



## Grain, Grass & Growth

June 2016

[www.chinookappliedresearch.ca](http://www.chinookappliedresearch.ca)

### PROGRESSIVE FARM SAFETY CAMP

CARA staff joined forces with Alberta Health Services staff to deliver a Progressive Farm Safety Camp April 20<sup>th</sup>. 225 students grades one through six from Berry Creek, Oyen ARC, Oyen Public, Warren Peers, Youngstown and home schools converged at the Crossroads Center for the seventh version of the event since 2003.

The day long camp included presentations on various safety related areas which youth may encounter when living at or visiting a farm:

**Large Equipment:** The dangers of playing around tractors, front end loaders and PTO's were demonstrated complete with severe injuries to 'special' young guests (aka our dummies).

**Electrical:** ATCO Electric staff members Jason Birchmore, Richard Hogan and Edwin Aguilar demonstrated the dangers of overhead power lines and other electrical connections on farms and in yards.

**Hearing:** Deb Brockmann, AHS discussed the damage that various types of noises can do to our hearing and the importance of using hearing protectors.

**First Aid:** John Armstrong, Special Area Peace Officer and Parks Supervisor encouraged students to know when to call 911, to remember their land locations and how to help each other.

**Small Tools:** James Walker, UFA, demonstrated safe practices and proper protective gear when using small tools.

**Chemicals:** Stacy Scheuerman, Ag Fieldman, MD of Acadia informed the students about the danger symbols on various chemicals, areas of the body which are especially sensitive and the importance of personal protective equipment.

**Grain:** Amanda Niskala, AHS used a model grain bin, truck and auger to demonstrate how grains or oilseeds are dangerous places to play. She also showed them how heavy the seeds are.

**Water:** Olivia Sederberg, CARA showed what dangers might lie under the water in a dugout or slough and how heavy clothing is when wet.

**Large Animals:** Dianne Westerlund, CARA led an interactive discussion to help the students remember how dangerous a cow can be at calving time and the risks of handling cattle in a squeeze chute.



All students took home various reminders of the safety camp, including T-shirts from the Progressive Farm Safety Program, bags, magnets, etc. from Ag for Life, ear safety buds from Ace (Tru) Hardware, snacks from Shop Easy and water bottles from Oyen (South Country) Co-op. Many thanks to the following who also supported the 2016 Safety Camp: Oyen FCSS (lunch for presenters), the Special Areas Board (tractor and mower for the large equipment demo), the Big Country Ag Society (snacks for presenters) and the Berry Creek Ag Society, Oyen Lions Club, Cereal Athletic Association, Acadia Valley Community Club, TD Bank and Sedalia Community Hall Club (cash donations). A huge Thank You to all the presenters who volunteered to spend the day with the students and helped encourage the students to play safe and stay safe.

*Note: CARA staff also included a short version of the Safety Camp during Classroom Agriculture Program presentations at the Acadia and Prairieview Colonies in April.*



## 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 won't give a specific date to expect programs announcements, we can let you know which funding programs are currently accepting applications and which are not.

### *On-Farm Energy Management Program*

This program shares the cost of investments that improve energy efficiency on Alberta farms. This enables producers to conserve energy and reduce carbon emissions, ultimately reducing the environmental footprint of Alberta's agriculture industry.

The Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Energy Management Program addresses three important industry priorities.

1. Increased industry competitiveness. When producers make investments that improve energy usage on their farms, the result is a more competitive, adaptable, and sustainable provincial agriculture industry.
2. Improved environmental stewardship. When producers use energy more efficiently, they are recognized as reliable stewards of Alberta's resources.
3. Improved energy management. Producers who install on-farm submeters are better aware of their energy usage and how to manage it to improve their bottom line.

#### How are costs shared?

For most items the program covers 35% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$50,000. Some items are funded on a square footage or formula basis. The program also covers 100% of the cost for each applicant's first three submeters. Not eligible are residences and buildings used primarily for non-farm activities.

#### How do I start?

Submit an application to the On-Farm Energy Management Program complete with quotes for any equipment you are looking to purchase.

**How to Contact the Ag-info Centre**  
Toll-free in Alberta: 310 FARM (310-3276)  
Out of province 403-742-7901

#### What kinds of projects are eligible?

Eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- Construction projects that install high-efficiency equipment from the program's Funding List.
- Retro-fit projects that improve the operation's energy usage per unit of production
- Installation of submeters to monitor on-farm electricity and/or natural gas usage
- More sector-specific examples can be found on the Growing Forward 2 website

Have a project you are wanting to complete: Check out the Growing Forward 2 website – On Farm Energy Management Funding List.

These programs may or may **not** become available in the future. For up-to-date status on these programs check the [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca) website.

#### On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics

For conserving non-renewable fossil fuels and reducing carbon emissions, ultimately reducing the environmental footprint.

#### 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 and rodent control in poultry operations, for example.

For more information on any of the Growing Forward 2 programs you are able to call CARA at 403-664-3777. To get the most up to date information on program availability please visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca) and click to subscribe to your favorite programs.

### CARA Update

CARA's field work has been moving along thanks to a great summer field crew. Joining Field Techs Jerry Pratt and Karen Raynard are Danny Rude, Kale Scarff and Megan Snell. All three have past experience with CARA – Danny and Kale were part of the 2015 crew and Megan worked with CARA as part of her high school work experience program. Welcome back!

A few new projects are part of CARA's program in 2016:

1. A province wide **Perennial Forage Trial** is being managed by CARA staff and includes a site in Special Area 3. 14 grasses, 11 alfalfas, 2 sainfoin and cicer milkvetch varieties and 9 grass/legume mixes will be seeded at a site near Sedalia. 8 other sites in the province will be part of this project.
2. A **Pasture/Hayland Rejuvenation Trial** will be located on an aged hayfield east of Hanna. Rejuvenation treatments include re-seeding into sod, herbicide followed by seeding, fertilizer applications and spiking all compared to conventional re-seeding. CARA is pleased to partner with the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association who initiated this project.
3. CARA is partnering with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada to evaluate various seeding practises in the **establishment of AC Saltlander** green wheatgrass on saline areas. This project will be located in Special Area 3.
4. Another province wide project partnership has developed to monitor the **establishment and grazing of sainfoin**. CARA's site is located near Consort.

## Which watershed do you live in?

A watershed is an area of land that catches precipitation and drains into a larger body of water such as a marsh, stream, river or lake. Watersheds can range in size from a few hectares to thousands of square kilometres. Within the complex living system of a watershed, everything is connected. Thinking of a watershed as a giant sponge helps explain the connections between all parts of the watershed. As precipitation falls, it is stored in the watershed's land and water bodies and slowly released through shallow water discharge into the river.

### Battle River Watershed

The Battle River Watershed (shown below in orange & yellow) is a large area of land covering most of east-central Alberta that drains into the Battle River. The Battle River itself is a modest prairie-fed (as opposed to glacier-fed) river.

A portion of the Battle River Watershed area includes the Sounding Creek & Ribstone Creek sub-watersheds. The Sounding Creek watershed covers about 10,300 square kilometers (over 2.5 million acres) of pre-dominantly dry mixedgrass or northern fescue grasslands within Special Areas 3 and 4. Although sparsely populated, the value of ecological goods and services in this sub-watershed has been estimated at \$1.5 billion (Our Battle, 2011). The southern tip of the Ribstone sub-watershed lies in the northwest corner of Special Areas 4, where the Areas meet the County of Paintearth.

Check out [www.battleriverwatershed.ca](http://www.battleriverwatershed.ca) for more info.

### Red Deer River Watershed Alliance

The Red Deer River Watershed (shown in purple) forms the largest sub-basin of the South Saskatchewan River basin. The Red Deer River originates in the Canadian Rocky Mountains in Banff National Park and flows over and through mountains, foothills, rangeland, residential land, industrial land, oil and coal deposits, cities, towns parks, reserves, forests and croplands across southern Alberta, joining up with the South Saskatchewan River 8 km past the Saskatchewan border.

The Red Deer River has a length of 724 km, a drainage area of 49,650 km<sup>2</sup> and a mean discharge rate of 70 m<sup>3</sup> / sec. The river got its name from the translation of "Was-ka-soo" ("elk river" in Cree). The Red Deer River is fed by numerous freshwater springs, i.e., groundwater, tributaries, including Berry Creek, Blood Indian Creek, and Alkali Creek that all flow within the Special Areas & MD of Acadia. This watershed includes 55 urban centres and 18 rural or regional municipalities.

Check out [www.rdrwa.ca](http://www.rdrwa.ca) for more info.

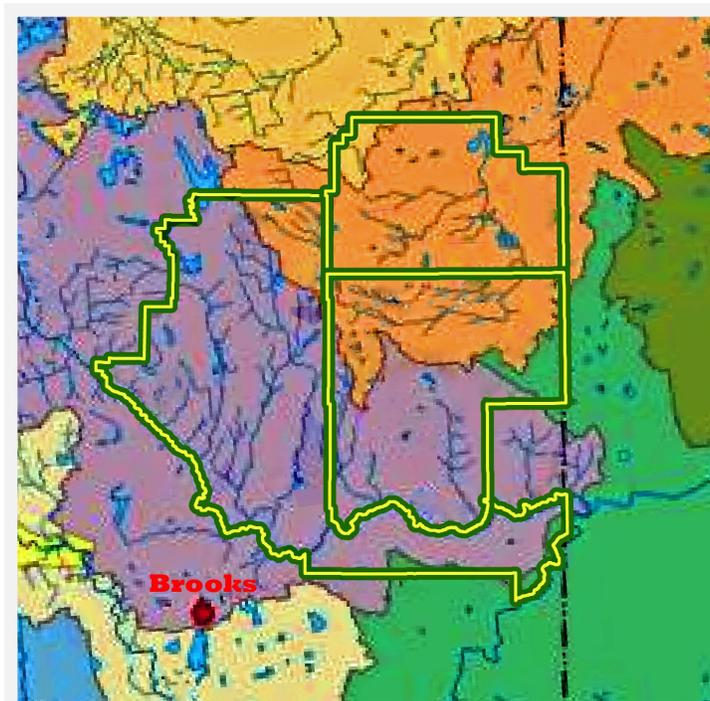


Photo credit: Special Areas

### South Eastern Alberta Watershed Alliance

The SEAWA watershed (shown in green), also known as the South Saskatchewan River Sub-Basin (SSRSB), is located in the south east region of Alberta, roughly centered in the Medicine Hat area. Although much of the water flowing in the South Saskatchewan River originates high in the Rocky Mountains of western Alberta, the South Saskatchewan River is a prairie river. Born where the Bow and Oldman Rivers meet at Grand Forks in southern Alberta, the river flows north and east through a wide valley carved deeply into gently rolling plains covered with grasslands.

The Alberta portion of the South Saskatchewan River East sub-watershed is located almost entirely within Special Area No.3, and a small portion lies within the MD of Acadia No.34 north of Empress near the Alberta / Saskatchewan border. While Green's Lake is the only named water body (on the Alberta portion of the sub-watershed), the retreat of glaciers at the end of the last ice age resulted in a gently-rolling land surface pock-marked with countless depressions that have evolved into shallow, unnamed wetlands or "prairie potholes" of various permanence and size.

Check out [www.seawa.ca](http://www.seawa.ca) for more info.

Follow any of these watershed groups on Facebook, Twitter & sign up for their newsletters to receive up-to-date information about projects & events that are happening.

# The "Dirt" On Soils

## Are Cover Crops in Your Future?

Bob Blackshaw, Ph.D. Research Scientist, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge Research Centre, August 2015

The generic term cover crop means different things to different people. Their benefits and uses are many. They can be used to prevent soil erosion, reduce soil compaction, improve soil quality, fix atmospheric nitrogen, reduce nitrogen leaching, suppress pest/weed populations and provide grazing for livestock. Cover crops are grown as a winter crop in a cool climate (hairy vetch, winter rye), a break crop in subtropical climates (black oat, rye), a fallow replacement (sweetclover, red clover, barley/pea mix), an intercrop in vegetable crops (cereals), and semi-permanent living mulches in vineyards and orchards (perennial grass/legume mixes).

Successful use of a cover crop will only occur if you have a specific purpose in mind. If soil erosion protection is your goal then you need a fast growing species that provides ground cover and is competitive with weeds; think cereals such as oats and rye. If soil compaction is a concern then choose species with taproots or deep root systems (tillage radish, sweetclover). If building soil fertility is the objective then legume crops are the choice. Possibilities include annuals such as field pea or hairy vetch, biennial sweetclover, and perennials such as alfalfa or red clover. Not only will soil nitrogen be higher but beneficial soil microbial populations involved in nutrient cycling and pest suppression will be increased. High biomass production of all cover crops is desirable to suppress weeds and increase soil organic matter in the long term.

A concern for most farmers considering including cover crops in their cropping system is the lack of cash flow in that year. This is acceptable to some as they know increased profits from subsequently grown crops can more than offset this lack of revenue and long term soil health benefits are being accrued. There are some situations where, through grazing or forage harvest, revenues can be realized from cover crops while still retaining many benefits. For example, sweetclover can be harvested as hay without losing all of the soil nitrogen and organic matter contributions as decaying roots constitute 50% of the plant. Research at the Lethbridge Research Centre determined that yield of winter wheat inter-seeded with alfalfa was similar to monoculture wheat while alfalfa suppressed weeds and added 40 kg/ha of soil nitrogen. Alfalfa was killed in October and a successful crop was grown the following spring.<sup>1</sup>

There are many innovative ways to include cover crops in cropping systems if the mindset is in place. Grab your favorite beverage and start brainstorming with your friends!

<sup>1</sup> Cover crops with winter wheat: Under-seeding winter wheat with alfalfa can provide some advantages. June, 2014. AgAnex. <http://www.agannex.com/field-crops/cover-crops-with-winter-wheat>.



ARECA Soil Health Initiative  
This article is part of a series to promote better understanding of our agricultural soil resources along with practices that can influence soil health.

## Identifying Types of Soil Compaction

Ross McKenzie, Grainews May 9, 2016

Soil compaction can occur at the soil surface in the form of soil crusting, or it can occur in the subsoil. Soil compaction is sometimes blamed for reduced crop productivity, but it is important to correctly diagnose the cause or causes of reduced crop production. Poor plant growth can be caused by a number of factors, including soil compaction.

The first step is to correctly diagnosis if a soil compaction problem exists, and then develop short- and long-term management practices to prevent further damage.

Soil compaction can occur at different times of the year through different mechanisms. Careful observations can help diagnose the problem. If the answer to these questions is "yes," you may have a soil compaction problem.

- Is there poor crop growth in all years, with all crop types in the same area of the field?
- Is there a spatial pattern to the crop growth (associated with wheel tracks, windrows, equipment widths, haul trails)?
- Does the soil surface appear smooth and crusted?
- Has there been a change in equipment size, weight or operations?
- Are there soil types in the field with naturally dense horizons such as eroded knolls?
- If you scrape away the surface soil with a shovel or trowel, can you see dense layers and/or horizontal root growth?

Watch for updates and announcements regarding the development of CARA's NEW Soil Health Lab.



Call of the Land Mobile App

Market reports, program updates and more.

What are cocktail mixes, why are they used? How do they improve soil health? What are the benefits of Cocktail Mixes in a Dry Year? Check out May 24 & 25, 2016 Broadcast of Call of the Land to hear Dr. Yamily Zavala.

**NOTE:** there is nothing "dirty" about soils – just ask CARA's Dr. Yamily Zavala! Watch this section of future newsletters for more important information on soils and development of CARA's Soil Health Lab.

# Tips for tree planting

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Once you have decided what tree and shrub species you would like to plant and have done proper planning, design and site preparation, it is time to start planting. There are several steps involved:

## Purchase of seedlings

You can either buy large amounts of tree seedlings from large forestry type tree nurseries or small tree nursery outfits that sell small seedlings. If you have a few trees to plant you can choose a local tree nursery or a retail store. The key thing in purchasing is to ask where the stock came from, as many trees are not adapted to Alberta's harsher climate. Get your order in promptly as some suppliers may run out of the trees and shrub species that you want. If you don't get a tree that suits your needs, wait for next season and order in advance

## Transport tree and shrubs from nursery to your home

Do not leave seedlings for long time in your vehicle during hot and windy days as their roots dry rapidly. Do not expose them to direct sunlight - cover them or put them in a box. If you must wait one or two hours, cover the seedlings with snow or ice or use a reflective tarp. Do NOT use canvas, as it holds heat and warms seedlings. Having canopy on your pick-up truck also helps.

## Handling trees and shrubs at your home or site

The best method is to plant your trees and shrubs within few days of arrival to your home – don't wait too long as you may expose them to various diseases, moulding, drying, and many other problems. If you can't plant them immediately, store them in a cool place for few days (a cooler or cold storage, root cellar or colder corner of your shed). After a few days, check the roots - if they are dry, spray mist water and cover them again. Don't let your seedlings freeze.

## Seedlings to planting site

Take only the amount of seedlings that you can plant for the day. Keep them cool and moist, in the shade or under a cover and not exposed to wind or direct sunlight. If they are getting dried out sprinkle them with water to keep them moist. You can also dip seedlings in water just prior to planting but DO NOT keep them in water for long as you can drown them and cause damage due to oxygen starvation. Poplar and willow cuttings can be soaked in water a day prior to planting.

## Planting

The best time to plant trees or shrubs is early morning, late afternoon or during a cloudy day. Do not plant trees during the hot noon or afternoon as they will dry up very quickly. There are two common methods of planting, either manual or mechanical tree planting. Each of these methods has advantages and disadvantages.

For hand planting don't pull the tree out until you have made a hole. Create the hole large enough to keep roots straight. Trees should be planted in the same depth as they were planted in the nursery. You may notice changes in colour of the seedlings' bark close to roots. You will see the soil line - that is the depth that you need to plant the trees. Once you have put the tree properly in the hole, put soil around it and step on the soil to make it firm. The easiest way to test is to try to gently pull the trees out – if they come out easily, you have not used enough soil and pressure. Keep seedlings as straight as possible.

For mechanical planting have the soil prepared prior to planting. Regulate the speed of planting by adjusting the speed of the tractor and planter to the time needed for proper planting and



Picture: Properly planted and weed controlled shelterbelt  
( Photo Toso Bozic )

spacing. You will need to have somebody go after tree planter, make the soil firm around trees and ensure that trees are properly planted.

## Watering

Water immediately after planting. Watering can be done with drip irrigation or leaving a small bucket with holes next to the trees. Do not water too quickly as water will run off and nothing will get to the roots, or it will create surface roots for trees that may die during a drought. The goal is to create trees and shrubs with deep roots that can withstand drought. Check soil moisture regularly by putting a sharp object such as a knife into the soil. Do not water if there is some soil on the knife. If the knife comes out dry, you may water.

## Weed control

Weed control is an ongoing process in first few years following planting. There are several methods of weed control including mechanical weed control, herbicides and using various mulches. In any case, without proper weed control you have a greater chance for your trees to die. It may require up to five years to control weeds until the tree can stand itself.

## Insect, diseases and animals

It is crucial in the first few years to monitor your trees once a week for any potential damages for insects, diseases and animals.

Planting trees is a fun activity but also very hard work. Involve friends and family members in planting and look forward to a beautiful reward for your hard work in your yard or future forest.

For more information:

Toso Bozic

Agroforestry/Bioenergy Specialist

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Phone: (780) 415-2681

Email: toso.bozic@gov.ab.ca

*DYK? To promote the use and maintenance of shelterbelts, Special Areas has seedling tree planters available for FREE rental! Contact your Ag Fieldman to book yours today.*

Follow us on Facebook!

"Grazing School for Women"



# 13th Annual Southern Alberta GRAZING SCHOOL For Women



Registration Deadline:  
July 18th  
Cost: \$100.00



REGISTER BY JUNE 15TH FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

JULY 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>  
**2016**

To register contact:

Ross Adams

Ph: 403-382-4345

email:

[radams@cowsandfish.org](mailto:radams@cowsandfish.org)

Or on-line at our blog:

[www.southernalbertagsw.blogspot.ca](http://www.southernalbertagsw.blogspot.ca)

**ELKWATER  
COMMUNITY HALL**  
Cypress Hills Provincial Park, AB

## TOPICS INCLUDE

- Range & Riparian Health
- Local Plant Identification
- Stocking Rates
- Grazing Principles & Practices
- Riparian Grazing Strategies
- Species at Risk & Your Land



# canolaPALOOZA

**TUESDAY, JUNE 28**  
**LACOMBE RESEARCH STATION**  
**9:30AM - 4:00 PM**

## A DAY OF BRINGING **TOGETHER** THE BEST RESEARCH & AGRONOMY EXTENSION PEOPLE



TO REGISTER VISIT [ALBERTACANOLA.COM/CANOLAPALOOZA](http://ALBERTACANOLA.COM/CANOLAPALOOZA)  
 No charge to attend – pre-registration is required.

780-454-0844 | [megan@albertacanola.com](mailto:megan@albertacanola.com)



**DUNK  
 TANK**



**FOOD  
 TRUCKS**



**GAMES &  
 MORE!**

### INTERACTIVE LEARNING STATIONS

History of Canola Plots  
 Canola Seed Production  
 Insects – Pests & Beneficials  
 Harvest Management  
 Nutrient Management  
 Agronomy Photography  
 Canola Diseases  
 Integrated Weed Management  
 Stand Establishment  
 Canola Cinema



Agriculture and  
 Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
 Agroalimentaire Canada



canola **council**  
 OF CANADA

CARA has organized transportation for those who wish to attend the Canolapalooza in Lacombe. Limited spots are available so book your spot early. Give CARA a call at 403-664-3777 to save your spot.

## 2016 CARA Field Crew



### Jerry Pratt

Jerry was born & raised on a cattle farm near Esther and 2016 is his fifth year as a Field Technician with CARA. Prior to joining the CARA staff Jerry worked in sales with K-Mart, living in Calgary, B.C. and Ontario. Jerry enjoys sports, travel, reading and helping his neighbours.

### Karen Raynard

This is now Karen's third season as a Field Technician with CARA. She is originally from Saskatchewan where she was raised on a family farm, participating in all the tasks a mixed farm provides. Karen lives south of Oyen where she enjoys her passion for horses, especially watching and working with all the foals.



### Kale Scarff

This is Kale's fourth summer working at CARA as a field tech. She grew up south of Oyen and graduated from SCHS in 2011. After graduating with a diploma in Environmental Assessment and Restoration from Lethbridge College, Kale went on an 18 month religious mission in West Virginia. She is now enrolled in Environmental and Conservation Sciences at the University of Alberta, majoring in Rangeland and Wildlife Management. She will graduate with a Bachelor's degree next April.

### Megan Snell

Megan is a recent graduate from South Central High School in Oyen. In the fall she is looking forward to taking the Agricultural Management Program at Olds College for a Production Major. Through the summer Megan hopes to gain knowledge and learn more about what we do at CARA; while making new memories with the CARA team.



### Danny Rude

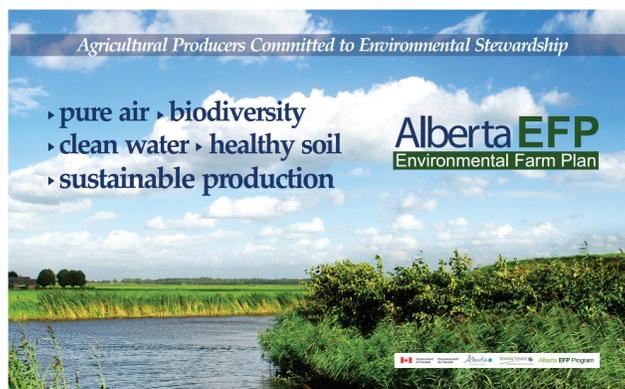
Danny is an all-round farm/ranch hand with experience from his family's ranch, a local feedlot and helping with various farming operations. Danny lives south of Cereal where he runs cattle and enjoys his Saint Bernard dogs.

### Pest Surveillance Fields Needed!

CARA is seeking Canola & Wheat fields for CARA staff to conduct a variety of Pest Surveys this season. If you would like to submit your field information, please give the CARA office a call with the following information.

- Contact information
- Legal land description
- Crop variety

The staff will call land owners before entering any field.



# Weed Control in Perennial Forages

## Frequently Asked Questions - Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

### When is the best time to control weeds in perennial forage fields?

A weed control program for perennial forage crops should start 1 to 2 years prior to seeding. The hard to control weed problems, (Canada thistle, quack grass, tansy, toadflax, ox-eye daisy, scentless chamomile) need to be controlled in annual crops prior to seeding the perennial forage. Using glyphosate for total vegetation pre-harvest control in annual crops, spot application of herbicide with residual activity for specific problems, or cutting and mowing bad weed areas are some options.

### In a mixed grass - legume stand, what can be used for control of dandelion, thistle and scentless chamomile?

Unfortunately, any herbicide that will control these hard control weeds will also kill any legume in the stand. If problems are in small defined areas, it may be worth applying the herbicide and sacrificing the legume to prevent the spread of the problem weeds.

### Are cover crops necessary to establish a forage stand and help reduce weed competition?

Cover crops compete with both the weeds and seedling forage crop. Light, nutrients and moisture are used by the cover crop. If a cover crop is used, seed at half the normal "crop" seeding rate (less than one bushel per acre), remove the cover crop as greenfeed or silage early to minimize competition. Cutting at the flowering to early milk stage is recommended. If possible,

not using a cover crop creates a better environment for long-term forage production.

### Are there any herbicides registered for use in mixed forage stands?

Yes, the only concern is that the window of application may be narrower than for normal cereal crops. The biggest advantage will be to apply herbicide in the year of establishment to reduce weed competition. Read the label and determine proper timing of application and which weeds will be controlled. Watch for the differences between seedling crops, established crops, and those grown for seed production. Each has specific use restrictions.

### Are there any other methods of controlling the difficult weeds in a forage stand?

Cutting, mowing, or use of equipment other than a field sprayer to control weeds is possible. A weed wiper - or a wick applicator is effective in a new stand if the weeds are much taller than the crop. The herbicide applied is wiped onto the target plants and not onto the crop. This provides more options for weed control. A balanced crop fertility program will increase competition and reduce weed populations.

Keep the forage stand healthy and productive by watching cutting height and not damaging the plant crowns. Do not cut in August to early September - perennial growth rates are slowing and the plant is preparing for winter. If you cut in this time period, root food reserves are sacrificed to increase plant growth rates and survival rates are compromised.

## Farm and Acreage Preparedness for Wildfires

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry, April 21, 2016

Wildfires are a hazard that can spring up quickly and cause major devastation to your farm or acreage. While you will not likely be able to stop a full-blown wildfire on your own; there are a few steps that you can take to minimize the risk and reduce the potential damage to your family, property and animals.

### 1. Know the Risk

Is your property located in or next to a forested area?

Does your land have large dry grasslands nearby?

Is it practical to evacuate your animals should the need arise?

Recently in Alberta, wildfires in both of these situations have resulted in farm buildings and animals being lost from fires that started nearby and were then blown by winds onto neighbouring farms and acreages.

So watch out for high fire risk conditions:

- Dry conditions, especially in the spring before the grass and leaves come out. But also later in the summer as the weather dries things out.

- Windy days, because the high winds increase the fire risk in addition to helping any fire that does get started move quickly through the forest or grassland.

### 2. Make a Plan

What are you going to do should a fire/nearby fire threaten your farm or acreage?

There are three main options, but depending on the size of your farm some of them may not be realistic (the attached page has more details on each of these options):

- Shelter in Place – soak down the area around your yard and create a fire break around your yard and animals.

- Plan to Evacuate – with sufficient time and preparation you

could evacuate your family and animals to a safe area until the risk is gone.

- Release your animals – If you have little or no warning, you can open your gates/doors to give your animals a chance to find safety on their own while you evacuate yourself and your family.

### 3. Be Prepared

Here are a few examples of things that you can do to be better prepared to deal with any fire risks that you may face.

- FireSmart your yard – see the homeowners FireSmart manual at <http://wildfire.alberta.ca/firesmart/documents/FireSmart-HomeOwnersManual-Jun2015.pdf>

- Have a fire extinguisher, tools and water available to use for fighting any small fires that start in your yard.

- Make sure that everyone who lives/works on your farm knows what to do should a fire threaten your place

- Identify a source of water that can be used as an emergency water supply for fire fighters or as a place you can chase you animals to if you must evacuate.

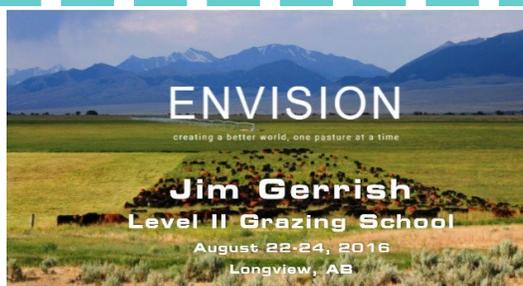
- Follow the instructions of your municipality, first responders or Wildland fire fighters when faced with an emergency situation.

Visit the Alberta Agriculture website for more information & links to Emergency Plans.



## CARAs Upcoming Summer Events

<b>June 14 &amp; 15</b> Halkirk, AB	<b>The Original Grazing School for Women</b> Register online at <a href="http://www.grazingschool4women.com">www.grazingschool4women.com</a> by May 27th
<b>June 28</b> Lacombe, AB	<b>Canolapalooza</b> Call CARA to reserve your spot for transportation. Limited space available
<b>July 16</b> Oyen, AB	<b>International Rangeland Pre-Congress Tour</b> The IRC Pre tour will be visiting Veno Ranches & CARA project sites
<b>July 21</b> Oyen, AB	<b>Annual Soil Health &amp; Field Day</b> at the CARA Centre
<b>July 26</b>	<b>Crop Walk – Consort</b>
<b>July 27 &amp; 28</b> Elkwater, AB	<b>Southern Alberta Grazing School For Women</b> Register online at <a href="http://www.southernalbertagsw.blogspot.ca">www.southernalbertagsw.blogspot.ca</a> by June 10th
<b>July 28</b>	<b>Crop Walk – Hanna</b>
<b>August 3</b>	<b>Crop Walk – Acadia Valley</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Sainfoin and Other Grazing Options Field Day – Consort Area</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Cocktail Cover Crop Tour</b>
<b>TBA – Multiple locations</b>	<b>EFP &amp; GF2 info sessions</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Solar Energy Workshop:</b> Alberta Solar Co-op, Growing Forward 2 funding, Solar Energy Society of AB, solar panel tour



### Ask an Organic Specialist: Toll-Free Number

The Prairie Organic Grain Initiative has launched a new toll-free telephone number to provide advice to organic, transitioning and interested grain and field crop producers across the Prairie Provinces.

The resident organic experts are available to answer producer questions on organic grain and field crop production, certification and transitioning to organic production, agronomy and marketing as well as post-harvest handling. Call 1-800-245-8341 or email [info@pivotandgrow.com](mailto:info@pivotandgrow.com) to talk to an organic specialist. Leave a detailed voice message or email with your question and include your name, number and location.

### More of a Digital Person?

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please contact Olivia at [cara-3@telus.net](mailto:cara-3@telus.net)

## CHINOOK APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Box 690 Oyen, AB T0J 2J0

Ph: 403-664-3777 Fax: 403-664-3007

Email: [cara-1@telus.net](mailto:cara-1@telus.net) Web: [chinookappliedresearch.ca](http://chinookappliedresearch.ca)

@CARAresearch

Like us on Facebook!

