



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*

*Grain, Grass & Growth
December 2016*

www.chinookappliedresearch.ca

Merry Christmas from the CARA Directors and Staff! We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season and all the best in 2017.

Christmas has come early for CARA's Soil Health Program! Dr. Yamily Zavala, our Soil Health and Crop Specialist, has picked up a few pieces of the lab equipment which have been donated to us by RA West International of Vulcan. This will enable Yamily to begin more detailed biological evaluation of soil samples. Plans are already in motion to move in a retired classroom structure which will be renovated and house our complete soil health lab services! Lots to look forward to in 2017.

A few highlights from 2016:

- Yamily presented soil health and cocktail crop information at field days and seminars during the year at Castor (BRRG), Milo (FFGA), Mayerthorpe (GRO and WCFA), Lethbridge (Fortify Soil Health Conference), Swift Current (Foraging into the Future).
- CARA has partnered with producer groups across the province in a new Perennial Forage Trial. Excellent growing conditions resulted in really good establishment at our site with Rude Farms near Sedalia. This project is funded by the Alberta Beef Producers and the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency.
- A Pasture Rejuvenation Project, a joint effort with Peace Country Beef and Forage was conducted at Madge Farms north of Stanmore. All treatments were assisted by good moisture conditions at the site this year. This project is also funded by ABP and ALMA.
- CARA participated in another provincial project – Higher Legume Pasture (Sainfoin) Demo – which was funded by Growing Forward and administered by ARECA. The sainfoin, alfalfa and hybrid brome have all established better than expected at our site with Gould Ranching south of Consort. A Field Day was held at the site in August.
- A new project in our crop program was a field scale trial evaluating various rates of nitrogen on canola yield. Many thanks to Barry Redel of Consort for all his time & equipment use for this project which was funded by the Canola Council of Canada.
- Olivia and Lacey have been monitoring control of Western Snowberry (buckbrush) by sheep at Don Vincent's, southeast of Hanna & TK Ranch near Veteran.
- Riparian health assessments were completed by Olivia and Kale at sites along the Berry, Big Stone and Sounding Creeks.
- There has been lots of interest in various cover crops and cocktails (mixes) during the past year. Yamily is monitoring the impact of a few sites Mixes Demo with Curtis Hoffmann, Loverna
- A new partnership with Ag Canada begins in 2017: An AC Saltlander field evaluation trial. This project will be located at Bill Smith's near Sibbald.



We look forward to working with our cooperators and other project partners in the New Year!

Schedule of Events

Verified Beef Production Plus Course February 7, Hardgrass Hub Community Hall Pollockville	Join us for the evening to get your operation VBP+ certified as well as a Growing Forward 2 update. February 2nd is a tentative date, please contact CARA to confirm the day when registering
Ladies Calving Clinic January 10, Byemoor Hall	Call the Midwife! Bovine Obstetrics, Vaccines & Livestock Medicine, AB farm animal care programs and winter concerns. To register call Starland County, Stettler County, Special Areas offices or register online with Eventbrite
Bovine TB Information Session January 11, Hanna Community Centre	Biosecurity Protocols, Testing for Bovine TB, Reducing Risk of Bovine TB and a Panel Discussion. Dr. Tamara Quashnick and other Veterinarians.
Young Ranchers Forum February 7, Hanna Legion Hall	Cattlemen's Young Leaders, what buyers want, tracking herd health, feed analysis interpretation, markets and updates. social media- telling your farm story. WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DETAILS
Young Farmers Forum February 8, Cereal Community Hall	Grain contracts 101, crop scouting 101, the grading system, market updates, AFSC crop insurance. WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DETAILS.
CARA Annual Projects Review March 2, Cereal Community Hall	Annual General Meeting, review of 2016 project results plus guest speaker on Social License
Succession Planning Seminar Crop Strategy Seminar	TBA

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Certification Course

Pollockville, AB

Hardgrass Hub Community Hall

4:00 pm February 2

\$15/person or \$25/ two person operation

The NEW Verified Beef Production Plus Program.

This in-person workshop is a great way to learn about how the VBP program can help your program be vigilant in keeping harmful drug residues and foreign objects, such as broken needles, out of the food chain.

PLEASE NOTE: Growing Forward 2 is not currently accepting applications for the Food Safety Systems Producer program funding. We encourage participation in training now in preparation for when it re-opens.

January 5th is a Tentative date, please contact CARA to confirm the day when registering. To register please call CARA at 403-664-3777 or email cara-3@telus.net

Are you a Member of Chinook Applied Research Association?

A CARA Membership has many benefits. As a member you receive or have access to our annual report, monthly newsletters, age verification, the use of our forage probe, sample shipping, interpretation of analysis as well as access to all CARA library materials and expert consultation from CARA staff. Most of all, your input and participation will help support and expand applied research and extension that is relevant to east central Alberta.

Buy your membership today! An annual membership is \$20 and a five year membership is \$80. You can purchase a membership at any event or come visit us in Oyen.





NAVIGATING
your way to **AGRICULTURAL**
SUCCESS

Young Ranchers Forum
February 7, 2017
Hanna, AB

Young Farmers Forum
February 8, 2017
Cereal AB

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!**

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