 th
Application Required:	Yes

Available to one Alberta resident registered in first, second, third, or fourth year of a full-time program at a post-secondary institution. Awarded to a student with a satisfactory academic standing and who in one page can make a compelling case for how their education will contribute to the future of Agriculture, specifically the forage and livestock industry in Western Canada

Students must submit their application to Rachel McLean (rachel@foothillsforage.com) by **January 31, 2018**. Final Selection will be made by the FFGA Awards Committee.

Requirements:

- ♦ 1 page on how your education will contribute to the future of the forage and livestock industry in Western Canada (Could include sustainability, technology, future generations, business, etc.)
- ♦ Preference will be given to applicants who relate their future in agriculture to FFGA's Mission and Vision Statements
- ♦ Be able to provide proof of enrolment in a post-secondary upon request
- ♦ Must be from FFGA's region in Alberta: County/MD of Mountain View, Kneehill, Big Horn, Rocky View, Wheatland, Vulcan, Foothills, Ranchland, Willow Creek, Pincher Creek, Newell, Cardston, or Kananaskis
- ♦ The recipient will be required to supply their bio and picture for the FFGA monthly newsletter
- ♦ Attend at least one FFGA event in the 12 month period after receiving the bursary
- ♦ The recipient of the award will receive a complimentary 1 year FFGA membership

FFGA 2018 Bursary Application Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Educational
Institute: _____

Program: _____

Program Length: _____ years Current Year: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

*Please attach 1 page on how your education will contribute to the future of the forage & livestock industry in western Canada

All applications must be submitted no later than January 31, 2018:

By mail at:

Foothills Forage & Grazing Association
PO Box 458
Okotoks, AB
T1S 1A7

Or by email: Rachel@foothillsforage.com

Att: Rachel McLean

Subject: FFGA 2018 Bursary

Can Forage Seed Breeding Compensate for Fewer Pastures?



<https://sc02.alicdn.com/>

The latest census by Statistics Canada on agricultural trends has produced some data that clearly show the country's agricultural landscape is slowly but steadily being transformed. Some of the most interesting highlights that come out from the census data indicate that there is a process of consolidation in the agricultural sector with the number of farming operations in decline but the size of those operations getting bigger. In addition, the stats show that the demographic composition of Canada's farming community is getting older.

One set of data, which has a particular importance for Alberta, says tame or seeded pasture area, nationwide, has declined by more than 1.1 million acres between 2011 and 2016. This is important news for the province because Alberta accounts for almost half of the total national contraction with around half a million acres: from 5,920,507 in 2011 to 5,421,962 in 2016. And this comes on top of an almost 200,000-acre fall between 2006 and 2011.

Contraction of forages and pasture areas poses a considerable threat to competitiveness of the beef industry as observed by the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC). "Pasture and hay/silage of perennial

and annual forage crops provide the majority of feed for Canadian beef cattle," says the statement on the council's website.

"It is important that cattle producers have access to high yielding, high quality, and well adapted

varieties to improve the economics of production. Canadian plant breeding programs have developed many improved varieties of a number of grass and legume species."

As Alberta is home to the largest cattle herd in the country, shrinkage of pasture and forage areas is of particular concern for beef producers of the province, given that these areas have a major impact in bringing down the cost of production in cattle industry.

"Over the long term, improving forage productivity is crucial for future competitiveness of the cattle industry," states BCRC.

"Current competition for land from other crops is putting further pressure on the forage industry to increase margins or be converted into a more profitable commodity.

This makes forage breeding a key piece to the long term health of the beef industry."

Forage breeding: work in progress Prof. Bruce Coulman of Plant Sciences Department at the University of Saskatchewan says the program that he is leading, a joint program between the university and the federal government, is 95 years old.

"I think it was 1922 that it actually started," said Coulman.

But a clear, data-based picture of how much the program has achieved in terms of profitability has yet to emerge.

The benefits to be derived from using improved forage seeds are likely to come over an extended period of time in terms of higher yield, according to the scientist.

"One benefit would be higher yield. Forage producers, at least in Western Canada, would often keep their forage plantings in five, 10, or sometimes longer, years. So if you can get five or 10 per cent higher yield every year by using superior varieties, that can add up to a lot of extra forage over the long term."

The attainment of desired results in higher profitability from the new breeds of forage seeds, however, needs some homework to be done on the part of the producer as well. This includes acquiring detailed analysis of the soil, moisture and climate conditions prevailing in the forage area to be seeded, and based on that, selecting the right kind of seed that will flourish under those conditions.

(Continued on Page 7)



(Continued from Page 6...)

Dr. Surya Acharya, who works at the Lethbridge Research Centre, one of the five operating under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to develop forage

Crops and cultivars to improve productive and nutritive value, says in a paper he published in a dairy industry publication that the breeding efforts have now become more sophisticated as compared to earlier stages of research.

"In the past, our emphasis was improvement in productivity, stand longevity and ease of establishment. Cultivars developed earlier were mainly for monoculture production and were primarily for hay."

"Presently, the AAFC breeding programs are aiming

towards development of cultivars with ability to grow in mixed stands with grasses and other legumes for grazing purposes," he explained in his paper. (<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/science-and-innovation/>)

"Genetic improvement has been carried out on most of the common forage species that are planted by producers," said Coulman, adding "Most of the forage breeding is done by traditional breeding methods but more and more breeding programs are incorporating molecular genetics analysis".

Grant Lastiwka of the Ag Info Centre under Alberta Ag and Forestry reminds that "Forage breeding takes a long time from a breeding program to an end product, depending on what is being worked on."

With the productivity assessment of a new breed of forage seed requiring up to a decade or more, a clear picture of the profitability of forage breeding programs has yet to emerge in the near future, but the ongoing decline in the tame or seeded pasture areas could motivate both cattle and dairy industries to take a chance with the new breeds without further delay.

By: Mustafa Eric
Media Coordinator
Agriculture Financial Services
Corporation



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Gemstone Cattle Hereford & Angus Bull & Female Sale
December 6, 2017**

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**AgSafe
ALBERTA**

AgSafe Alberta is a collaboration of crop and livestock producer groups that have come together to develop and deliver industry led farm safety management tools and programs for Alberta producers.

Visit

AgSafeAB.ca

for more details

FARM SAFETY - YOUR WAY

As part of a pilot project, AgSafe Alberta Advisors are available to help Alberta agricultural producers set up farm safety management systems customized to each farm. Producers can start with one QuickStart Guide such as Emergency Response Planning. Producers may choose to build a full farm safety program with guidance from an AgSafe Advisor. The key to success will be to start with something manageable and then let the program grow and change over time. AgSafe Alberta Advisors are available to help producers walk through the process. Producers will not be charged for Advisor services in the pilot project.

Contact an AgSafe Advisor

- 1 - Email: donna@agsafeab.ca
- Call 403.348.9321
- Sign up at www.agsafeab.ca

- 2 Decide preferred level of farm safety programming

- 3 Meet with the AgSafe Advisor

Implement your Program

- 4 Enjoy the peace of mind that you are working to protect the people on your farm.



Farm Safety: Start small and let it grow!

No Need To Fear Winter Grazing, let the cows do the work for you.

Training Cattle for Winter Grazing



Image Credit: lee roberts, Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0

Training your cattle for winter grazing is quite easy if you follow the simple steps laid out in this article. Just because the snow begins to pile up in your pastures does not mean you need to end your pasture rotation and switch to cattle feeding.

As long as your winter pasture quality is worth digging for, it is easy to train your cattle to dig through a blanket of snow to get at the buried grass below. Once they discover that the grass beneath the snow has not been crushed flat and is tasty and nutritious enough to meet their nutritional needs, they will quickly develop the habits to successfully continue to graze through deep snow.

Training cattle for winter grazing is thus a combination of:

- Doing your homework during the growing season to create high quality winter pastures specifically designed for grazing through snow.
- Monitoring pasture quality to ensure that the cattle will be rewarded with high quality pasture if they make the effort to dig under the snow for their dinner.
- Maintaining a grazing routine that forces the cattle to adopt grazing habits that allow them to graze through deep snow.
- And ensuring that your winter pastures are tall enough to poke through the surface of the snow. Tall grass will keep the snow loose and

creates a trail of cookie crumbs for the cattle to follow to the buried grass below.

Managing cattle expectations with new grazing habits and pasture quality that's worth digging for.

Most conventional farmers automatically start feeding their cattle as soon as the snow flies. The cattle have come to expect it - the first dusting of snow usually turns peaceful grazing cows into a raucous and demanding rabble, bellowing at the gate for a feed wagon to arrive, regardless of how much grass is still left in the pastures.

Considering that most conventional late-fall grazing pastures consist of short grass re-growth that's only a few inches tall, the cows are usually right to demand a feed wagon. The first heavy snowfall completely buries all the short, weak grass leaves and crushes the grass flat against the soil. Because the pastures were not prepared specifically for winter grazing, these farmers have no choice but to switch to cattle feeding.

However, if you've done your homework during the summer to create tall high-quality winter pastures, then there's no reason to give in to the cattle's most insistent demands for a feed wagon just because there are a few flakes of snow on the ground. It's simply a matter of overcoming your cattle's expectations of seeing a feed wagon and teaching them the cattle grazing habits required to dig for pasture buried beneath the snow.

Cattle are just as skilled at grazing through deep snow as bison, deer, and moose. Their ancestors, the wild auroch (the wild cattle of Europe), even manage to graze their way through

several ice ages! Cattle have the very same ability to shovel snow aside with their heads to uncover the grass buried. It's in their genes - they just may not know it yet. It's your job to encourage them to rediscover their snow-grazing skills.

High quality winter pastures and daily pasture moves are key to training cattle to graze through deep snow:

High quality pasture doesn't suddenly become inedible just because of a bit of snow cover. Underneath the snow there is perfectly nutritious pasture.

You don't need to guess if the pasture buried beneath the snow is worth digging for. Your livestock nutritionist will be able to tell from your forage analyses if the pasture buried under the snow contains sufficient protein and energy to justify your cattle's grazing efforts.

Winter Grazing Tip: Use a livestock nutritionist to monitor pasture quality and design your winter mineral and nutrient supplement program

Armed with the confidence that your winter pastures contain what the cattle need to meet their nutritional needs, you can set about overcoming their complaints and demands for a feed wagon. When the snow begins to fall, *maintain a consistent daily grazing routine to teach your cattle that their dinner is still to be found in the pasture, just like during the rest of the year.*

By continuing your routine of providing fresh daily pasture slices even as snow begins to accumulate in your pastures, your cattle will soon get the message that they just have to dig a



www.grass-fed-solutions.com

Cattle grazing through snow during a daily winter pasture rotation.

bit for dinner. As long as the pasture quality is high enough to provide the cattle with more calories than they expend digging for it, they'll keep on grazing once they accept the fact that the traditional feed wagon isn't coming.

I cannot overemphasize how important it is to maintain a consistent routine of fresh daily pasture slices as you transition from fall into snow-covered winter grazing. A fresh new slice of pasture every single day is key. And *pasture moves should be scheduled for the same time every day.*

Even an hour's difference in when you show up to open the gate to the fresh grazing slice can send your cattle into disarray if they are not yet accustomed to grazing through snow. However, once they get accustomed to the snow-grazing routine, they won't be so easily unsettled by any change in the routine. The key is to send the message that all is well, there is no need to panic because of a little snow, and that dinner is still to be found in the pasture and is worth digging through a bit of snow to reach.

As long as the snow is the only change in their daily routine, the cattle will quickly adapt and overcome their expectations to be fed a cattle feed ration at the first sight of a snow flake. But if there are a wide range of other changes to their routine at the same time as the snow begins to pile up then your cattle will revert to old habits and line up at the gate.

You only teach dogs one new trick at a time or they suddenly forget all their previous lessons. Even humans revert to deeply ingrained habits if change comes at them too quickly. But if change is gradual enough - one thing at a time - we can overcome our deeply ingrained expectations and habitual responses and replace them with new habits. New habits quickly become the norm once they are repeated often enough. Cattle are exactly the same, which is why training first-time winter grazing cattle to graze through snow is about keeping their routine as similar as possible

while they are adapting to grazing through deep snow.

Save your best pastures to reward cattle for grazing through snow:

If your cattle are not accustomed to winter grazing, save your highest quality winter pastures for when you need to train your cattle to graze through snow. You want to give the cattle the highest reward for their efforts so you can reinforce their new grazing habits of digging through snow. Children will move mountains to get at a hidden stash of candy, but won't move a finger if the reward is a stash of broccoli. Cattle are exactly the same - give them something worth digging for. The tastier the reward buried beneath the snow, the faster they will take to grazing through deep snow.



Pastures that are susceptible to leaching during rain or wet weather (such as overly mature pastures) or pastures that are vulnerable to being covered over and crushed flat by the snow pack (such as short grass) should be used up before the snow begins to fall. Use these more vulnerable pastures in the fall or even at the tail end of the growing season, long before the winter sets in.

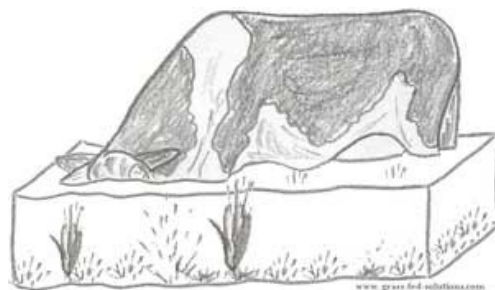
Save your best pastures for winter grazing so that the quality of the grass under the snow is as high as possible and continues to reward the cattle for their efforts.

Tall winter pastures leave a trail of cooking crumbs for your cattle to follow and keeps the snow loose in the pastures:

Make sure that the grass you prepared for winter grazing is as tall as possible so it will protrude above the snow's surface. The exposed grass tips provide the cattle with a trail of 'cookie crumbs' to follow, encouraging them to dig deeper by following the exposed grass tips to the lush pasture buried beneath the snow.

The tall grass also keeps the snow loose so the cattle can continue to graze easily. As long as some grass sticks above the snow's surface, it will wick solar energy into the snow around the exposed tips, re-crystallizing the snow into a granular, sugary texture that keeps the snow loose around the plant even as the rest of the snowpack becomes compacted and crusted over.

You can learn more about 'solar wicking' and how to use it to overcome crusted snow surfaces during your winter pasture rotation in the "Planning for Winter Grazing" chapter of Grass-fed Cattle.



Cattle grazing in snow will dig deeper if there is a trail of cookie crumbs to follow—tall grass that protrudes above the snow's surface provides that trail of cookie crumbs.

(Continued on Page 11)

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.

Foothills Forage Association

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for an evening social of great food and great company!

The night will feature a roast beef banquet, *Ol' Ugly* comedy entertainment, refreshments, and time for fellowship and socializing.

November 24, 2017
Best Western, Airdrie, AB

Cocktails start at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
\$40/person, \$75/couple

Get your tickets online at:
<https://ffgchristmasparty.eventbrite.ca>

* Discounted room rates available starting at \$95

Questions? Call 403-995-9466



Ol' Ugly Comedy

Ol' Ugly's country & western comedy and storytelling has made him a popular after-dinner entertainer wherever the people that partner up with Mother nature to earn a living gather.

"Ol' Ugly ain't nothing special", he'll tell you. "I just love to make people laugh!"

He claims the best compliment he ever got was from an older lady who sidled up to him after a show and said, "You bleep of a bleep. You turned my Depends into a squishy saddle."

His comedy is country, pure backcountry humour meant for an audience that is uninhibited by fear whether a boss is laughing or not.

A Country, Western Storytelling Comedian who will have you laughing with his hilarious Barnyard Clean Comedy

Ol' Ugly's wild, country style storytelling comedy has kept audiences from Grande Prairie, AB to Salt Lake City, Utah and from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Kamloops, BC in stitches.



International Mountain Section

~ 2017 Fall Meeting ~

"Managing Disturbances on Native Rangelands"

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Lethbridge, AB

Location: Coast Terrace Inn (Southern Room)

Business Meetings & Awards: 9:00am -12:00pm

Lunch & Presentations: 12:00—5:00pm
(No host supper to follow)

Speakers: Dr. Barry Irving (U of A),
G. Gilchrist,
U of A Grad Students

Agenda: Email Tracy.Kupchenko@aer.ca or
manager@foothillsforage.com

Cost: \$60 per person (includes a catered lunch)

Online registration and payment:

<http://srm-ims-fall2017.eventzilla.net>

Walk-in registration: Cheques or Cash accepted

**** RSVP for lunch by Oct 26 to Lisa Raatz at**
raatz@ualberta.ca or (780)-492-7531 **

Everyone is Welcome!!



Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Questions?
Call
403-995-9466

Learn About
**Funding Incentives and
Grant Requirements**

Maintaining a healthy environment is essential to the success of Alberta's agricultural industry. The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program helps you identify and address environmental risks in your operation. It will also increase your understanding of legal requirements related to environmental issues.

Visit: <https://efpworkshop.eventbrite.ca> to register

Individual Assistance with the
EFP Workbook or Web book



**Mountain
View County
Office**

November 14, 2017

9:30 am—4:30 pm



Alberta
Growing Forward 2
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Grey Wooded
Forage Association
Creating the Resilience of Forage

Agriculture
and Forestry

(Continued from Page 9)

Winter grazing skills improve with each successive cattle generation.

Your cattle's winter grazing skills will also improve with each successive generation. Cattle new to winter grazing usually like to keep their eyes and ears clear of the snow. But once they get accustomed to winter grazing, they will happily dig deeper.

Second generation winter grazing cattle (cattle that grew up in a winter grazing program) will generally dig much deeper, eagerly submerging both eyes and ears beneath the snow to get at the grass buried underneath. And they will get progressively more skilled at using their heads as sweeps to brush away snow and break apart snow crusts.

Horned cattle even learn to use their horns as sweeps or to break apart snow crusts.

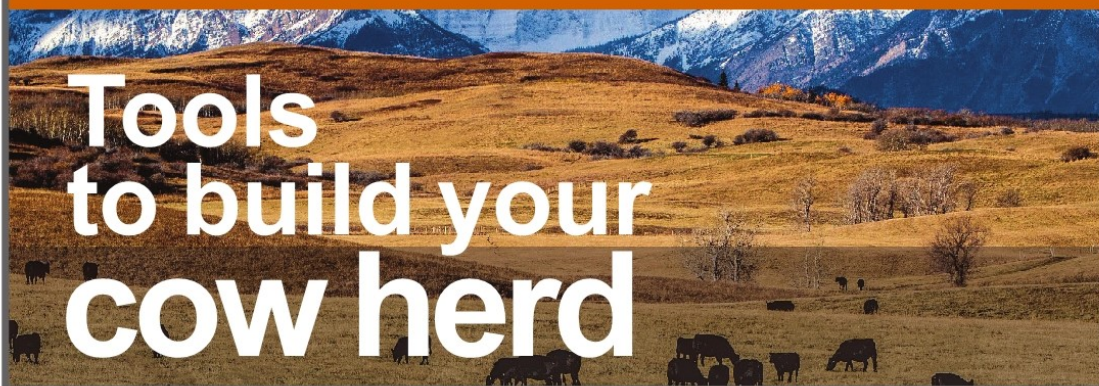
Training cattle to graze through snow is all about practice and perfecting your cattle's grazing habits through repeated use in a consistent daily grazing routine.

By: Julius Ruechel

Source: <http://www.grass-fed-solutions.com/winter-grazing-training-cattle.html>

This article was originally published in Grass-Fed Solutions .

Olds, October 24, 2017



Tools to build your cow herd

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

Agenda <small>May be subject to change</small>		Speakers
9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:30 a.m.	Welcome / Introduction	Local Forage Association
9:45 a.m.	"My Herd and Me" Genetic tools for the commercial herd	John Crowley or Susan Markus or John Basarab
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m.	DSM - Vitamin requirements for cattle	Brian Campbell or Mark Engstrom
Noon	Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	Current feed issues in Alberta and upcoming challenges	Barry Yaremicio
2:15 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m.	Proper nutrition increases animal performance and reproductive efficiency	Barry Yaremicio
3:50 p.m.	Local Issues and concerns	Local Veterinarian

Registration

Pre-registration is required; includes lunch, and nutrition breaks

Registration Fee: \$30 per person

Registration deadline: 7 days prior to event and no refund after deadline

For more information Contact: Andrea Hanson at 403 948-1528 or 310- FARM (3276)

Date	Location	Register
October 23, 2017	Lethbridge College	310- FARM (3276)
October 24, 2017	Olds College	310- FARM (3276)
October 25, 2017	Pollockville	403 664-3777
October 26, 2017	Lakeland College	310- FARM (3276)
October 27, 2017	Warburg	780 727-4447
October 30, 2017	Thorhild	780 349-4546
October 31, 2017	Valleyview	780 835-6799
November 1, 2017	Spirit River	780 835-6799
November 2, 2017 (9 AM)	Manning 9 AM	780 836-3354
November 2, 2017 (4:30 PM)	La Crete 4:30 PM	780 927-3776

Connect with us on social media!



YouTube

Instagram



Growing Forward 2
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative



Alberta
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Canada



OFF-SITE WATERERS & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

OCTOBER 19, 2017

Featuring:

Off-Site Watering Systems

Marvin Jackson

Choosing a watering system, troubleshooting, the pros and cons to different systems, and FAQ.

On-Farm Water Management

Joe Harrington

Watershed management, water wells, long-term water management plans, wetlands, and more!

The day will also feature speakers from Cows and Fish on riparian fencing, Ducks Unlimited on their forage and wetland restoration programs, and Alberta Environment on the new Wetland Policy.

Standard Community Hall ~ 150 Yorick Avenue ~ Standard, AB (30 min NE of Strathmore)

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ~ Includes both field and classroom sessions

\$15/members, \$20/non-members (lunch included)

Register online at: <https://offsitewaterers.eventbrite.ca> ~ Questions? Call 403-995-9466



WESTERN CANADA

Conference on Soil Health



Western
Canadian
Grazing
Conference

WESTERN CANADA CONFERENCE ON SOIL HEALTH AND GRAZING

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WEALTH BELOW

December 5-7, 2017

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4440 Gateway Boulevard

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FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER VISIT OUR
WEBSITE: www.absoilgrazing.com

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This Publication is made possible by our two major funders - the Agriculture Opportunity Fund and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.



SAVE the DATE

CRSB Annual Meeting

Please join us to celebrate
the launch of the
Verified Sustainable Beef Framework

DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2017

Edmonton, AB.

Details to come. Watch www.crsb.ca for more information