



Grain, Grass & Growth

February 2017

www.chinookappliedresearch.ca

Soil Health and Grazing Conferences to be Combined in 2017

Nora Paulovich, manager of North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA) and conference chair reports the Western Canada Conference on Soil Health (WCCSH) will unite with the Western Canadian Grazing Conference (WCGC) in 2017. A number of Alberta applied research and forage associations will be hosting these events.

The combined conferences will take place on December 5, 6 and 7th at the Radisson Hotel Edmonton South.

The 2015 WCCSH was the first of its kind in Canada and featured Gabe Brown, soil health practitioner and producer from Bismarck, North Dakota. The WCGC is a leading extension event for the cattle industry. “The conferences will again feature leading experts with the most current information” states Paulovich.

Cattle producers continue to develop and learn regenerative techniques for enhanced grazing and soil health. Farming for soil health enhances biodiversity and increases biological activity, both of which haven’t always been priorities in past production technology. In both cases integrating plant diversity, keeping the soil covered, maintaining living roots as long as possible, and minimal soil disturbance can lead to reduced crop inputs, greater infiltration and water holding capacity, as well as environmental and social benefits. Soil health is greatly enhanced when practiced in conjunction with animal agriculture. “We invite farmers and ranchers to come together and see the benefits of diversity cropping and livestock integration” notes Paulovich.

“With the conferences being united registrations may go quickly” said Paulovich. Agendas are being developed and speakers confirmed, watch for announcements in the coming months.



Growing Forward 2 Funding update



With the overwhelming applications and limited funding some Growing Forward 2 programs are currently closed until further notice. While Alberta Agriculture can't give a specific date to expect program announcements, we can let you know which funding programs are currently accepting applications and which are not.

Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) Stewardship

This program helps Alberta livestock operations and commercial manure applicators assess their potential risk to water quality and make improvements to minimize that risk, benefitting their business and the environment.

The Growing Forward 2 Confined Feeding Operation Stewardship Program helps the industry in three key areas: less agricultural impact on water quality, improved business outcomes for livestock producers and commercial manure applicators & improved market opportunities

What kinds of projects are eligible?

Refer to the **Funding List** for a complete list of eligible projects. Examples of eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- run-on and run-off controls,
 - manure storage facilities that increase capacity to the required 9 month minimum,
 - livestock facility relocation away from creeks, streams or other water bodies,
 - renovation of livestock facilities that existed prior to 2002,
 - solid liquid separation or composting equipment,
- more eligible projects will be listed on the Funding List.

How are costs shared?

The program covers 50% of eligible costs for most project categories. Some are funded at 70% or 30% to a maximum of \$100,000 per applicant, though some categories have project maximums between \$15,000 and \$50,000.

310-farm

Alberta Environmental Farm Plan

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a free, confidential, and voluntary self assessment tool that allows agricultural producers to evaluate their current farm practices. On completion, each producer has an action plan to address areas of environmental risk.

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (AEFP) program began in 2003 and has been delivered by the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) since 2013.

How do I start?

Individuals or businesses that own and operate a confined feeding operation in Alberta. The operation must have completed either an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) or a CFO site assessment prior to applying for funding. The operation must also have a Premises ID number.

Construction of an entirely new livestock facility is not eligible for funding. Please contact the program coordinator if you have questions. Refer to the Funding List and the Terms and Conditions for more details.

For more information on any of the growing forward 2 programs or to start your EFP, you can contact the CARA office at 664-3777.

The following programs are still closed to applications. These programs may or may not become available in the future, but if they do reopen be ready to apply.

Livestock Welfare Producer: For implementing low stress, low hazard environments for livestock such as upgrading corral systems.

Animal Health Biosecurity Producer: For livestock quarantine pens, trailer sanitation and rodent control for poultry for example.

On-Farm Energy Management: Funds investment which improve energy efficiency on Alberta farms.

On-Farm Stewardships: Funds projects that help livestock and crop producers implement on-farm management practices in five areas that positively impact water quality and promote sustainable management of inorganic agricultural wastes.

To get the most up to date information on program availability please visit www.growingforward.alberta.ca and click 'subscribe' on your favorite programs.

Benefits

- Access to funds, e.g. Growing Forward 2 program
- Increased operational efficiency
- Reduced farm costs (inputs) resulting in increased profit
- Expanding markets: many major purchasers require producers to have an EFP
- Reduction of risk, leading to better production and leaving a healthy farm for the next generation

For more information visit: www.albertaefp.com

Tips for practical biosecurity

By Dr. Lew Strickland, University of Tennessee
Extension Veterinarian July 08, 2015



it is wise to do everything possible to protect your investment. The best vaccines and medication can be overcome by poor management every time, so simple down to earth basic biosecurity can be applied to farms without costing a fortune. This will help to prevent the spread of disease farm to farm and within your farm.

Have a boot-cleaning kit

Footbaths have their place but for most operations they aren't practical, especially in freezing temperatures or muddy conditions. And dipping boots in them doesn't allow enough contact time to penetrate collected material. The most important thing is removing mud and manure from boots. A good brush, scraper and pail of hot, soapy water can be very effective. Once cleaned, use a spray bottle to thoroughly apply a solution of household bleach as a last step.

Simple disinfectant use

There are many good disinfectants but the best option is one that is readily available and will be used. The more expensive the product, the more the tendency to skimp. Everyone has household bleach and will not be afraid to use it.

Biosecurity for guests

Have extra boots and coveralls for visitors. This can be as simple as disposable plastic boot covers and single use coveralls, so no need to manage footbaths and wash-up protocols or tell people they need to clean up. These can be removed and disposed of in a designated area while on the farm.

Disposable gloves provide protection against disease spread and even some zoonotic diseases, but if gloves are not available, wash hands as soon as possible and use alcohol based hand cleaners.

Have dedicated equipment.

There are two biosecurity goals in calving season. Don't introduce anything new, so avoid buying little calves from the auction and know where your colostrum is coming from.

Manage what's on your farm. Mark and keep colostrum feeder bags separate for healthy and sick calves. Saliva and milk fats are sticky, so clean bags with hot soapy water, rinse and disinfect with bleach solution, and then hang to dry.

Healthy animals first

Tend to healthy animals first, then treating the sick maximizes the time between when you are last in contact with those animals. Avoid returning to the healthy animals after being exposed to the

sick animals unless you have properly disinfected boots, coveralls and washed hands or changed gloves.

Disinfect equipment between animals

Any instrument that can share blood/bodily fluids between animals has the potential for spreading disease. Even small amounts of blood on tagging, tattooing, calving equipment, and dehorning tools can transfer disease such as bovine leucosis and anaplasmosis. Dip equipment into a solution of bleach and water for approximately one minute between animals will help to reduce the spread of disease.

Fresh needles make sense

Use detachable needles and change to a fresh one for every animal. Changing needles takes just a few moments, and good needles cost only a few cents compared to the cost of lost production or even the loss of an animal due to disease.

Manage new addition entry

The best advice is to buy cattle with known health records and screen for disease upon entry, especially persistently infected BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus) animals. Keep them separate from the herd until test results are back, then vaccinate and deworm based on the health protocols determined by your herd veterinarian. A typical quarantine period would be approximately one month.

Visit Alberta Agriculture & Forestry's website to see more tips for Biosecurity



THE COWS ARE IN THE CORN!

Join **CARA, Dupont Pioneer and AF Feed Specialist Barry Yaremco** on **Wednesday, February 15th** for a discussion about corn as a winter grazing option, its potential feed value and how it has measured up this winter. We will be visiting two corn grazing sites after lunch.

Where: Neutral Hills Adult Learning Centre, Consort
Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Cost: \$15/person (Lunch Provided)

Please Register by calling 403-664-3777 or emailing cara-lr@telus.net

If you are using corn as feed this year we welcome you to come and chat about your experience!

What Does ‘Social License’ Mean For Agriculture?

Posted on April 30, 2015 by Farm and Food Care Ontario

The Real DIRT
on **Farming Blog**

Social license is a buzzword that has gained traction in various industries and has recently firmly established itself as part of agriculture’s vernacular.

For centuries, farmers have been producing food to feed their neighbours, communities, and the world. Going back just a few generations, most people had a direct connection to the farm and understood how agriculture worked. Farmers didn’t have to talk about what they did because people knew. And people implicitly trusted in the food they ate and that farmers were doing the right thing.

The world is a very different place than it was when my grandparents farmed. Today, only about two per cent of Canadians farm. The other 98 per cent likely know very little about agriculture.



Couple this with the fact that people have greater access to information today than they ever have and a desire to know more about the food they eat and how it’s grown, and it brings us to the conversation about social license.

It’s becoming increasingly apparent in the world of agriculture that public acceptance and support can be as important, if not more so, than the approval of regulators.

We need look no further than the impact activist pressure is having on Ontario agriculture when it comes to proposed restrictions on neonicotinoid seed treatments. Similarly, provincial bans on urban pesticides highlights the power public pressure has to trump science.

Farmers – and industry – must now rely on public trust for their right to operate, otherwise known as their social license.

Social license is defined as:

“Social License refers to the level of public trust granted to a corporate entity or industry sector by the community at large and its key consumer base.

Public trust is the belief that activities are consistent with social expectations and the values of stakeholders, and earned through industry engagement, operating practices, and expressed values. Social license is slow to build, but quick to erode. Industry tacitly garners public trust by doing what is right.”

As a result, it’s more important than ever before that the agriculture industry stands up and tells its story.

Consumers want to know that both farmers and the plant science industry are being good corporate citizens – as they should.

We in the agriculture community often talk about how farmers are the original environmentalists – and it’s true! Farmers depend on the land for their livelihoods and they take great care to protect it and ensure its viability for years to come.

The plant science industry is committed to developing tools that help farmers do just that. We are constantly innovating to come up with new ways to help farmers grow more with less, and meet the needs of the world’s growing population in the face of changing climate conditions.

Pest control products and new crop varieties developed through plant biotechnology have helped dramatically improve farmers’ yields. In fact, without these tools, farmers would need to put 37 million more acres into production to produce what they do today. That’s about the size of the all the cropped land in Saskatchewan. This kind of improved productivity means valuable natural wildlife habitat can be left intact.

Thanks to the combined use of pesticides and plant biotechnology farmers have been able to widely adopt conservation and no-till practices. The result has been improved soil health, reduced erosion, and a reduction in the amount of greenhouse gas generated by agriculture. The future looks bright, too. The plant science industry is developing new crops that better tolerate drought and salt. This holds particular promise in the developing world where these kinds of innovations could help bring entire regions out of poverty.

Scientists are also developing new crops with improved nutritional qualities. There’s golden rice, which contains added beta-carotene and iron that help prevent blindness. There are healthier cooking oils. There are fruits and vegetables with higher levels of vitamins and minerals. And there are things like soy and peanuts with fewer allergens.

Canadians should also know that Canada has one of the most well respected regulatory agencies in the world to ensure all pesticides and biotech crops, before coming to the market, are safe for both human health and the environment.

Business as usual is no longer an option in the agriculture industry. If we want to earn and maintain our social license to operate we have to actively tell our story. And I firmly believe that once Canadians learn about how sustainable agriculture is today, they’ll continue to entrust us with the role of producing food in the best way we know how.

We each have a role to play in telling agriculture’s story and earning our collective social license to operate.

Come on out to CARA’s Annual Project Review to learn more about Sustainability & Social Licencing.



ANNUAL PROJECT REVIEW

February 28, 2017

**10:30 AM-
3:30 PM**

CEREAL COMMUNITY HALL

2016 Program Review & Plan For 2017

Guest Presentation: Sustainability & Social Licencing, *Jolene Noble with Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group (FSEWG)*

For more information call CARA at 403-664-3777

Schedule of Events

<p><u>The Cows Are In The Corn!</u> Consort February 15</p>	<p>Join CARA, Dupont Pioneer & AF Feed Specialist Barry Yaremco for a discussion about corn as a winter grazing option, its potential feed value and how it has measured up this winter. We will also visit two corn grazing sites after lunch. To register call CARA at 403-664-3777 or email cara-lr@telus.net</p>
<p><u>CARA Annual Project Review</u> Cereal Community Hall February 28</p>	<p>2016 Program Review & Plan For 2017. Guest presentation: Sustainability & Social Licencing, Jolene Noble with Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group (FSEWG) For more information call CARA at 403-664-3777</p>
<p><u>EFP Workbook Workshop</u> Hanna March 9 1:00 pm– 3:30 pm</p>	<p>This workshop will provide individual attention to help farm or ranch owners create an effective EFP. Get an Introduction & the directions to completing an Environmental Farm Plan Workbook. Completion of an EFP is a requirement for some GF2 applications. If you would like to attend please call CARA at 403-664-3777</p>
<p><u>Grain Marketing Course</u> Oyen March 13-15</p>	<p>3 Day marketing course with AFF Provincial Crop Market Analyst, Neil Blue.</p>
<p><u>EFP Workbook Workshop</u> Acadia Valley March 1:00 pm– 3:30 pm</p>	<p>This workshop will provide individual attention to help farm or ranch owners create an effective EFP. Get an Introduction & the directions to completing an Environmental Farm Plan Workbook. Completion of an EFP is a requirement for some GF2 applications. If you would like to attend please call CARA at 403-664-3777</p>

2017 Forecast Map

The Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network has published their 2017 forecasting maps for bertha armyworms, cabbage seedpod weevils, grasshoppers, pea leaf weevils, wheat midge and wheat stem sawfly. To view the forecasted maps visit the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Insect Pest monitoring network website.

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm13779](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm13779)

Alberta Insect Pest
Monitoring Network



ALBERTA RANCHERS WINTER GRAZING CATTLE

video series

Visit the **Alberta Agriculture YouTube** channel to watch the 'Managing Risk in Winter Grazing Systems' video series.

These videos feature practical tips from cattlemen across Alberta including Calvin Bishell, James Madge & Colt Peterson from the Special Areas.

Check them out!

CARA's Soil Health Lab Update

Watch for updates as we move forward in the development of our NEW Soil Health Lab.

More of a Digital Person?

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please contact Olivia at cara-3@telus.net

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