

# forage VIEWS



June 2016



## In This Issue

Got Canada Thistle? .....	1
Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Expects Finalized Verification Framework for late 2017 .....	2
A Warm Welcome to New Hires .....	3
Conservation Agriculture & Extension Program Manager Job Posting.....	4
Stainability Farm Production Seminar.....	5
WCFA is now offering medical coverage to our members.....	6-7
3rd Annual Family Pond Days .....	8
High Legume Pasture Field Day.....	9

## Got Canada Thistle?

*We can help get rid of them with Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevil*

The Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevil (*Hadroplontus litura*) can help reduce/eliminate thistle stands! These bugs have been approved as a biological pest control agent (using a pest's natural enemies as a method of control) and in use in Canada since 1965. They are perfect for ecologically sensitive areas where you can't spray, and you don't have to worry about them destroying your land, as they are very specialized and restrict their feeding to the thistle and a few close relatives.

To order your weevils, contact Melissa at 780.727.4447 or [manager@westcentralforage.com](mailto:manager@westcentralforage.com)



**Before weevil release (2010)**



**After weevil release (2013)**







# Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Expects Finalized Verification Framework for Late 2017

Written by RealAgriculture News Team

On Wednesday, McDonald's announced the completion of its Verified Sustainable Beef (VSB) Pilot, and handed the results — and recommendations — to the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB).

"It's a really exciting day to talk about the accomplishment over the last year and a half that McDonald's has been doing the pilot project here in Canada," said Fawn Jackson, executive director for the CRSB.

The CRSB is currently in its own process of developing a verified sustainable beef indicators. The indicators have seen their first public consultation, and are now in the revision stage. A second public consultation is expected within the next couple of months.

McDonald's Canada's Jeffrey Fitzpatrick-Stilwell sits on both the CRSB's Indicator and Verification committees, and members of the CRSB were involved in the VSB's Pilot Project



Management Team and Advisory Board. But, both McDonald's and the CRSB say their work was kept at an arm's-length.

"The McDonald's pilot project was separate — is separate — from the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, but certainly are sharing the learnings from that pilot project," explained Jackson, later adding that McDonald's shared their indicators with CRSB Indicator Committee, which provided "a really good starting point" for the creation of the CRSB's own indicators.

In the past, there has been criticism of restaurant chains and food retailers sourcing differentiated beef, but, this verification

offering is different, says Jackson.

"I think that, you know, consumers are asking more, and making sure that we have a tool being able to communicate that is very important for the industry. It's also very important that industry gets to be part of those conversations and in developing it, to make sure that it's something that works for all stakeholders."

Producers who were verified under the McDonald's pilot will be transitioned into the CRSB verification program, and more producers will be accepted as required. The finalized verification framework is expected in late 2017.

## WCFA Board of Directors

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Secretary Dale Engstrom  
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Agriculture  
Opportunity Fund

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## A Warm Welcome to Our New Hires

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### Madison Rehm

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Dip. - Renewable Resources: Summer Field Technologist From an early age, Madison (or Maddy) has always had a green thumb. Growing up in a horticultural setting, she developed a keen interest in forage and its production on a larger scale. Prior to graduating from NAIT Biological Sciences Technology Program in 2016, Maddy participated, worked and volunteered in many environmental stewardship initiatives; such as NAITs Sturgeon River Watershed Restoration Project, Thermal Suitability of Arctic Grayling in the Upper Pembina River and Tributaries, and the Arctic Grayling Recovery Program on the Pembina River. In the future, Maddy hopes to attend the University of Alberta this fall 2016, to finish her Degree, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservation Sciences with a major in Wildlife and Rangeland Resources Management.

**Phone:** 780.727-4447

**Email:** student@westcentralforage.com

### Melissa Freeman BBA - General Manager

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Melissa was born and raised in the Olds AB area where her family breed and raised cutting horses. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration from SAIT as well as a Petroleum Land Administration Diploma from Olds College. Her career background involving General Manager in petroleum Land Management and working with municipalities. She moved north to Wildwood Alberta in 2013 and she has a cow/calf operation with her family. In her spare time Melissa enjoys spending time with her family especially her two girls Jet and Harlow and is active with horses and in the sport of barrel racing. In the future she is looking forward to working with West-Central Forage Associations members, board and staff.

**Phone:** (780) 727-4447

**Cell:** (403)597-4494

**Email:** manager@westcentralforage.com



# Conservation Agriculture & Extension Program Manager Job Posting

*Location: Entwistle, AB*

*Wage negotiable upon experience*

*Position to commence immediately*

*[www.westcentralforage.com](http://www.westcentralforage.com)*

West-Central Forage Association (WCFA) is a non-profit agricultural organization based out of Entwistle, Alberta. WCFA aims to serve the needs of forage and livestock producers in the region by demonstrating new agricultural technology and conservation agriculture production practices through extension activities, applied research and knowledge sharing.

## **Job Purpose**

The Conservation Agriculture & Extension Program Manager is responsible for managing the Foraging Agroecology Program and the Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture (SACA) program as prioritized by the Manager, partners and WCFA Board of Directors. Duties include working cohesively with Association personnel and stakeholders; assisting clients in accessing resources and supports to make informed management decisions; and performing related duties as assigned.

## **Primary Duties and Responsibilities**

The Conservation Agriculture & Extension Program Manager performs some or all of the following:

(The duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to this position.)

- Oversee and deliver on projects as directed by the Manager including:
- Overall execution of project and program activities;
- Develop specifics for research and demonstration projects;
- Maintain communication with co-operators on projects they are participating in;
- Collection and recording of all project and research data;
- Report to the Manager on project activities, site and equipment maintenance.

- Receive and screen clients and/or telephone calls, providing general and specialized information, assist producers with preparation, submission, and follow up of funding applications.

- Assist the Manager in planning, development, preparation and reporting of projects and funding applications.

- Planning and delivery of extension events to disseminate information collected through projects and to fulfill project requirements.

- Research and compile information from a variety of sources for the completion of specialized forms, newsletters, technical and annual reports.

- Operate computer to access e-mail, electronic calendars, and other office support software. Uses various software applications, such as spreadsheets, to assemble, manipulate and/or format data and/or reports.

- Establish good working relationships and collaborative arrangements with counties, industry groups, co-operators, and other organizations to help achieve the goals of the organization.

- Provide training, direction and supervision to other WCFA staff as requested.

- Ensure that all equipment is operated in a safe manner and well maintained.

## **Requirements:**

Applicants must:

- at a minimum, hold a degree in a related field and knowledge of conservation agriculture production practices in the prairie provinces;
- valid class 5 drivers license;
- have excellent communication and organization skills;
- be able to multi task different programs and projects through-out the year;
- have excellent working computer knowledge;
- be able to work individually and within teams.

**Applications can be submitted by June 20, 2016 via mail or electronically to:**

Melissa Freeman,  
General Manager

West-Central Forage Association:  
Box 360  
Evansburg AB  
T0E-0T0  
Email: [manager@westcentralforage.com](mailto:manager@westcentralforage.com)



# *Promoting* **SUSTAINABILITY & SAFETY** *of* **farm production seminar**

July 20 / Cost: \$15 Lunch included / WCFA office #5009, 45 Ave Entwistle AB

Registration & Coffee: 8:30 am

9:00 am Enhanced Occupational Health & Safety Protection for Farm and Ranch workers. Michael Rappel / Alberta Government

9:40 am Farm Safety / Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies

10:30 am Why it is important to Age Verified your livestock?

Berenice Rennie / Canadian Cattle Identification Agency

11:15 am The new Verified Beef Production VBPplus

Shannon Argent / Alberta Verified Beef

12:15 pm Lunch



To register please contact WCFA at 780-727-4447 or

[info@westcentralforage.com](mailto:info@westcentralforage.com)

Canadian  
**Cattle**  
Identification  
Agency

**Alberta**  
Government



# West Central Forage Association is now offering medical coverage to our members



## EXTENDED HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

**A:** Association members and their dependents who reside in Canada and have basic provincial plan coverage and are enrolled in a provincial drug program. All eligible dependents need to be added at the time of enrollment. If they already have coverage, dependents can be exempt from the health and dental plan by providing their alternate coverage information. If they lose their coverage, you have 31 days to notify your administrator to activate their coverage without providing medical evidence.

### Q: IS THERE A MEDICAL EXAM OR MEDICAL REQUIREMENT?

**A:** There are no medical requirements if you enrol within 31 days of becoming eligible. After such time, you and your dependents will be required to supply medical evidence and receive carrier approval before you can join the plan.

### Q: WHEN CAN I APPLY?

**A:** You can join the plan, without providing any medical evidence, on the earlier of the following:

- a) Initial plan start-up of August 1, 2016. Application must be signed within 31 days.
- b) When you become a new member of the association. Coverage will commence on the 60<sup>th</sup> day following the date you became a member

When applying outside the above periods, medical evidence is required for carrier approval prior to coverage commencing.

### Q: WHO PAYS FOR THE PLAN?

**A:** Each member pays their own monthly premiums through a Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) with our administrator, Effortless Admin. Based on your family status, you pay a single, couple, or family rate.

### Q: HOW DO I APPLY?

**A:** Simply complete the online application upon receipt of the registration email and mail the signed application to Effortless Admin with a copy of your void cheque. Make sure to complete the application within 31 days to avoid medical requirements.

### Q: CAN I CHANGE THE PROGRAM I ORIGINALLY SELECTED?

**A:** You are given the opportunity to change your election every 24 months, or at the same time as a life event that changes your family status (single / couple / family) such as marriage, divorce or having your first child. You are able to move up or down by one level at each opportunity.

### Q: WHAT IF I STOP WORKING WITH THAT EMPLOYER?

**A:** You can continue to remain on the plan as long as you continue to be a resident of Canada and you continue paying your monthly premiums.

### Q: IF I CANCEL MY COVERAGE, CAN I RE-ENROL AGAIN?

**A:** Your benefits terminate at midnight of the last day of the month in which you request to terminate your coverage. You may request to join again no earlier than **12 months** from the date your coverage terminated. Applicants will be subject to medical underwriting and coverage will be at the discretion of the insurer.

### Q: WHO ARE THE ADMINISTRATOR AND INSURER(S)?

**A:** The plan is administered through Effortless Admin Inc. and underwritten by their insurance partners.

## INDIVIDUAL PLAN ELECTIONS

	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
MONTHLY PREMIUM	\$112.77 / \$216.33 / \$289.19	\$131.97 / \$256.39 / \$346.72	\$143.27 / \$279.47 / \$380.84
PER COVERAGE TYPE	SINGLE / COUPLE / FAMILY	SINGLE / COUPLE / FAMILY	SINGLE / COUPLE / FAMILY
<b>EXTENDED HEALTH CARE</b>			
ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLE	No deductible	No deductible	No deductible
TERMINATION AGE	75 or earlier retirement	75 or earlier retirement	75 or earlier retirement
<b>PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</b>			
PAY DIRECT CARD	Yes	Yes	Yes
COVERAGE	80% - mandatory generic drugs	80% - mandatory generic drugs	80% - mandatory generic drugs
REIMBURSEMENT MAXIMUM	\$1,500 per calendar year	\$2,500 per calendar year	\$5,000 per calendar year
<b>PARAMEDICAL SERVICES</b>			
COVERAGE	80%, up to \$300 per practitioner, and \$1,000 combined, per calendar year	80%, up to \$400 per practitioner, and \$1,000 combined, per calendar year	80%, up to \$500 per practitioner, and \$1,000 combined, per calendar year
COVERED PRACTITIONERS	Acupuncturist, Chiropractor, Massage, Naturopath, Osteopath, Physiotherapist, Psychologist/MSW/Counselor, Podiatrist/Chiropracist, Speech Therapist	Acupuncturist, Chiropractor, Massage, Naturopath, Osteopath, Physiotherapist, Psychologist/MSW/Counselor, Podiatrist/Chiropracist, Speech Therapist	Acupuncturist, Chiropractor, Massage, Naturopath, Osteopath, Physiotherapist, Psychologist/MSW/Counselor, Podiatrist/Chiropracist, Speech Therapist
<b>OTHER MEDICAL SERVICES</b>			
COVERAGE	100% of eligible expenses	100% of eligible expenses	100% of eligible expenses
EYE EXAMS	\$75/24 months; Child every 12 months	\$75/24 months; Child every 12 months	\$75/24 months; Child every 12 months
AMBULANCE	Unlimited ground and air, to nearest hospital	Unlimited ground and air	Unlimited ground and air
PRIVATE DUTY NURSING	\$10,000/2 calendar years	\$10,000/2 calendar years	\$10,000/2 calendar years
ORTHOPAEDIC SHOES	\$350/calendar year	\$350/calendar year	\$350/calendar year
CUSTOM ORTHOTICS	\$200/calendar year	\$200/calendar year	\$200/calendar year
INSULIN PUMP	1/lifetime; maximum \$500	1/lifetime; maximum \$500	1/lifetime; maximum \$500
HEARING AIDS	\$500/60 consecutive months	\$500/60 consecutive months	\$500/60 consecutive months
ACCIDENTAL DENTAL	Reasonable and Customary	Reasonable and Customary	Reasonable and Customary
<b>HOSPITAL</b>			
HOSPITAL COVERAGE	Balance between ward semi-private	Balance between ward semi-private	Balance between ward semi-private
<b>OUT OF PROVINCE / OUT OF COUNTRY</b>			
EMERGENCY TRAVEL	\$5,000,000 maximum / 90 days	\$5,000,000 maximum / 90 days	\$5,000,000 maximum / 90 days



Wednesday, July 13

Time: 12 to 4 pm

Bear Lake Campground

# 3rd Annual Family Pond Days

An afternoon  
of fun and science

**Learn how to protect  
our lakes  
and their inhabitants**

Aquatic Insects, Local Wildlife,  
Fish, Invasive Plants,  
Water Quality, Shore Health and free BBQ



Bring: Hat, Sunscreen and Rubber Boots



Bear Lake is situated 30 km  
northeast of Edson on  
Highway 748



For more information contact Yellowhead County Office  
(780) 325-3782





# 2016 ANNUAL PLOT TOUR

*Featuring*

## HIGH LEGUME PASTURE FIELD DAY

Come and learn from producers experiences, focus on establishment and how to be successful and meet the ambassadors for high legume grazing.

First stop will be at the WCFA Forage Research site in Wildwood AB, where we have the opportunity to see the Sainfoin /Alfalfa plots established in 2013.



Next stop will be at the Brown's Kura Clover pasture in Sangudo AB. where we

will have the opportunity to see a test plot field seeded in June 2014 and have been affected by drought and grasshoppers.

Last stop will be at the Stein Farms

in Tiger Lilly AB. The Steins are excellent grazers with lots of experience, they seeded 10 acre pasture with Sainfoin / Alfalfa and grass mixture and they will be sharing they experiences with you.

We are returning to WCFA office to enjoy lunch follow by experienced Cattle Grazers, Alberta Agriculture experts and Key Speakers presentations.



## August 11, 2016

### No registration fee / lunch included

Registration and Coffee: 8:30 am Bus will leave at 9:00 am

WCFA office #5009, 45 Ave. Entwistle AB (South side of Hwy 16)

To register please contact WCFA at 780-727-4447 or [info@westcentralforage.com](mailto:info@westcentralforage.com)



Time to do some

# SERIOUS FENCING



Introducing the new WCFA rental equipment the heavy duty Fencing Stapler, speed up your fencing time and reduces labor.

Rental includes gas compressor, pneumatic stapler and air hose. Member rate \$35 daily and \$150 weekly, additional cost for staples.



Perfect for all kind of fencing applications



**BOOK IT NOW 780) 727-4447**

