

## 2018 Extension Highlights

### Newsletters

Six editions of CARA's 'Grain, Grass and Growth' newsletters were mass-mailed to approximately 1800 producers.

### Winter Grazing Day *January 15, Consort*

The agenda included Barry Yaremci (AAF), addressing livestock winter nutritional needs; high legume pastures with Grant Lastiwka (AAF) and producer Dr. Bill Newton; winter watering systems led by Matthew and Lacey Gould along with Calvin Bishel) as well as discussions about winter grazing options and windbreak designs.. The group visited Generation Gap Ranch to view watering systems and winter grazing.



### Cooperator Appreciation Evening *January 29, Cereal*

CARA hosted project cooperators, local funders and other supporters to a banquet in January to show appreciation for contributions to our program during the past year. Guest speaker for the evening was Curtis Webber who provided a very inspiring presentation regarding his recovery from a serious high voltage power line accident while building grain bins in Saskatchewan.

### Curtis Webber High-Voltage School Tour *January & March*

CARA partnered with local agricultural societies (Big Country, Buffalo and Neutral Hills) to bring Curtis Webber to several Youngstown, Oyen, Acadia Valley, Jenner and Consort schools. He shared his story and encouraged the students to recognize risks to help prevent dangerous situations.



### Ladies Calving Clinic *February 28, Consort*

Over 100 ladies from east-central Alberta came out for



the 2018 Ladies Calving Clinic in Consort to kick off their boots and enjoy an evening of learning, laughter and great food! 2018's Ladies Calving Clinic included calving tips from Dr. Wakefield (MJ Veterinary Services) & 3rd-year veterinary student & local ranchER Zoe Gould and a stress & wellness discussion by Donna Trottier AgSafe Alberta. The ladies also enjoyed a mini tradeshow, wine tasting and more!

**Young Farmer & Rancher Forum March 9, Consort**

Topics for this annual event focus on newer entrants into the industry to help young producers grow into agriculture. Presentations included Dr. John Church and Derek Dooleage talking about using drones in agriculture; crop cocktails with Kevin Elmy (Friendly Acres), soil health with Dr. Zavala (CARA) and a look at the markets by Neil Blue and Jason Wood (AAF).

**CARA's Annual Meeting & Project Review**

*February 27, Cereal*

CARA staff reviewed results of CARA's 2017 program and plans for the 2018 at the February 27 meeting. Guest speakers Oyen RCMP Officers Beaton and Day led a discussion on Rural Crime and suggested deterrents to protect our property from theft.



**Classroom Ag Program March/April**

Dr. Yamily Zavala delivered an interactive soil health presentation to students at the Prairieview and Acadia Colonies plus elementary students in Hanna, Oyen ARC. and Warren Peers (Acadia Valley), Lacey Gould discussed animals and nutrition with Consort and Veteran school students.



**Range Field Day July 4, Oyen**

25 cattlemen heard presentations on invasive weeds (Lisa Ratz, AAFC); dung beetles (Darren Bruhjell, AAFC), soil health (Dr. Yamily Zavala) and Melissa Lee (Canadian Young Cattlemen's Program). Participants also visited the Sounding Creek Community Pasture where Dr. Ed Bork and grad students from the University of Alberta scientists discussed drought and soil carbon storage research projects located within the pasture.

**Soil Health and Crop Field Day July 30, Oyen**

Soil Health was the focus of a very interesting Field Day held at the CARA Center July 30th. Approximately 85 people participated in the day which included a visit to the Smigelski crop trial site where AFF specialists Dr. Manjula Bandara talked about pea varieties, Neil Whatley spoke about lentils and Clair Langlois the durum trials. Clair also spoke on fertility and agronomic wheat research carried out at the CARA Center at Oyen. Kevin Elmy (Friendly Acres) talked about plants utilized for cover crops, Derek Flad (Norquin) provided information on quinoa trials and Pat Sinclair (Crop Aid) spoke about seed and foliar treatments. Highlight of the day was the grand opening of the CARA Soil Health Lab. Participants were given the opportunity to tour the now functioning lab.



**Crop Walk July 12, Acadia Valley**

Farmers had the opportunity for one-on-one consultations with Crop Specialist Clair Langios (AAF) and Nevin Rosaasen (Alberta Pulse Growers) during a visit to CARA's crop trials at the Grudecki site south of Acadia Valley.



**Southern Alberta Grazing School For Women July 24-25, Stavelly**

This two day ladies grazing school was held near Stavelly, AB and included hands-on discussion of riparian and range health assessments, plant identification and electric fencing as well as first hand experience from local innovative ranching women.

**Rancher Researcher Field Day August 8, Madge Farms**

A bus load of Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada scientists and extension staff visited Solick Seeds and Madge Farms to connect with the forage and ranching community. Madge Farms, along with 7 other cattle operations in south-central Alberta, are part of a Rancher/Researcher Pilot program which connects the science with the practical side of agriculture. Each rancher has an opportunity to apply various technologies or practices into their operation and to connect with the expertise behind the innovation.



**Jim Gerrish Grazing School August 13, Bindloss**

Grazier Jim Gerrish from Idaho led approximately 40 cattlemen through classroom and pasture sessions, highlighting the need for understanding basic grazing principles and for building in some flexibility when managing a grazing system.

**Ag4Life Rural Ag Safety Trailer Unit School Tour September, Special Area Schools**

A mobile unit developed by AgSafe Alberta visited several local schools during September 11-13th. The trailer was operated by safety specialists who travel the province connecting with visitors and students to teach them the important of rural and farm safety. With seven interactive stations students from grade 1—12 were able to have the opportunity to learn while engaging with digital, tactile and mechanical interactive displays.



**Feed What You Need October 30, Pollockville**

To help address the limited feed resources many cattlemen were facing, Dwayne Summach, Saskatchewan Agriculture, led a discussion with 35 ranchers about strategies for getting through the winter on low feed supplies. Other topics that were covered during the day were Utilizing the new Feed Quality Tool (Karin Schmidt, Alberta Beef Producers), Barry Yaremco (basic nutrition) and Karen Schmil (Blue Rock Mineral) on mineral supplementing and how to interpret and utilize your feed tests. Olivia Sederberg informed seminar participants on the funding programs currently available through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

### **8th Annual Cattlemen's Clinic November 6, Oyen**

Over 60 cattlemen and women took part in several interesting discussions at the CARA's 8th Annual Cattlemen's Clinic in Oyen. Karen Schiml, Blue Rock Animal Nutrition, shared information on making suitable feed and alternative feeding options from the various feeds available for the coming winter. Dr. Claire Windeyer, from the University of Calgary Vet Med faculty, spoke about peri-natal care in Beef Cattle and Dr. Cec

Ruschkowski led a discussion on VCPR, the importance of semen testing and the new antibiotic regulations that came into effect in 2018.



### **Cowbyte**

*Hanna & December 18, Oyen*

CARA staff provided instruction for approximately 20 producers in using the Cowbytes software to develop feed rations.

### **Workshops December 11,**

### **Environmental Farm Plans**

CARA staff coached and assisted several producers with understanding and completing EFP's for their operations during 2018.

### **Growing Forward 2 & Canadian Agriculture Partnership**

Many producers were assisted with applications to various funding programs during the year, including Grazing & Winter Feeding Water Management, Crop, Manure, Energy, Animal Welfare, Health and Biosecurity.

### **Feed, Seed and Soil Analysis**

CARA continued to provide producers with information, use of bale sampling probes and/or facilitation of analysis of feed, seed, plant, soil and water samples in 2018. Staff also assisted producers with ration development.

### **RFID Tag Verification**

Approximately 40 operations hired CARA staff to complete registration of their RFID eartags.

### **Online Presence**

Website, Facebook, Twitter and Email CARA's website has received over 80,000 hits during the past three years. Information is also distributed to producers via Facebook, Twitter and email contact lists.

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