

5th Annual CATTLEMEN CLINIC



Friday, November 28th
Senior's Centre, Oyen
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Lunch included

"The top ten game changers for the world's farmers and Canada's beef industry".

Brenda Schoepp (BEEFLINK Newsletter)

Managing Ergot in Your Feed

Reportable Diseases

Nutrient Calculator

(How much "fertilizer" does swath or bale grazing leave in the field?)

Trevor Wallace, ARD

Cattle Handling Equipment Demo

(Rawhide Portable Cattle Handling System)



Pre-registration is appreciated by
November 24 call CARA at 403-664-3777
or email us at cara-1@telus.net

\$25.00 CARA Members
\$30.00 Non-members

Please contact us if you would like to receive our information via email

CARA 1 year membership \$20.00

CARA 5 year membership \$80.00



CHINOOK APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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Member of



Grain, Grass and Growth *October 2014*

Publication and distribution of this newsletter is supported by the Community Spirit Program, the Alberta Canola Producers Comm'n, the Alberta Barley Comm'n, the Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat Comm'n.

GABE BROWN Presents

HARVEST SUNLIGHT: FEED THE SOIL

HARD GRASS HUB

Pollockville

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Plant Diversity is the key for enhancing soil biota in the long term.

TIE GRAZING & CROPPING SYSTEMS TOGETHER WITH COVER CROPS and:

- Reduce erosion
- Increase soil organic matter
- Manage excess nutrients
- Biological nitrogen fixation
- Increase biodiversity
- Suppress weeds & disease
- Manage soil moisture
- Improve infiltration

COST INCLUDES SUPPER:

\$25/MEMBER, \$40/FARM UNIT

\$35/NON MEMBERS

\$50/FARM UNIT

Call CARA at (403) 664-3777

or email cara-1@telus.net

to register by October 24



CARA holds Annual Crop Field Day July 23

CARA hosted a very interesting Field Day on July 23, drawing producers from west of Hanna to Altario to a site south of Chinook. The group looked at the following trials and demonstrations on land provided by Charles Schmidt:

- Pulse Agronomics Demo (fababeans, field peas, lentils & soybeans)
- Canola Agronomics Demo
- Stoller Seed and Foliar Treatment Trials (canola, field peas and wheat)
- Carinata Trial
- Brassica Juncea Trial

Presenting information were Robyn Bowness, ARD Pulse Specialist; Sydney Vos, Alberta Pulse Growers; Neil Whately, ARD; Rick Bennett, Agrisoma and

Keith Gabert, Canola Council of Canada. Yamily Zavala, CARA led an excellent discussion on our soil resources utilizing a pit dug by Charles showing characteristics of the local soil profile. She also described a number of soil amendment treatments planned for an area of low production and compaction. Lunch was provided by Evergreen Implements, Hanna.



Many Thanks to Field Day Sponsors!



July 23 Crop Walks

CARA Staff were joined by ARD Crop Specialist Neil Whately to meet with producers at annual crop trial sites near Consort and west of Hanna on July 31. Nearby producer fields were visited as well as the farmers discussed disease, pest, fertility and harvest management issues



MADE IN ALBERTA
SLIPPER AND SPEAKER SERIES

Friday, October 24th

Tickets available at:
SPECIAL AREA BOARD
DISTRICT OFFICES

For information contact:
Wanda Diakow
403-577-3523
403-575-9533

Guest Speaker "TOM DROOG", founder of the
Spitz Sunflower Seed Company

Join us for dinner and afterwards listen to Tom share his story of how he and his wife grew a tiny sunflower company into Canada's leading brand of sunflower seeds.

RECEPTION 5:30 P.M. DINNER 6:30 P.M.
TICKETS \$25

Storing Grain Safely

Harry Brook, ARD Crop Specialist

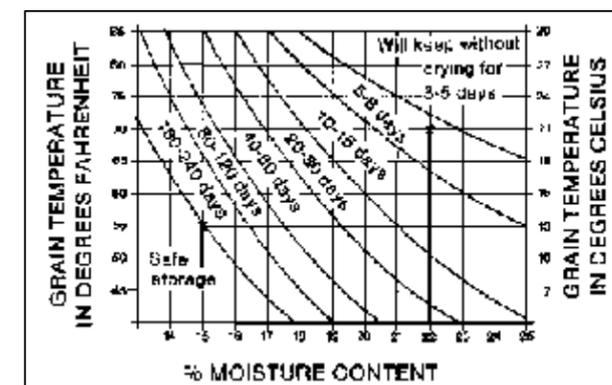
Harvest has been difficult this fall. Frequent showers have slowed the harvest and grain quality is suffering. No one has yet managed to control weather and that is the greatest risk of all. There might be a temptation to harvest damp or wet grain just to get it in the bin. This can work in the short term but the issue of wet grain has to be dealt with fairly quickly. Once it is in the bin is no time forget about it.

Storing the crop is also risky, especially with hot or damp grain. Safe storage is a combination of both the temperature of the grain and the moisture level it is stored at. Here is a list of crops and the maximum moisture content they are considered to be "dry" at and safe to store.

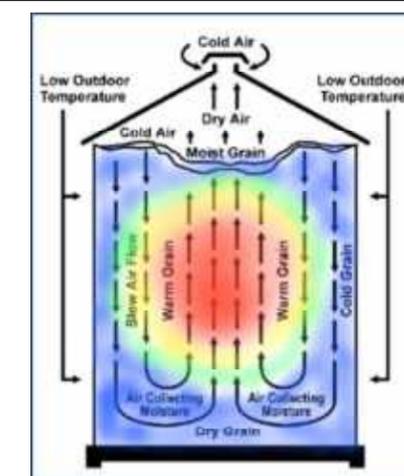
Barley (feed)	14.8%	Mustard	10.0%	Peas	16.0%
Barley (malt)	13.5	Fababeans	16.0	Rye	14.0
Canola	10.0	Flax	10.0	Soybean	14.0
Chickpeas	14.0	Lentils	14.0	Triticale	14.0
Corn	15.5	Oats	14.0	Wheat	14.5

*percentage wet weight basis (Adapted from: [Cereal Grain Drying and Storage](#), AAFRD)

The chart on the right shows approximately how long damp grain can be stored safely. This gives roughly the amount of time it can be in the bin. Be warned that deterioration can start to occur before the time expires. It still has to be either dried or aerated. Aeration requires warmer temperatures and low humidity, which is what we are currently lacking. Going into fall, temperatures will continue to decline, lengthening the time it takes to bring moisture levels down. Even dry, hot grain placed in a bin creates moisture migration. It takes time for grain to stop respiring and moisture to equalize in the bin.



The hot grain or oilseed creates circulation in the bin. Cold air outside will cool the grain against the bin sides and moisture will move down the outsides of the bin the come up the middle. If there is any place for the moisture to accumulate, it will be just below the top, middle of the bin. Green seed or immature seed in the bin may also contain more moisture and add to the problem. This is why it is imperative when harvesting hot grain to cool it quickly. Aeration under hot harvest temperatures is important to get the grain or oilseed temperature down to a safe storage level.



In addition to the condition of the crop, hot grain in the bin acts as a beacon to cereal grain insects. Rusty grain beetles are good fliers and they home in on hot grain, infiltrating the bin and starting to breed in the high moisture zone.

Warm conditions at harvest and multi-staged crops

are potential ingredients for storage problems. You've spent a lot of money and time getting the harvest in the bin. Take the time to monitor the stored grain condition and cool those bins down. Don't get an unpleasant surprise when selling the grain with discounts for heated grain or insect problems. Call the Ag-Info Centre @310-FARM for more information.

BUILDING SOIL - CREATING LAND



DR. CHRISTINE JONES

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED GROUNDCOVER & SOILS ECOLOGIST

Jones works with landowners to implement regenerative land management practices that enhance biodiversity, maximize photosynthesis, increase soil biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, improve water holding capacity and infiltration, increase productivity and create new topsoil.

“Organic carbon is the basic building block for all life on and in the earth. We cannot live without it. Neither can our soils. Rebuilding carbon-rich agricultural soils is the only real productive permanent solution to taking excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.”

SPONSORED BY:



OLDS COLLEGE

Lecture Theatre in Land Sciences Bldg. (Rm 1027)

TUESDAY, NOV 4

2:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Please register by **October 28** by contacting FFGA @

403-652-4900 or email

cassie@foothillsforage.com

COST includes supper:

\$30/ per person

\$50/ per farm unit

\$15/ student

AGENDA:

2:30 pm
Coffee & Registration (Atrium)

3:00 pm
Soil Carbon: Getting the basics right

4:00 pm
Linking Carbon, Nitrogen & Water Cycles

5:00 pm - Supper (Atrium)

6:00 pm
Re-activating Soil Forming Processes

8:00 pm
Wrap up

Also joining us is AFSC for a presentation on their products & services!

Christine will also be presenting at:

RYCROFT AG CENTRE

MONDAY, NOV 3

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

If this location is more convenient for you, please register by contacting NPARA @ 780-836-3354/nora@npara.ca or PCBFA @ 780-523-4033/mbenoit@gprc.ab.ca

Feed Analysis

This is the time of year to sample your feed sources for your winter feeding program. Contact CARA for more information.



"Going Beyond Sustainability"

December 9, 10 & 11, 2014

Radisson Hotel Edmonton South

Keynote Speakers:

Judith Schwartz - Cows Save the Planet
Dr. Diane Knight - How Legumes Feed the Soil
Josh Dukart - Thinking Regeneratively... Beyond Our Own Borders
Producer Panel - Transitioning to Pasture

Banquet: Greg Johnson - I'm Just a Tornado Hunter

For more information contact:
www.wcgcconference.ca • ARECA • 780.416.6046

Getting into Farming Information Session

For the Aspiring Farmer

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Session topics include:

- Overview of Agriculture
- Business Planning
- Personal Assessment
- Financial
- Land
- Resources/Education

October 30, 2014

Airdrie – Agriculture Centre
97 East Lake Ramp NE Airdrie, AB

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(registration starts at 8:30 a.m.)

Cost: \$25/person
(includes lunch)

To Register call the Ag-Info Centre
at 1-800-387-6030



Produce Survey

Please respond to our producer survey which will be distributed in November. Your feedback will help shape future programming for CARA.

Harvested Crop Samples

Part of marketing is knowing the product that you have to offer to the market. Some crops are more complex than others to grade. For example, canola is typically graded based on appearance, smell, moisture content, inseparable weed seeds and foreign matter as well as percentage of seeds with distinctly green color or heat damage when crushed. Some buyers may also test for oil content in canola seed. Wheat grades include type, appearance factors, inseparable seeds, ergot, foreign material as well as protein content and sometimes falling number.

Obtaining a representative sample of your product is an essential part of marketing. The goal is to have a sample that has the same characteristics as the large volume of product that it represents.

Taking samples as harvested grain is placed into storage is a practical way to obtain a representative sample for each bin. Commercial samplers or homemade samplers have a similar design, such as a small can on the end of a stick. As the grain is flowing, pass the cup along the stream of grain at regular intervals and dump it into a larger container. Try to take a consistent number of cup samples relative to the larger grain volume from each load. After a bin is full, mix the grain well in the sample pail and keep part of that mixed sample as the representative sample for that bin. Make sure that you keep a large enough sample to use in distributing the sample to different graders. Keep the sample in a sealed container labelled to identify the source bin. This container should keep out rodents and insects and preserve representative moisture content to maintain sample integrity.

Producers should be aware of a Harvest Sample Program that the Canada Grain Commission offers. This program gives producers a free unofficial grade on samples from the current year's crop. Producers can submit samples of newly harvested crop prior to November. Upon registering with the Canada Grain Commission by phone, e-mail or via their website, the Commission sends participating producers a personalized kit, including postage-paid envelopes for the

samples. The toll-free phone number with which to register is 1-800-853-6705, and the Commission is welcoming new registrants. Up to eight samples per producer are eligible for this free service. Producers fill the envelopes with representative grain samples and mail them to the Canadian Grain Commission. The Harvest Sample Program can be used for cereal grains, pulses, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed and soybeans. Upon grading of the submitted samples, grade results are retrievable via phone, e-mail or through the CGC internet site. Alternatively, the Canadian Grain Commission's submitted sample services are available to producers year-round for a fee. In return, producers receive a certificate that shows:

- Grade (including main degrading reason if relevant)
- Dockage
- Moisture (if sample is received in a moisture-proof container)
- Protein content for wheat samples by request
- Oil, protein and chlorophyll content for canola
- Oil, protein content and iodine value for flaxseed
- Oil and protein for mustard seed and soybeans

Records of the stored crop samples should be maintained, together with comments and reminders applicable to each bin. As grade assessments are gathered from various buyers, note those assigned grades in your records. You may find that not all buyers give the same grade to a sample, and that information becomes a factor in your marketing decision. If you use the Canada Grain Commission grading service, consider their assessment of grade to be the base grade for that crop sample. Once you have gathered grade information, you can then work on determining the best outlet for that crop from a grade point of view, and recognizing that the net farm gate price and payment security will likely be the major factors in your final marketing decision.

Neil Blue, P. Ag.
Market Specialist
Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development
Vermilion, 780-853-8104

Harvesting at CARA plot



CARA's Pulse Diagnostic Demo



The Elm Pruning Ban in Alberta is Now Over

From the October 13, 2014 Agrinews

The 2014 elm pruning ban in Alberta has ended for the year.

"Although Alberta remains free of DED, with two neighboring jurisdictions, Saskatchewan and Montana battling the disease, we must stay vigilant to keep our elms healthy," says Janet Feddes-Calpas, Executive Director, Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED). "To reduce the risk of DED, pruning of elm trees is prohibited throughout Alberta each year from April 1 until September 30. The ban for 2014 is now over."

Dutch elm disease (DED) is a deadly disease that can affect any elm tree. Since its introduction from Europe in 1930, it has destroyed millions of American elm trees across North America. DED is prevalent in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Montana. At present, Alberta has the largest DED-free American elm stands in the world. There are an estimated 750,000 mature trees found in Alberta. A total of 250,000 elms grow in Alberta's urban areas. The remaining 500,000 elms grow in provincial parks, farm shelterbelts and rural homesteads.

Calpas notes that the ban is necessary during the time when DED-carrying beetles are active, which is between April and September. Fresh cuts from pruning may attract the beetles that can spread the disease, increasing the chance of infection. Once they have infected an area, elm bark beetles will feed on healthy elms during the

growing season and then breed and over-winter in dead and dying elm trees.

"The annual pruning ban is in effect during the time of year when elm bark beetles are potentially most active," says Feddes-Calpas. "Pruning remains an important part of regular elm tree care and is encouraged in Alberta, outside of the annual ban period. Proper pruning helps keep trees healthy and better able to resist disease."

The removal of dead and dying elm wood through pruning also helps to reduce beetle breeding habitat and control any potential beetle population. Prompt and proper disposal of the pruned wood is also essential to keep DED from spreading.

"A professional arborist can determine what type of pruning is necessary to maintain or improve the health, appearance and safety of your trees," says Feddes-Calpas. "Topping or removing an excessive amount of live wood is not recommended as it will weaken the tree's structure and shorten its lifespan."

It is essential that all dead wood be removed and properly disposed of by burning, burning or chipping by March 31 of each year. It is also illegal in Alberta to transport or store elm firewood.

For more information on DED prevention, call the STOPDED hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS (3567)

Analyzing all feed sources is recommended as we move closer to the winter feeding season. CARA staff can assist you in getting samples to the lab and interpreting results.



Late Additions to Your Feed Supply?

Taken in part from article by Linda Hunt, ARD Forage Specialist

Did you cut late greenfeed that won't dry down for baling? Was the re-growth on your hayfield too good to pass up, but it never dropped below 25%?

Swath grazing the green feed is probably the most desirable and efficient option available if the field is located in a convenient location with water and shelter. Weathering loss may be greater with a hay swath, but the freezing temperatures just around the corner will reduce the rate of deterioration. The potential damage to the perennial stand from a swath row is also less this late in the season. Location again will determine if grazing is a choice.

If baling is the only option to utilize the forage material in either of the above situations, you can still have a valuable forage thanks to the challenges of our climate. The key is to salvage and use it quickly. The big advantage we have in Canada is that the cool fall temperatures give us some grace to bale forage up tough and still come out okay. It's sort of like storing your salad in the fridge rather than the counter. The cooler temperatures can slow down the rate of spoilage giving you a chance to get the forage fed while there is still value. Definitely not the ideal situation and it is highly dependent on the weather but it is a useful strategy when snow is in the forecast.

Forage baled between 18-35% is highly variable and unpredictable so should be fed first and with caution. Wet warm bales provide an ideal habitat for bacteria and mold growth, and it is the activity of the mold and bacteria that causes the bales to heat. Protein in bales that reach 50 degrees C or higher lose their value as the

protein is converted to a form that is unavailable to livestock. The cool fall temperatures reduce the amount of heat produced in the bale by slowing down the activity of the bacteria and mold, as well as cooling the bales faster and keeping them from reaching the critical 50 degrees C.

So use the assets that living in a northern climate provide. Ken Ziegler suggests "only putting 900 lbs of feed into the space of a 1200 lb bale. You will be able to slip your hand into the side of the bale quite far and quite easily compared to a tightly made bale. This allows the moisture to exit easier and the heat to dissipate". Line bales up in north/south rows to minimize the exposure to the sun and increase the surface area exposed to the westerly fall winds. Leave a 4-6 inch gap between the bales within the row and space the rows far enough apart to increase circulation and enhance cooling. Keep wet bales at the front of the stack where they can be accessed and fed first.

Wrapping bales can also be an option. Ideally bales should be 35-50% range to ensure they ensile. It is difficult to remove the oxygen at lower than 35% moisture and spoilage is common. Again the cool temperatures in our fall and winter slow down the rate of spoilage, buying time to get the bales fed. Foragebeef.ca has several articles and fact sheets from across Canada that are excellent resources for learning the ins and outs of making quality bale silage. You cannot control the weather so concentrate on the things you can control and make the best of whatever situation Mother Nature sends your way.

Time to Increase Your Cow Herd?

Condensed from October 13, 2014 Agrinews

For cattle producers who are already established and/or who have a sound, realistic plan for growth, or for others considering exiting the industry in a few years, the time to be in the cow-calf sector has never been better. This scenario should continue well into the near future, according to Rick Dehod, ARD Farm Financial Specialist, as it will take longer than anticipated to rebuild North America's cowherd because of changes within the beef industry.

Expansion is most likely to be from existing operations because of the high investment and risk necessary to re-establish a cow-calf enterprise. The capital required is at the same record level as are the returns per calf. Hay prices are also high due to a reduction in forage acreage and weather related issues. Despite moves towards reducing feed costs by extending grazing practices, overall input costs continue to rise. "Each farm or ranch has a different cost structure, access to capital, equipment and labor resources, so there is no advice that will fit all." (DeHod). The following may be options for the future of your cowherd.

Hold the course – retaining enough replacement heifers to maintain your herd. This will provide above average returns for the near future, especially if you evolve your operation to a low cost of production.

Expand the herd slowly – utilize the extra income to increase the number of heifers you retain each year. Maintaining your genetic base by keeping homegrown replacements without taking on extra financing, is a low risk method of expansion. You must make sure, however, that you have adequate pasture, hayland, water and labor to support the additional cows.

Expand the herd aggressively or enter the industry – "Think 'out of the box' to get started with some innovative business arrangements," explains Dehod. Can you work with neighbors who are moving to retirement but have good facilities to rent? Perhaps a cow lease

agreement can be made. Carryout a partial budget analysis on financing for replacement heifers – is the return on investment adequate for your short and long term plans? You must again ensure the necessary resources are available for managing a larger herd.

Development of a strategic business plan is important for all the above options. ARD has tools that can help, contact Rick Dehod (780-427-4466) or Freeman Iwasiuk (780-523-6504) for more information



Cow-Calfenomics

Seizing Opportunities in the Alberta Cow-Calf Sector

Date	Location	Venue	Time
November 25, 2014	Medicine Hat	Medicine Hat Exhibition & Interpretive Centre	8:00 a.m. coffee and registration, session 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
November 26, 2014	Lethbridge	Lethbridge College D.A. Elvick Ballroom	8:00 a.m. coffee and registration, session 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
November 27, 2014	Edmonton	Edmonton Convention Centre	8:00 a.m. coffee and registration, session 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The agenda this year will cover:

- Meat and Cattle Financials for Herd Planning
- Opportunities and Threats to Expanding the Cow Herd
- Linking Pasture Systems to Kolomo Beef
- Economics and Profit
- Transition Tactics
- The Cost of Brood Heifers
- Managing Risk in the Beef Industry
- A Helping Hand: HR strategies for the ranch
- A producer's perspective: Innovative Business Models

For more information go to agriculture.alberta.ca/cow-calfenomics

How to Register
All participants are required to register prior to Wednesday, November 19, 2014. The registration fee is \$25.00 and includes lunch. Registration for students is free and compliments of Alberta Feed Producers. To register please call the AgInfo Centre at 1-800-367-6031.

