



# Grain, Grass & Growth

## June 2023

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



### FIELD DAY ON GRAZING MANAGEMENT BY GREG JUDY FROM GREEN PASTURE FARM



Greg Judy live in Rucker, Missouri, 24 miles northwest of Columbia. Their grazing operation includes 16 farms, four owned and 12 leased. They graze grass genetic South Poll cows, cow/calf pairs, bred heifers, bulls, stockers and a parasite resistant St. Croix hair sheep flock. Their emphasis is on working in balance with nature and keeping inputs low

JUNE 23 9 AM

CORONATION  
COMMUNITY  
HALL

REGISTER NOW  
OR

CALL - 780-582-7308/403-664-3777 FOR INQUIRIES



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Not Just Winter Cereals

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Soil Health Initiative

*If you have suggestions  
for field day, seminar  
or trial topics – please  
contact us.*

## Funding Opportunities in the Special Areas

This past winter Lacey Gould, CARA Livestock Nutritionist and Conservation Agronomist, and I were busy helping producers apply to the federal On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) delivered by Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) in Alberta for activities such as manure spreading, grass and legume seed, cover crop seed, cross-fencing and offsite solar watering systems. We assisted over 80 producers apply for almost \$5 million worth of materials that will improve production and practices on their farms. Producers from the Special Areas, MD of Acadia Valley, County of Newell, Wheatland County and MD of Provost sought out our assistance in completing the applications. The OFCAF grant is temporary closed with the possibility of re-opening later this summer however the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) has just opened their new 5-year term of funding for Alberta producers.

The SCAP programs include funding for the development of water sources like dugouts, dams, wells and water pipelines under the Water Program. For projects like digging a dugout, dam, or spring development the producer will need to contact an Alberta Agriculture Water Specialist to review a pre-construction document to ensure the water development meets all legislative requirements. Other funding streams in SCAP include Farm Technology and Farm Security, Efficient Grain Handling, On-Farm Value Added funding and the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP). The funding categories under RALP include pasture management projects like cross-fencing and water systems powered by wind or solar for rotational grazing, adding legumes to existing stands, riparian area management and targeted grazing for weed control. Other eligible projects under RALP include cropland conversion to native or tame forages, shelterbelt and eco-buffer establishment, perennial forage establishment in saline areas or water runs, intercropping with pulses or cover crops and wetland restoration and construction as a part of the Wetland Replacement Program. The RALP, Farm Technology and Farm Security streams require an Environmental Farm Plan for approval. All of these programs have different cost-share and maximum expenses that can be found by going to [www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap-programs.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap-programs.aspx) or the CARA website under "Producer Funding". We are available to assist producers with applying or with any questions they may have.

**It's not just winter  
wheat anymore...  
it's winter cereals!**

Grow profitable crops and contribute to conservation. Learn how: contact Monica at [m\\_klaas@ducks.ca](mailto:m_klaas@ducks.ca) or 403-489-9911



20th Annual

# Southern Alberta Grazing School For Women

July 26 & 27, 2023 . Longview, Alberta

## Topic's include:

- Grazing Principles and Practices
- Soil Health
- Hands- On Plant ID
- Range Health Assessment
- Livestock Handling
- Managing with Wildlife
- Electric Fencing Demonstration
- Riparian Health Assessments
- Ranching Women Talks
- And MORE!



Grazing Schools For Women

Cost: \$120.00 (includes all meals)

Details & Registration: <https://SAGSW.eventbrite.ca>





**Seeding Canola** CARA staff was busy seeding canola on May 17<sup>th</sup> for the “Optimizing Nitrogen Management in Canola in the Brown Soil Zone” trial in partnership with the Canola Council of Canada. The trial seeded at the Smigelski Site is designed to test idfferent seeding depths and fertilizer rates for canola being seeded in the Brown Soil Zone.

# CARA - 2023 Crop Tour Day

**JULY 18 - OYEN, AB**

Meet at the CARA Centre @ 9:30am for a field walk in the CARA trials, including:

AWC Durum Fertility  
w/ guest Dr. Rigas Karamanos

Optimizing Nitrogen Management in Canola  
in the Brown Soil Zone,  
Cereal Regional Variety Trials,  
Perennial Grain Cereal Trial,  
and more!

Register by calling (403) 664-3777 or  
emailing cara-3@telus.net

*Lunch and Speaker Sponsored by the  
Alberta Wheat Commission*



# MASH MASH MASH

Management Alternatives for Soil Health

CARA's Soil Health Lab Farmer Partnership Initiative 'MASH' continues to move ahead. The Partnership is intended to provide farmers with tools to assess their management practices. This includes hands-on training for monitoring their soil in the field, as well as using the CARASHLab technologies. Once trained, producers will be allowed to process their own samples on specific Soil Health Benchmark assessments. They will also receive assistance in understanding their soil health reports.

By working together, farmers will be supported through sharing of each other's experiences along with potential provincial, national and international specialist collaborations. Their suggestions will help farmers make decisions on alternative management strategies which target their specific soil constraints and start the healing process of their lands.

*We believe if you do it yourself, you will see and feel the impact of any changes due to the MASH approach. This would allow better understanding of whether the management changes had a positive or negative impact on their soils and will help make future decisions regarding those practices.*

The CARASHLab Partnership will elevate the importance of working together as a team for continuous monitoring of changes in soil health. On-farm engagement will increase farmer knowledge about innovative tools and practices which are beneficial to soil health. The initiative will also advocate for funding programs to start the MASH Approach in improving farmers' lands, for educating producers and to help each other when needed by farmer-to-farmer training.

## What has happened to date?

- The MASH initiative was kicked off with CARA's Soil Health Mini-Conference event back in March. Producers consulted individually with Dr. Mir Seyebagheri and Dr. Zavala to examine mineral levels within analysis of their own soils and to develop a strategy to balance soil nutrients and unlock other soil health indicators.
- Improving soil health is a priority with CARA's research studies and programming. Several projects are underway evaluating various management strategies and a number of soil amendment products, including humalite and other humic substances, alfalfa pellets, cocktail crops and more.
- Soil health benchmarks have been carried out at hundreds of sites in Alberta during the past few years. Re-visits to these sites to monitor soil parameters has begun. The impact on soil health will be linked to management practices carried out at these locations.
- Additional staff within the CARA Soil Health Lab will improve efficiencies in analysis and reporting of results.
- Renovations of the Lab facility will allow for expansion of the tests and information which the CARASHLab can offer producers.
- Hands-on training with farmers and distribution of Soil Health Sampling Kits and Penetrometers

## Special Events to Watch for the Week of August 14th:

- Hands-on visit to trials of soil amendment strategies and products
- Building, managing and using compost tea from the Johnson Su bio-reactor (composter)
- Incorporating livestock into the soil building process
- Kids overnight camping in the field
- Eyes on the Microscope: Scouting for Soil Microbiology
- Townsfolk Picnic in the Field

**Call the office for more information (403-664-3777). Come be part of the MASH Initiative!**

### CHINOOK APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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# **RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM**



DELIVERED BY  
**Sustainable Canadian  
Agricultural Partnership**



## **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

### **PASTURE MANAGEMENT**

- Riparian area management
- Rotational Grazing
- Adding legumes to existing forage stands
- Bio-control targeted grazing

### **CROPLAND CONVERSION**

- Cropland conversion into native or tame forages
- Seeding strips, grass waterways, or saline areas
- Intercropping

### **TREE ESTABLISHMENT**

- Shelterbelts
- Eco-buffers
- Establishing pollinator strips

### **WETLANDS**

- Wetland restoration and construction of new wetlands

## **FUNDING & ELIGIBILITY:**

- Maximum funding: \$150k/producer
- Per-acre fee calculated with application
- 3 year agreement for each project
- Grazing co-ops and associations may apply
- Need a valid Environmental Farm Plan
- Program open April 3 2023 - November 30 2025

Call 403-664-3777  
or email [cara-3@telus.net](mailto:cara-3@telus.net) for  
more info!

