



Grain, Grass & Growth

September 2017

www.chinookappliedresearch.ca

CARA's Soil Lab Initiative

Progress towards a working soil lab has been painfully slow, but a major step ahead was achieved September 7 when the classroom structure was settled into its place at the CARA Center. Thanks to Neufeld Movers, the structure is now ready for the renovations necessary to prepare it to contain the lab equipment which has been waiting for a permanent home. Much of the equipment was donated to CARA by RA West International. Other pieces were purchased by CARA through capital grants. An ATCO trailer, donated by the Special Areas Board, will sit adjacent to the lab building for use in sample preparation.

Producers and researchers from across Alberta have been patiently waiting for the lab to begin the evaluation of samples for biological and physical properties. Although not yet fully functional, it is getting closer as water and power will soon be installed and other renovations take place. CARA's Dr. Yamily Zavala is anxious to finally move ahead with her lab development, which will ultimately have the capacity to perform the following tests:

Physical Indicators: Aggregation stability, compaction, texture, bulk density, percent pore space, volumetric water content)

Biological Indicators: Biological activity (active carbon, soil microbial respiration) and Soil Food Web Biology (active & total bacteria, active & total fungi, fungal and predator feeding nematodes, mycorrhizal colonization)

Analysis of chemical indicators (eg. pH, EC and basic or complete fertility) will be done by Commercial Labs.

We have had requests from producers who wish to be part of the lab development or contribute towards renovation costs. CARA has Charitable Status with Revenue Canada so any donations can be tax deductible. Donations will be formally recognized in the new building. Call Dianne for details. Many thanks for the donations already received!!

Picture of building, movers



This fall will be busy for all CARA staff while the building is transformed into a lab, harvest completed, samples processed, data evaluated and extension events are held. Watch for information on several events which appear within this newsletter.

Equipment for Sale: CARA will be asking for tenders on some equipment which we are no longer using, including a 1990 Winter Steiger plot combine, fertilizer spreader, 17 hp IH tractor, truck mounted sprayer and some smaller pieces. Watch for pictures and information in our next newsletter.

Aeration and Drying Pulse Crops

Alberta Ag Crop Specialist Neil Whatley, August 2017

Pulse crops retain their quality and maximize their marketability when a few grain storage guidelines are followed. Downgrading of pulses can occur when cracked seed coats or split seeds are present in the sample, or if a significant amount of seeds are heated or have a musty odour.

The following table, set by the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC), indicates a dry seed per cent moisture content standard for safe storage and grading of common pulse crops.

	Dry %	
Pea	16 or less	Monitoring stored pulses begins shortly after harvest with grain spoilage risk increasing if the crop was harvested after wet weather or an early frost.
Red Lentil	13 or less	
Green Lentil	14 or less	Since pulses are combined at tough or higher seed moisture content to prevent mechanical damage to the seeds, aeration is used to bring the crop down to
Faba Bean	16 or less	

dry. Dr. Joy Agnew of the Prairie Agriculture Machinery Institute (PAMI) claims that since pulses are harvested early, the weather generally cooperates for effective aeration and natural air drying; additional heat with a supplemental heating system is usually not required.

Green seeds, dockage and foreign material hold moisture and should therefore be cleaned out of the sample prior to storage to avoid heating in the bin. They can also reduce aeration air flow.

Generally pulse crop seeds continue to respire or breathe after being harvested, causing the crop to go through a 'sweat' period for the initial six weeks in storage. This sweating can raise the grain temperature and cause moisture to accumulate within the grain mass, producing favourable conditions for mould growth. Using aeration bins is the most effective method to control this situation.

Whether to use aeration, natural air drying (NAD) without additional heat or a heated air drying system depends on the grain's moisture content. If the grain is somewhat tough at 1-2% moisture content above dry, aeration is usually sufficient. However, if the grain must come down 3-4% moisture content, a NAD system removes this extra moisture. While aeration can be completed in a few days, drying can take a couple weeks.

If only aeration is required, PAMI advises producers to turn aeration fans on as soon as the ducts are covered with grain and run them continuously until the average temperature of the grain is at 15 degrees Celsius or less. Although fans can be turned off during rain storms, PAMI suggests there is very little moisture movement between grain and air at low airflow rates, 0.1-0.2 cubic foot per minute (cfm) per bushel, which is the rate associated with aeration.

Producers who must actually dry their grain by 3-4% moisture content require a natural air drying (NAD) system, also referred to as near ambient drying. Ambient air is the air outside the bin which has the capacity to remove moisture from grain. NAD requires an increased fan size in horse power that provides a higher air-flow rate of 1-2 cfm/bushel. For NAD, fans should be run only during the day when the air has the best capacity to dry until the grain is about one per cent

above the safe-to-store moisture content. Then, as mentioned for aeration only, continuous night and day air can be used to

finish drying the grain down one more moisture content point and cool the grain for safe long-term storage.

Later in the fall as air temperatures drop, NAD systems lose their effectiveness for drying grain. Cool air can only hold a small amount of moisture and moisture movement from grain to air is very slow at temperatures less than 10°C. So, adding supplemental heat to the inlet air of a NAD system increases the air's ability to hold moisture and dry the grain. PAMI suggests limiting the air temperature increase to 10°C and use a Canadian Standards Association certified heating system (not a homemade system). Supplemental heat can be used when the ambient air temperature is between -5°C and 15°C. The maximum air temperature after the heater should be between 5°C and 25°C. The disadvantage of using supplemental heat is that it increases the possibility of over drying the grain, especially at the bottom of the bin. PAMI suggests running fans with a heater until the bin is "average" dry, mix the grain, and then cool with aeration.

If artificial heat grain drying is required, air temperatures should not exceed 45°C for pea and lentil to prevent seed germination problems or to prevent quality losses due to hardening or cracking of seed intended for food use. Additionally, the sample should not be dried more than four to five percentage points per pass through the dryer. For feed pea, dryer temperatures up to 70 degrees C can be applied.

To get grain into the safe storage zone, it should be brought down to 15°C or lower. Regularly check the temperature of the grain in the bin. Measure temperature by using temperature sensing cables that are permanently installed, by probing the grain with an electronic sensor device or by inserting a metal rod into the bin and checking it for warmth at various points from the tip.

If an aeration system is not available to cool the grain, turning grain outside the bin, or coring, is an alternative to aerating it in the bin when the ambient air temperature falls below 15°C. Turn the grain every 2 to 4 weeks until the grain temperature reaches 15°C or less. This procedure involves removing about one-third of the grain from the bin, allowing it to cool overnight, and then putting it back in the bin. When moving pulse crops, grain augers operated full and at low speeds reduce seed coat cracking and seed splitting. Pulse seeds at 12% moisture content and lower are more susceptible to chipping and peeling when handled.

Cool, dry storage conditions allow the crop to be stored for a lengthy period, but if seed moisture content or temperature rises, storage time lessens. The following table indicates the number of weeks recommended for safe storage of field pea at various grain moisture contents and storage temperatures. Other pulse crops are similar.

Table 1: Number of Weeks for Safe Storage of Field Pea at Specified Grain Moisture Content and Storage Temperature.

Storage temperature in degrees C	Moisture content (%)				
	12	14	16	18	21
25	31	16	7	4	2
20	55	28	13	7	4
15	100	50	20	12	6
10	200	95	38	20	21
5	370	175	70	39	20

Source: Sokhansanj, 1995

The Importance of Monitoring Livestock Water Quality

Noble Research Institute, Jun. 2, 2008

Rains in early 2008 have resulted in green pastures and full ponds for many cattle producers. This could ease your worries about water supplies for the summer, but will you have enough good quality water to get through the year? Early summer is the time to have your livestock water sources tested to be sure.

Water is the most important nutrient for livestock. Water is needed for all metabolic processes essential for life, growth and reproduction. The quantity of water that animals consume is affected by many factors including growth, pregnancy, lactation, activity, diet composition, feed intake and environmental temperature. The quality of water offered can also affect consumption and performance.

Many producers rely on wells and surface waters such as ponds and streams to provide water for livestock, but these sources can be contaminated by many pollutants within the watershed. Nitrates, bacteria, organic material and suspended solids are common sources of pollution. Additional factors that affect water quality and consumption are salinity, sulfates and mineral concentrations. If cattle are allowed to stand in water sources, fecal and urine contamination will decrease water quality and can spread diseases. In addition, allowing cattle unlimited access to ponds will usually result in suspension of sediments that can decrease water quality and consumption.


Fencing off ponds to provide limited access points or gravity-fed water troughs can decrease fecal contamination and prevent cattle from stirring up sediments. Wells should be protected from contaminants by sealing around the wellhead with a concrete pad and locating the well at least 150 to 300 feet from livestock working facilities, lagoons, septic tanks and manure stockpiles. In addition, pasture management can greatly impact water quality. Poor forage stands within a watershed can contribute to erosion and nutrient transport resulting in decreased water quality. Careful consideration should be taken when applying fertilizers, manure, herbicides and pesticides.

Testing your livestock water sources is the only way to know if they are acceptable for livestock use. All water sources should be tested annually at the beginning of the summer to identify potential problems and to assess the quality of each source. If a water source is tested and determined to be marginal, a management plan should be developed to utilize the forages associated with these sources before the water becomes health- and performance-threatening. In addition, you can be prepared for potential water quality problems that can easily arise throughout hot, dry periods due to evaporation and use. As always, the sooner problems are identified, the easier they are to manage, even if this means you have to provide a new water source.

Questionable water sources, including ponds that have decreased in size, sources that may have been contaminated and any that were marginal at the beginning of the summer, should be tested again as supplies become limited. Periods of hot, dry weather can concentrate dissolved contaminants through evaporation, leaving water that may be unacceptable for livestock use.

Livestock should be provided with free-choice access to clean, quality water at all times. Water quality is often overlooked, even though research is clear that growth and reproductive performance is decreased when certain components of water quality reach threshold levels. Poor water quality also affects consumption, which may limit feed intake and animal health. Contact a livestock consultant at the Noble Research Institute or your local extension agent for additional information about livestock water testing.

<https://www.noble.org/news/publications/ag-news-and-views/2008/june/the-importance-of-monitoring-livestock-water-quality/>



Cow-Calfenomics

Enhancing Farm Business Decisions in Alberta's Cow-Calf Sector

Date	Location	Venue	Time
November 14, 2017	Brooks	Heritage Inn Hotel and Convention Centre 1217 2 Street West	9 a.m. Coffee and registration 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. seminar
November 15, 2017	Lethbridge	County Kitchen Catering (in the lower level of the Keg) 1715 Mayor Magrath Dr S	
November 16, 2017	Olds	Pomeroy Inn & Suites at Olds College 4601 46 Ave	
January 23, 2018	Vermilion	Vermilion Regional Centre 5702 College Dr	
January 24, 2018	Westlock	Westlock Inn & Conference Centre 10411 100 St	
January 25, 2018	Stettler	Stettler Agricultural Society 4516 52 St	

This year's agenda will cover:

- Cattle market situation and outlook
- Agriprofit\$ beef
- The use of risk management tools in the beef industry
- A farmer's guide to agricultural credit
- Business structures for new entrants
- The value of having a mentor
- Production enterprise analysis

For more information, visit agriculture.alberta.ca/cowcalfenomics

How to Register: Please register by Tuesday, November 7 for the 2017 fall meetings, and by Tuesday, January 16 for the 2018 winter meetings. The registration fee is \$30 and includes lunch. **Registration for students and young producers (those under 25) is free**, sponsored by the Alberta Beef Producers. To register, please call the Ag-Inf Centre at 1-800-387-6030 or register online at <https://eservices.alberta.ca/cowcalfenomics.html>

If you are exempt from paying GST, please call 1-800-387-6030 to register.



What is considered dry grain?

Maximum Moisture Content Levels for Straight Grade Seed*

Barley (feed)	14.8
Barley (malt)	13.5
Canola	10
Lentils	14
Peas	16
Domestic Mustard Seed	10
Oats	14
Flax	10

Wheat	14.5
Triticale	14
Soybean	14
Rye	14
Chickpeas	14
Corn	15.5
Fababeans	16

*percentage wet weight basis

(Adapted from: [Cereal Grain Drying and Storage](#), A&F)

FEED ANALYSIS INFO SHEET

Feed Analysis info sheet from the Parkland Laboratories

<http://parklandlabs.com/feed>

Quality Parameter	My Sample ³	Comparative Values of Other Feeds (dry matter basis) ^{1,2}							Whole Grain (Wheat)
		Alfalfa (2nd Cut)	Greenfeed (Cereal)	Silage (Cereal)	Slough Hay	Timothy	Pea Straw	Straw (Bly/Wht)	
Moisture %		13.0	13.0	65.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	10.5	12.5
Protein %		18.5	10.5	10.5	9.0	8.2	8.5	5.3	15.0
Acid Detergent Fibre (ADF) %		27.0	29.5	29.5	36.0	37.5	45.2	53.0	3.8
Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF) %		38.0	42.0	42.0	48.0	50.0	62.0	67.0	11.2
Calcium (Ca) %		1.80	0.36	0.36	0.46	0.54	1.75	0.43	0.12
Phosphorus (P) %		0.23	0.20	0.20	0.14	0.15	0.17	0.09	0.40
Potassium (K) %		1.80	1.35	1.35	1.30	1.25	1.54	1.45	0.45
Magnesium (Mg) %		0.31	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.14	0.43	0.13	0.38
Sodium (Na) %		0.02	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.01
Energy Values⁴:									
TDN (Total Digestible Nutrients)		68.6	66.8	66.8	62.3	61.2	55.8	50.4	84.8
DE (Digestible Energy)		3.02	2.95	2.95	2.75	2.70	2.46	2.22	3.74
NEL (Net Energy of Lactation)		1.58	1.55	1.55	1.47	1.45	1.36	1.26	1.85
NEM (Net Energy of Maintenance)		1.60	1.58	1.58	1.53	1.52	1.46	1.40	1.79
NEG (Net Energy of Gain)		0.90	0.88	0.88	0.83	0.82	0.76	0.70	1.09
RFV (Relative Feed Value)		166	146	146	118	111	80	66	713
<i>(All energy units are in Mcal/Kg)</i>									
Nitrate %		Nitrate levels considered critical vary with animal. Commonly proposed critical guidelines (e.g. Nonwest Labs) are as follows: pregnant cows, pregnant sheep and young calves 0.49%, pregnant horses 0.92%, sheep and feedlot ruminants 0.74%, horses 1.23%. HOWEVER , these guidelines appear to have huge safety factors built in and if your feed tests high, you are encouraged to call AAFRD Call Centre (below) to discuss.							

Buffalo Farm Safety Day Camp!



Sessions in age appropriate groups on the topics of:

Fire Safety & Prevention

Large Animal Handling & Safety

Farm First Aid

Safety around grain handling machinery/facilities

This day camp includes speakers, hot lunch, snacks, and a take-home bag. Cost \$10 per child.

For additional information or to register contact Sherri at 403.664.2060

Registration Deadline: October 2, 2017

- When:** October 15, 2017 9:30am - 4:00pm
Where: Buffalo Fire Hall (bus transportation to local venues)
Who: Children ages 3-15
Why: A fun filled day of learning about safety on the farm

Sponsored by Buffalo & District Agricultural Society, and Empress Bindloss Agricultural Society

Know What You Are Feeding

As thoughts move to wintering the cow herd or backgrounding calves, this might be one of the more important years to sample your feed supplies. Many of you will be using feed stored from last year (or perhaps 2015), when growing and harvest conditions were much different than this year. Quality of this older feed will likely have dropped. While quality of hay harvested this year might be high as haying wasn't interrupted by rain, there wasn't a lot of volume. Utilizing this higher quality feed where it has the most impact on performance, while reducing waste, will save your operation money. Meeting the mineral requirements is important for disease resistance and overall performance. Knowing the quality of each feed source will enable you to best utilize all feed resources in the most efficient, cost-effective manner while achieving your production goals.

CARA can help with analysis of your feed and also assist with putting together rations. You can borrow a probe for sampling bales and we can also send the samples away for analysis. Call the office (403-664-3777) for more info.

Join us at Next Level Farming, featuring regional commission updates, trade issues insight including NAFTA, valuable farm management tips and the latest on pesticide use.

We hope to see you there.

albertabarley.com | albertawheat.com | 1.800.265.9111
pulse.ab.ca | 780.986.9398

Date	Location	Organizations & Regions	Venue
Oct. 26, 2017	Medicine Hat	Alberta Barley Region 1	Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede (Farming Smarter Cypress Conference)
Nov. 15, 2017	Acme	Alberta Wheat Commission Region 2 Alberta Barley Region 2	Acme Memorial Centre
Nov. 16, 2017	Lacombe	Alberta Wheat Commission Region 3 Alberta Barley Region 3	Lacombe Memorial Centre
Nov. 21, 2017	Grande Prairie	Alberta Wheat Commission Region 5 Alberta Barley Region 6 Alberta Pulse Growers Zone 4	Grande Prairie Pomeroy Hotel
Nov. 22, 2017	Westlock	Alberta Wheat Commission Region 5 Alberta Barley Region 5 Alberta Pulse Growers Zone 3	Westlock & District Community Hall
Nov. 23, 2017	Viking	Alberta Wheat Commission Region 4 Alberta Barley Region 4 Alberta Pulse Growers Zone 5	Viking Carena Complex
Dec. 4, 2017	Taber	Alberta Pulse Growers Zone 1	Taber Heritage Inn
Dec. 6, 2017	Lethbridge	Alberta Wheat Commission Region 1	Lethbridge Exhibition Park (Farming Smarter Conference)

Attend the Next Level Farming event in your region or zone to vote in elections and on resolutions.

All meetings will take place from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Visit albertabarley.com | albertawheat.com | pulse.ab.ca for more information.



Alberta Barley





realagriculture

Don't Be Too Proud to Admit Farming is Stressing You Out, Your Health Depends On it

Shaun Haney, Real Agriculture, May 24, 2014

Farming is a great occupational choice, full of hard work and reward. Like many careers though, farming can be very stressful and extremely taxing on your mental state depending on the weather, profitability and work load.

Farmers and ranchers are very proud people where even going to the doctor is avoided at times for physical injuries never mind mental health. Mental health is something that is rarely thought of and especially not discussed on the farm. Many of us have grown up in a rural culture that deals with depression or severe stress with the strategy of "suck it up and get to work."

For many people this "suck it up" strategy works in the short term but the in the long term many things get buried which can have other impacts to your own health or family's overall level of happiness.

Many of you will have a friend or family member (or even yourself) that deals with stress or depression with vices like alcohol or other drugs. Farm work and alcohol are a deadly combination for the drinker and unknowing co-workers. You need to make sure that you deal with your stress before it becomes a problem for you, friends and family. Depression is a serious issue that is nothing to scoff at. Feelings of low achievement, low self worth, or high stress can trigger a depressive state.

Pay attention to your mental health and make sure you are recognizing any concerning behaviors. Additionally, take the time to make sure friends and family are holding up okay during the long hours of planting, haying, spraying and harvest. Don't be too proud to admit you are struggling or something is on your mind.

Some provinces like Saskatchewan have a 24/7 Farmer Stress Toll free number, or Alberta has the Alberta Health Link so that there is always someone to talk to.

Pollockville, October 25, 2017

Tools to build your cow herd

This workshop will discuss how genetic and genomic tools can help identify superior animals to develop a productive and profitable cow herd. With weather related challenges in recent years there is a huge variability in feed supply and quality; speakers will discuss potential health and nutrition related problems producers may face this winter and how to minimize difficulties during calving and breeding seasons. A local veterinarian will speak on local health issues and concerns.

Agenda <small>May be subject to change</small>		Speakers
9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:30 a.m.	Welcome / Introduction	Local Forage Association
9:45 a.m.	"My Herd and Me" Genetic tools for the commercial herd	John Crowley or Susan Markus or John Basarab
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m.	DSM - Vitamin requirements for cattle	Brian Campbell or Mark Engstrom
Noon	Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	Current feed issues in Alberta and upcoming challenges	Barry Yaremci
2:15 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m.	Proper nutrition increases animal performance and reproductive efficiency	Barry Yaremci
3:50 p.m.	Local Issues and concerns	Local Veterinarian

To Register call C.A.R.A. at 403-664-3777 or email cara-3@telus.net

Pre-registration is required; includes lunch, and nutrition breaks

Registration Fee: \$30 per person



Mental Illness

WHAT IS IT & WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Mental health disorders very rarely come out of the blue. In most cases, **there are changes in a person's behavior, their mood, their relationships with the people around them and their general involvement in daily life.**

These changes can be quite subtle and easy to miss. They can happen over a quite short period of time or sometimes they can emerge gradually over a number of months.

How to support my friend?

Supportive friends can play an important role in the mental health recovery process. All too often, people respond negatively or dismissively when someone discloses that he/she has a mental health disorder.

It is important to remember that mental health disorders are just as real as physical illnesses and that a person cannot just "snap out of it." If you are unsure how to react when a friend tells you that they are struggling with a mental health disorder, it can be helpful to think about how you would react if that same friend told you that they had been diagnosed with a physical disorder like diabetes.

Show your support

Express your concern and sympathy, talk openly and make sure that your friend knows that he/she is not alone. The most important thing you can do is just offer to be available.

Listen. If your friend talks about their mental health diagnosis, don't change the subject.

- Resist the temptation to give advice or dismiss their concerns.
- If your friend discloses personal information, keep his/her trust by not sharing the information with others. The exception is talk about suicide. When suicide is mentioned, it's time to tell a professional and get help! Call 1-800-784-2433

Ask what you can do to help. You can leave this open-ended ("I want to know how I can best support you.") or suggest specific tasks that might be helpful ("Can I drive you to your appointment?"). If you know that your friend is struggling in school, it can be helpful just to offer to study with him/her.

Ask if your friend is getting the treatment that she/he wants and needs. If not, offer to find out about



Family and Community Support Services

available resources and help your friend find effective care.

Reassure your friend that you still care about him/her.

- Many people with mental health disorders tend to withdraw from family and friends.
- Continue to invite your friend to go to dinner, study, talk, or just hang out.
- Even if he/she doesn't always feel like talking or spending time together, it can be a comfort just to know that he/she has friends that care.
- **Educate yourself on your friend's disorder.** <http://www.cmha.ca4>



Need Help?

We all need help sometimes and reaching out is often a difficult thing to do. No one needs to face their problems alone.

The Oyen FCSS web page is designed to help you identify problems you may be facing and connect you to local and regional support services. If you are feeling desperate and worried you might hurt yourself or someone else, please get help immediately by calling 911.

The Oyen FCSS web page: <http://www.oyenfcss.ca/project/mental-illness/>

Support Services

West Central Crisis Centre.....	306-463-6655
Oyen FCSS.....	403-664-2255
Suicide Prevention.....	1-800-784-2433
Hanna Mental Health.....	403-854-5276
Mental Health Hotline.....	1-877-303-2642

Our Story Video Contest


Conférence
2018

Three prizes to be won to the 2018 CYFF Conference in Saskatoon, SK from February 23-26

Want to win a free trip to the 2018 CYFF Conference in Saskatoon, SK?

Enter "Our Story" video for a chance to win!
Visit the link for more details.

<http://ow.ly/C0xS30ewZKX>

Monthly Project Highlight

September Edition: *High Legume Pasture Demonstration*

Incorporating legumes into tame grass pastures has been shown to:

- Increase gain in yearling & calves
- Extend the productivity of tame grasses into the summer grazing period
- Fix nitrogen which benefits grass quality and quantity
- Improves soil moisture utilization and carbon capture depths with their root structure and growth pattern

This project is intended to demonstrate the above characteristics of high legume content in tame pastures. It introduces AAC Mountainview sanfoin in a forage mx with alfalfa, providing productivity benefits along with reduced bloat potential. Field demonstrations were established at 12 sites across Alberta in 2016.

CARA's Site location:

SW 23-33-06 W4

Consort

Cooperators:
Gould Ranching Ltd,



WESTERN CANADA
Conference on Soil Health

Western Canadian Grazing Conference

WESTERN CANADA CONFERENCE ON SOIL HEALTH AND GRAZING

PROFIT ABOVE,
WEALTH BELOW

December 5-7, 2017

Radisson
HOTEL EDMONTON SOUTH
4440 Gateway Boulevard

JOIN US FOR TWO GREAT CONFERENCES IN ONE!

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.absoilgrazing.com



SPAIN & PORTUGAL AGRICULTURE TOUR

FEBRUARY 11-25, 2018

The tour includes sightseeing of the Catalan port of **Barcelona**, an ancient Roman City, the sea-lapped castle used to film "El-Cid", the vegetable producing region of Huert, Central Market of **Valencia**, feeds for animal farming, **Alhambra Palace**, a local **Holstein** dairy, the Scientific Research of Spain, a Spanish olive tree orchard & olive oil mill, Old Jewish Quarter and the **Mosque** of the Caliphs, a tour of Seville, a ranch producing brave **bulls for the bullring**, a **soy crop** farm production, "tapas" dinner with a **Flamenco show**, breeding stud farm of **purebred Spanish horses**, full day excursion along the southern coastline, a **turf farm**, meeting with Association of Breeders of the Alentejano beef race, sightseeing of **Lisbon**, the beach in Cascais, Jose Maria da Fonseca Wine Estate to taste their famous wines and **ports**, dinner with a **Fado performance**, and more!

Price includes airfare, luxury motor coach, English speaking guide, all entrance & tour fees, 26 meals, and 14 nights in 3 & 4 star hotels. Call (403) 270-7044 for more information.

Twin Rate: CA \$4996 per person Single Rate: Add extra CA \$833

Alberta Ag-Info Centre 310-farm

Your primary link to agricultural resources and information

It Pays to be Sustainable

Cargill, VBP+ and BIXS are seeking cattle producers to join the Canadian Beef Sustainability Acceleration pilot, an effort to establish verified sustainable supply chains.

This pilot aims to deliver beef that meets the sustainability standards in development by the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. Our goal is to promote the vitality of Canadian beef in order to strengthen consumer trust and encourage customer investments in our industry.

How it Pays

- Get verified through VBP+ as a sustainable Canadian operation
- Allow BIXS to track your cattle through verified operations to Cargill

Earn credits quarterly for all cattle that resulted in beef from a fully verified supply chain

Eligibility

All Canadian cow-calf operations, backgrounders and feedlots are eligible to participate.

30%

Beef sustainability claims increase Canadian consumers' willingness to buy by more than 30 percent.*

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the pilot work?

- We will track cattle through a fully verified sustainable supply chain, then track beef through Cargill's system to participating customers
- Operations are only eligible to merit credits after successful completion of an audit
- All operations that handle your cattle must have successfully completed an audit
- The pilot will start in October 2017 and run for a minimum of one year. The first credit payments will be awarded at the start of 2018 and continue quarterly

Why should I participate?

- Keep Canada on the leading edge of global beef sustainability efforts
- Strengthen the vitality of our industry
- Earn financial credits for cattle raised in a fully verified supply chain

What is the reward for participation?

- The amount of credits producers can earn will vary based on the volume delivered as well as participation from the industry as a whole

How do I participate?

- Get trained and audited by VBP+
- Register with BIXS
- Give VBP+ and BIXS permission to include your data in anonymous, aggregated reports to the project team
- Provide the necessary information to enable credit payments

For more information, contact
Gurneesh Bhandal, Sustainability Manager, Cargill
Gurneesh_Bhandal@Cargill.com

An initiative led by



www.cbsapilot.ca

Coming Events

Buffalo Farm Safety Day Camp October 15 Buffalo, AB	For children ages 3-15. A fun filled day of learning about safety on the farm
Tools to build your cow herd October 25 Pollockville, AB	(This workshop will also discuss how genetic and genomic tools can help identify superior animals to develop a productive and profitable cow herd.) With weather related challenges in recent years there is a huge variability in feed supply and quality; speakers will discuss potential health and nutrition related problems producers may face this winter and how to minimize difficulties during calving and breeding seasons.
Next Level Farming October 25 Medicine Hat, AB	(Alberta Barley Region 1) Join Alberta Barley, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat Commission for a one-day event featuring regional commission updates, new research findings and valuable farm management tips.
Cow-Calfenomics November 14 Brooks, AB	Cow-Calfenomics is an information session designed for Alberta's beef producers and industry partners. The theme of this years session is Enhancing Farm Business Decisions in Alberta's Cow Calf Sector. Visit- http://bit.ly/2wLVRUD
Next Level Farming November 15 Acme, AB	(Alberta Wheat Commission Region 2 & Alberta Barley Region 2) Join Alberta Barley, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat Commission for a one-day event featuring regional commission updates, new research findings and valuable farm management tips.
8th Annual Cattlemen Clinic November 21 Oyen, AB	Dr. Cec Ruschkowski, DVM will be discussing pain management, vaccinating, and hormones. The local emergency response unit will demonstrate and discuss the Livestock emergency response trailer. AAF Specialist will address water quality concerns and the impact of the new tax laws.
Meat Goat Seminar November 21 Stettler	Join BRRG to learn the in's and outs of raising meat goats! Whether you are thinking of getting goats or already have them we guarantee you will learn something new!

Is your community or association hosting an agricultural based workshop, tour or seminar in the Special Areas or the MD of Acadia? Email us at cara-3@telus.net and we will post it in our upcoming newsletters



Save the Date!

MEAT GOAT SEMINAR

Tuesday November 21, 2017
 Stettler Agri-Plex Pavilion
 9:00am - 3:00pm

JOIN THE BATTLE RIVER RESEARCH GROUP TO LEARN THE IN'S AND OUTS OF RAISING MEAT GOATS! WHETHER YOU ARE THINKING OF GETTING GOATS OR ALREADY HAVE THEM WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

TOPICS INCLUDE: NUTRITION, BIOSECURITY, TIPS ON KIDDING AND "HOW MEAT GOATS PAID MY MORTGAGE!"

COME LISTEN TO A VARIETY OF SMALL RUMINANT VETERINARIANS AND EXPERIENCED PRODUCERS IN THE BUSINESS!

For more info or to Register:
www.battleiverresearch.com/upcomingevents
 780-582-7308
events@battleiverresearch.com
 Cost: \$40/Includes Lunch

Battle River Research Group

TBA events

- Consort Grazing Tour
- 3 Day Grain Marketing Course
- Ladies Calving Clinic
- Young Ranchers Forum
- Young Farmers Forum

Have an event idea? Let us know!
Cara-3@telus.net

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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