





Grain, Grass & Growth June 2023

www.chinookappliedresearch.ca and www.carasoilhealthlab.ca





Greg Judy live in Rucker,

Missouri, 24 miles

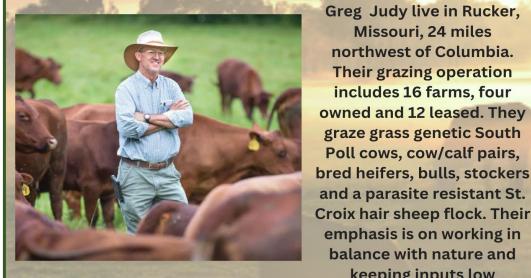
northwest of Columbia.

Their grazing operation includes 16 farms, four

graze grass genetic South Poll cows, cow/calf pairs,

emphasis is on working in balance with nature and

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



JUNE 23

9 AM

keeping inputs low CORONATION COMMUNITY

HALL

REGISTER NOW

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



BEAVER COUNTY

In this issue:

Funding Opportunities

Not Just Winter Cereals

Southern Alberta Women's Grazing School

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

CARA Crop Field Day

MASH: CARA's 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 <u>www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap-programs.aspx</u> 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** or **403-489-9911**



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

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Cost: \$120.00 (includes all meals) **Details & Registration**: <u>https://SAGSW.eventbrite.ca</u>





Seeding Canola CARA staff was busy seeding canola on May 17th 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! Alberta CAR/ Barlev Register by calling (403) 664-3777 or Alberta Whea emailing cara-3@telus.net Lunch and Speaker Sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Commission



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 ich target their specific soil constraints and start the healing process of their lands

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!

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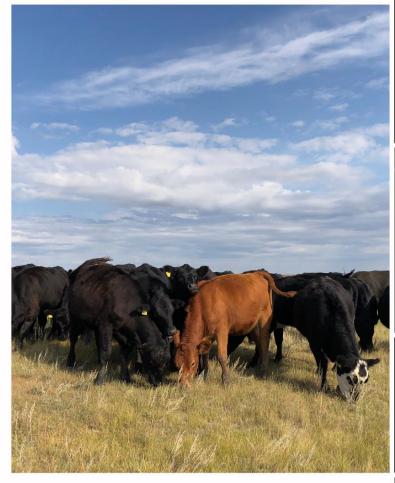
Phone: 403-664-3777 Email: cara-dw@telus.net or <u>cara-3@telus.net</u> Web: chinookappliedresearch.ca @CARAresearch Like us on Facebook! This newsletter made possible in part by



RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM



DELIVERED BY Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership



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

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

Call 403-664-3777 or email cara-3@telus.net for more info!

