

# forage VIEWS



October 2018



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## Important Dates

Oct 29: EFP Help Session
Nov 15: Sheep & Goat Symposium
Nov 22: EFP Help Session

## PROGRESSING YOUR OPERATION

On August 9th, WCFA had its annual plot tour. Progressing Your Operation Crop Walk gave attendees the opportunity to look at our research plots in Yellowhead and Brazeau counties, as well as producers' fields. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and engage with the guest speakers as each presentation was discussion based.

We started the day out at our plots near Wildwood, where attendees were given the chance to listen to guest speakers Dr. Bart Lardner and Courtney O'Keefe discuss their research as well as their recommendations on grazing corn and how to provide the best nutrition to cattle. Elston Solberg and Therese Tompkins from Agri-

Trend then discussed the soil pit we had at our research site. They described how to use what we saw to best manage our soil, along with the importance of getting your soil tested to develop a full picture of your soil health. From here it was a short bus ride to Hoff Ranches where we looked at one of their cornfields. Here nutrient management was further discussed and attendees were taught what signs to look for that may indicate nutrient deficiencies in their crops. It was then off to Go Hard Ranch by Chip Lake, where lunch was provided by Grillbilly's Smokehouse BBQ. Our next stop was producer Peter Bahrynowski's triticale field where we discussed how to spot the signs of a nutrient



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## AGRICULTURE OPPORTUNITY FUND

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# PROGRESSING YOUR OPERATION CONTINUED

deficiency in the crop versus a plant pathogen. Our final stop was the research plot site in Brazeau, generously donated by Bart Guyon, where we finished the day off with the last of our presenters and the chance to walk through our various trials. Brian Palichuk of Northstar seeds went over the many varieties of cover crops found at the site and the forage value of each. Byron James from InnoTech talked to us about the varieties of hemp, as well as fiber management of hemp crops and the opportunities developing for this crop in our region. A soil pit was dug at this location as well and Elston and

Therese once again discussed what could be learned from the profile, encouraging questions about nutrient management. Karin Linquist from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry spoke to attendees about best management practices when harvesting forages to wrap up the day.

The event was a great success and would not have been possible without our amazing speakers, partners, and all of our attendees! Thanks again to everyone that contributed to the tour and we look forward to making next year's tour even better!





## MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER!



WCFA is excited to have Rachael Nay join our team as the new Conservation Agriculture and Extension Program Coordinator. She was raised on her family's cattle farm near Fallis, AB where she developed a passion for agriculture. She recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, majoring in Sustainable Agricultural Systems. Rachael enjoys volunteering and was an active member of the University of Alberta Agriculture club while she was in school. She continues to be involved as an active alumni member of her sorority, Ceres, as well. In her spare time, Rachael loves spending time outdoors, cross-country skiing, and reading. In the summer of 2017, Rachael was our Summer Field Technician and we are excited for her return.

## FARM ENERGY AND AGRI-PROCESSING (FEAP) PROGRAM

FEAP shares costs with the agriculture and agri-processing sector on energy efficiency investments. The program is designed to encourage energy management which will result in cost savings, energy conservation and ultimately reduced greenhouse gas emissions. See the full funding list online.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR:  
FARMS  
RANCHES  
AGRI-PROCESSORS

Ag-Info Centre: **310-FARM (3276)**  
[agriculture.alberta.ca/feap](http://agriculture.alberta.ca/feap)

Canada

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Government

## ON-FARM SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (OFSPV) PROGRAM

To be eligible for funding, a Photovoltaic system must be:

- Grid-tied, not off-grid
- Approved under Alberta's Micro-Generation Legislation
- Positioned to optimize sunshine and minimize shading
- Have manufacturer-warranties on: Solar modules, Racking, Inverters and/or Micro-inverters, and
- Installed on a Site ID that has a distribution Rate Class of Farm, Irrigation, Grain Drying, or equivalent

Retroactive projects that have been completed AFTER APRIL 15, 2017 are eligible. See website for more details.

Ag-Info Centre: **310-FARM (3276)**  
[agriculture.alberta.ca/solar](http://agriculture.alberta.ca/solar)

Alberta  
Government

Yellowhead County

Woodlands County

West-Central Forage  
Association



## CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AVAILABILITY UPDATE

What is the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)? CAP is a five-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial investment in the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector which began in April 2018, and is the successor of the 2013-18 Growing Forward 2 partnership. In Alberta, CAP represents a federal - provincial investment of \$406 million in strategic programs and initiatives for the agricultural sector.

The roll-out of the CAP program

suite in Alberta began in April 2018. The 15 programs will be phased out over the spring, summer and fall of 2018. Applications and program details consisting of cost-shares and eligible activities and/or items will be released with the opening of each program. The criteria for eligibility will be made available along with the program details.

In Alberta, CAP will deliver programs developed in consultation with stakeholders,

and is organized under five themes: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Products, Market Growth and Diversification; Science and Research; Risk Management; and Public Trust.

CAP is currently accepting applications for certain programs mentioned briefly below.

- Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives – The purpose of this program is to support industry associations and industry-led non-profit assurance initiatives to develop and enhance sustainability certification or assurance systems to demonstrate to the public the quality, safety and sustainability of products produced by producers and food companies. Eligible applicants include industry-led non-profit assurance initiatives, agricultural groups such as applied research/forage associations, commodity groups, and incorporated not-for-profit organizations.
- Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change – Group – The purpose of this program is to support extension delivery, carry out applied research, and strategically manage

### EFP HELP SESSIONS

**NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR  
ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN? NOT SURE  
HOW TO START OR RENEW YOUR EFP?  
CONSIDER ATTENDING ONE OF OUR  
UPCOMING SESSIONS!**

#### Dates and Locations:

October 29th, 4PM-8PM - Lac Ste. Anne County Office

November 22nd, 10AM-2PM - Lac Ste. Anne County Office

**Pre-Registration is required for all sessions. To register for a session, or for more information on the EFP process, please contact Rachael at 780.727.4447 or [conservationag@westcentralforage.com](mailto:conservationag@westcentralforage.com)**

*\*Note: to qualify for CAP funding under the Stewardship program you will need to have a current (less than 10 years old) EFP*

# CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AVAILABILITY UPDATE

data (through producer groups and agricultural organizations) that improve producer understanding of key environmental practices that, when implemented, can increase market access for the producer. Eligible groups for this funding include applied research associations, forage associations, agricultural commodity groups, rural municipalities, and agricultural watershed groups.

- Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change – Producer – The purpose of this program is to support producers in reducing negative impacts on the environment while enhancing sustainable production, managing climate change and increasing profitability in the agriculture sector. Primary producers are eligible to apply for this funding for activities that include (but are not limited to) Beneficial Management Practices, such as watering systems, riparian fencing, livestock facility management, agricultural plastic bag rollers, etc.
- Farm Water Supply – This purpose of this program is to support producers to improve their water supply security and more effectively and efficiently manage their on-farm water resources. It also functions in supporting producers to protect their water resources through beneficial management practices.

Producers, corporations, and not-for-profit organizations with an active agricultural business in Alberta and a minimum of \$10,000 of farm commodity production income are eligible for this program. Application forms for this program can only be obtained from an Agriculture and Forestry Water Specialist after your Long-Term Water Management Plan has been approved.

- Irrigation Efficiency - The purpose of this program is to increase water savings and reduce energy use in irrigated agriculture by assisting producers with the purchase of more efficient irrigation equipment and systems. This program assists producers with eligible costs incurred for the purchase and installation of a new low-pressure centre (LPCP) pivot irrigation system, a drip irrigation system or an upgrade of an existing irrigation system. In order to be eligible for this program, an applicant must be a producer, own an irrigated agricultural operation, have a Long-Term Irrigation Management Plan, and not have been previously approved for payment from the program for the parcel described in the application.
- Public Agriculture Literacy – The purpose of this program is to support initiatives that build industry communication capacity to increase public and consumers' awareness and understanding of agriculture

and the food production system. Eligible applicants for this program include agricultural groups such as applied research/forage associations, commodity groups, incorporated not-for-profit organizations, and recognized forms of municipal governments.

- Youth Agriculture Education – The purpose of this program stream is to support the development and delivery of effective agriculture education programs that are science-based, topic-driven, curricular-linked and help students use critical thinking to engage in meaningful and informed conversations about issues that affect public trust in agriculture. Eligible applicants for this program include agricultural groups such as applied research/forage associations, commodity groups, universities or colleges, school districts, incorporated not-for-profit organization, and recognized forms of rural municipal governments.

Please visit [www.cap.alberta.ca](http://www.cap.alberta.ca) for more information on these programs, their eligible activities, and application forms.

WCFA is happy to assist producers with funding applications for these programs. For assistance please contact our office at +1.780.727.4447.





# SHEEP & GOAT SYMPOSIUM



November 15/18 - 9am- 4pm.  
Wildwood Hall, AB. Lunch included

Register through:  
Eventbrite "Sheep & Goat":  
[westcentralforage.com](http://westcentralforage.com)

780-727-4447



## TOPICS:

DEMONSTRATION OF SHEEP BYTES

NATURE'S GREEN ACRES- DIRECT MARKETING

PERRY ABRAMENKO - PREDATOR CONTROL & ID

PARKER STOCK FARM - GENETICS/ CHOOSING REPLACEMENTS

DR. TAIT BSA, DVM - FLOCK MANAGEMENT, INCREASING SURVIVAL

RATE IN BOTTLE LAMBS



# USING LIGHT BUSHEL WEIGHT BARLEY IN CATTLE RATIONS

BY BARRY YAREMCIO, BEEF & FORAGE SPECIALIST

In some areas of the province, bushel weights of grains this year is much lower than what is considered normal due to hot dry conditions. Initial reports are indicating that bushel weight of threshed grains is variable and that the bushel weight of barley is ranging from 35 to 50 pounds per bushel. Feedlots and elevators are more than willing to take the heavy weight barley without any hesitation or discounts. When barley bushel weights are below 46 pounds (approximately) then the number of marketing options start to shrink and there can be significant price discounts when the contract is negotiated.

Feeding light bushel weight grain to cattle

is an opportunity to utilize a product that is discounted in the market but retains its' value in a cow, backgrounding or home finishing program. Dr. Garry Mathison and Dr. Larry Milligan from the University of Alberta conducted research in the mid 1980's that compared average daily gain and feed conversion efficiency when barley with different bushel weight barleys was fed to finishing steers. Bushel weights varied from a low of 34 pounds to a high of 51 pounds. The 47 pound barley was considered to be of "average quality". Ninety steers were fed a 90% concentrate diet for 84 days.

They reported that light barley contained

less starch and protein, but more fibre and ash than the heavy barley. The results indicate that there is no difference in average daily gain between the different bushel weight grains. Feed conversion efficiency was less efficient for the lightweight grain at 7 pounds of feed to produce 1 pound of gain, and the heavy barleys were required only 6.7 pounds of feed to produce 1 pound of gain. The reported difference in feed efficiency was 4%. They also found no differences in efficiency between the steam-rolled and dry rolled barley.

In other trials, the loss in feeding efficiency between feeding whole or rolled barley to feedlot steers or mature cows ranges from 12 to 15%. With barley at approximately \$5.00 per bushel, it is economical to process the grain if the processing cost is less than \$0.60 to \$0.75 per bushel.

To optimize grain feeding efficiency, grain should be rolled prior to feeding feedlot animals and mature cows. A properly processed barley grain should have a processing index between 75 and 81%. In other words, the weight of the processed grain should be between 75 and 81% of the whole grain bushel weight. For example: a 48 pound barley should weigh between 36 and 39 pounds after rolling is complete. When barley is processed to this extent, digestibility is optimized and problems with acidosis is reduced. If the processing index is too high (over 81%), there is insufficient processing resulting in a loss in efficiency. If the processing index is too low (below 75%), the grain is over processed which could cause sub clinical acidosis which reduces feed intake and animal performance.

Spending time to adjust the rollers to obtain a 75 to 81% rolling index is worth the time and effort. If the rolls are not re-set, a light weight grain will pass through the mill and not have the processing to optimize utilization. This will reduce performance and in the long run, net dollars when animals are sold or overall cost of feeding cows is calculated.



## NEW RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Keep track of individual animals with the easy-to-use SRS2 Stick Reader and The ultimate Indicator designed to capture a wide range of animal information needed to help make the most of well informed, profitable decisions at the weigh site.

Suitable for cattle, sheep and deer and the Bluetooth wireless technology connects with your Weigh Scale Indicator and means you can easily send session information via the Data Link smartphone app.

**TRU-TEST 5000 SCALE, SRS2 STICK READER**





# Texas Agricultural & Sightseeing Tour

February 24th to March 9th, 2019

## Tour Highlights:

Texas A & M – Agricultural College & ranch visits, Walking tour of the Stockyards Station, Fort Worth Herd Demonstration, Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Magnolia Market at the Silos, San Antonio sightseeing visits to the Alamo, Riverboat Cruise, lunch, Japanese Tea Gardens, Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Enjoy two wineries with tastings, BBQ lunch in Fredericksburg region, King Ranch visit, King Ranch Museum & King Ranch Saddle Shop, JD Hudgins Ranch – American Gray Brahms, Fagan Ranch Brangus – Red & Black Brangus, Cotton Gin Museum of Texas, NASA Space Centre Private Tram Tour, Houston Stock Show

Twin Rate: \$4,564.00 per person. Single Rate add an extra \$1,560.00. Prices do not include airfare.  
Contact Lawrence Rowley at 1-844-370-7044 or at [lawrence@leadertours.ca](mailto:lawrence@leadertours.ca) for more info

