

2011 Extension

Newsletters

Eleven editions of CARA's 'Grain, Grass and Growth' newsletter was mass-mailed to 1625 producers. The publications includes research results, timely agricultural topics and coming events.



Cooperator Appreciation Evening – January 13, Cereal

To show our appreciation for the support CARA receives from local producers, the Special Areas Board, MD of Acadia, Ag Service Boards, Ag Societies and local businesses, CARA hosted a Cooperator Appreciation Night at the Cereal Community Hall on January 13. Attendees enjoyed a delicious roast beef meal catered by the East Sounding Creek 4-H Beef Club and were treated to Doris Daley's version of the history, humor and western way of life through her cowboy poetry. Dianne Westerlund also presented a brief overview of CARA's program during the past year.

Business Decision Making Workshop – February 2, Consort

CARA partnered with ARD Production Economist Dale Kaliel to lead producers through a 'Management Tools to Direct Your Business' workshop. Producers left with knowledge and tools for making business/enterprise decisions in their farming operation.

Brush Control Seminar – February 8, Altario

CARA facilitated an afternoon seminar to discuss brush control options with Dow Agrosciences area rep Mark Alberts.

CropChoice\$ Workshop – February 9, Hanna



Dale Kaliel, Production Economist with Alberta Agriculture, led producers through the CropChoice\$ software in a hands-on workshop held at the Hanna Learning Center's computer lab.

Carbon 101 Workshop – February 11, Veteran

CARA hosted one of a series of seminars on carbon credits organized by ARECA member associations. A number of speakers addressed issues related to carbon offsets, market opportunities and what lies ahead in the future of carbon trading.

CARA Annual Project Review – February 24, Youngstown

CARA's Annual General Meeting/Projects Review was held February 24 at the Youngstown Community Hall. In addition to general business items, the agenda included program highlights by staff members.

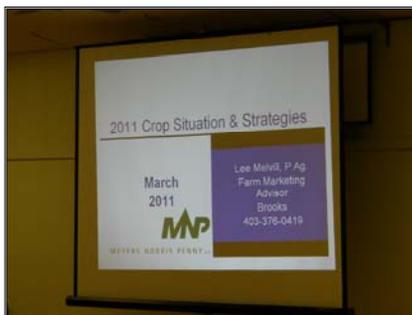


CowCalfenomics Seminar – March 9, Hanna

CARA assisted Alberta Agriculture in promoting the CowCalfenomics information seminars and also performed the registration for the event in Hanna.

Crop Strategy Seminar – March 17, Oyen

Crop producers were provided with information on crop disease by Barry Little of 2020 Seed Labs and fertilizer requirements by ARD's Mark Cutts. Marketing Consultant Lee Melvill led the group in a discussion on the crop market outlook for the coming year.



Combine Clinic – March 21, Big Stone

Martin Reichelt, from Germany, spent a day in Kirby Laughlin's shop with local farmers discussing how to get the most performance out of their combines

Classroom Ag Program – March/April

Candice Armstrong and Aaron Dietrich delivered presentations to elementary students at Oyen Public, Oyen Assumption, New Brigden and Prairieview Colony schools. They discussed the importance of agriculture, the environment and safety.

Shelterbelt Workshop – April 19, Oyen

Nigel Seymour provided pruning guidance and other tips for maintaining shelterbelts at an early spring workshop held in Oyen.



Progressive Farm Safety Camp – June 2, Oyen

CARA staff joined forces with local Alberta Health Services personnel to conduct a Progressive Safety Day for local students June 2. The Camp took place at the Crossroads Centre, Oyen and included over 200 students in grades one through six from Berry Creek, New Brigden, Oyen Public, Oyen Assumption, Warren Peers and Youngstown schools. A highlight of the day was the opening presentation by Darrow Tye, a retired farmer who had lost his hand in a harvesting incident. The students and their

teachers/supervisors spent the rest of the day rotating through nine stations, giving them targeted discussion on a number of safety issues. The Safety Day would not have been possible without the tremendous support received from local businesses and volunteers.



Canola Crop Walks – June 15 & August 17, Consort

With support from the Canola Council of Canada and the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, CARA established a field demonstration of various canola seeding practices. Two crop walks were held at the site during the summer when Agronomists Troy Prosofsky and Dan Orchard led discussions on the best management practices for growing canola.



SPARC Tour – June 27, Swift Current

CARA staff members, Candice and Brandon Armstrong and Aaron Dietrich, attended the Forage Project Tour at the Semi-arid Prairie Agricultural Research Center in Swift Current.

Crop Diagnostic School – July 5, Lethbridge

Crop Agronomist Audrey Bamber attended this field school produced by Farming Smarter.

Summer Crop Tour – July 14, Oyen/Acadia Valley areas

Producers visited several project sites in the eastern area of Special Area 3 and the MD of Acadia during CARA's annual summer crop tour. Stops included a winter wheat trial site, 2 spring cereal variety trial sites, a field pea variety trial, the lentil variety and weed control field demonstration and an oilseed variety trial site. Jenn Walker, from the Alberta Pulse Growers, joined the tour to share production tips for the pulse crops.



Summer Forage Tour – July 10, Consort



The use of annual crops for forage was the focus of CARA's 2011 summer forage tour held at the Redel project site west of Consort. An interesting information exchange was made with students from an Agricultural College in France who participated in the tour.

Yearling Management and Marketing Seminar (Dr. Gordon Hazard) – September 15, Big Stone

CARA partnered with the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association to bring Dr. Gordon Hazard, a retired veterinarian and well-known grazing specialist from Mississippi, to the Big Stone Community Hall in September. Dr. Hazard shared many tips from his 80 plus years of experience in managing yearlings on grass, reducing stress, limiting shrink and maximizing return per head with the 45 cattlemen who attended.

Cattlemen Clinic – October 13, Oyen

Four hot topics for fall were up for discussion at CARA's 2nd Annual Cattlemen Clinic at the Crossroads Center in Oyen on October 13. Barry Yaremco, Feed Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, began the day with a presentation on managing different qualities of feed and problems such as ergot and nitrates. Dr. Cec Ruschkowski, Oyen Vet Services, brought everyone up to date on new drugs which are now available for use. A panel discussion on 'less stress' weaning options included information on weaning onto swath grazing; Travis Foot, Foot Print Farms, Esther who relayed his experience with using quiet wean nose flaps, and Leroy Lausen who showed everyone a no stress sorting alley he uses to wean calves in his Hanna operation. Winding up the day was a Market Outlook presentation by Debbie McMillin, Alberta Ag Consulting of Hanna. Clinic participants also had the opportunity to discuss Price Protection Programs with Haley Rutherford of AFSC and electric fencing options with John and Kelsey Beasley of Deer River Ranching.



Canola Grower Seminar – November 16, Acadia Valley

Canola Council Agronomists Troy Prosofsky and Dan Orchard discussed many canola production tips with farmers during a grower's meeting in Acadia Valley.

Traceability Program

CARA assisted 46 producers with age verification of over 4500 calves and provided information on Premise ID and other traceability issues during 2011.

Growing Forward Program

CARA responded to 45 inquiries regarding the Growing Forward program, assisted 17 producers with applications resulting in \$183,000 in grant money.

Sample Analysis

CARA provided 70 producers with information, use of a bale probe and/or facilitated analysis of 182 feed, seed, soil and crop disease samples during 2011.

General Inquiries

CARA responded to inquiries from 53 producers requesting specific information on crops, forages and agronomics.

Information Updates by Email

CARA maintains email contact lists of over 200 members for regular information and coming event updates.

Conference Management

CARA managed administration and registration for the Western Canadian Holistic Management (February in Lloydminster) and Capturing Feed Grains and Forage Opportunities (November in Strathmore) conferences