



*Sleigh ride with Lori and Lyle Hronek, Buck Brush Farmhouse, Hanna*



## *Grain, Grass & Growth December 2024*

***The CARA Board of Directors and staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. May you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas during the holidays and all that is beautiful, meaningful and brings you joy be yours throughout the coming year!***

2024 was a year of many accomplishments for CARA. It marked 45 years of evaluating and demonstrating agricultural technologies as well as the sharing of relevant information with producers and others within the agricultural community. Our adaptive research program included approximately 2000 plots within 46 trials evaluating varieties, fertility and soil amendment treatments and other agronomics of both annual and perennial crops. These trials were all located on farmer's land at several points within the Special Areas and MD of Acadia.

CARA staff presented, hosted and partnered on the delivery of a broad range of information to over 4000 producers, industry representative and students during the year. Seminar and workshop topics included soil health, crop nutrition, grazing, shelterbelts, cattle production, kochia, ultra-sounding fed steers, market outlooks, safety, genetics and more. Analysis of feed, seed, water and soil samples was facilitated for producers and assistance with Environmental Farm Plans, producer funding programs and ration balancing was also provided.

Renovations and calibration of new equipment continued within the CARA Soil Health Lab during 2024, while analysis was performed on more than 3000 samples. Dr. Yamily Zavala trained 2 grad students in various lab procedures during March through May and also hosted a producer workshop and a tour for the Canola Council of Canada agronomists.

CARA's program would not be accomplished without tremendous local support. Sincere appreciation to the farmers and ranchers who serve on the Board of Directors and/or host project sites. Many thanks as well to the Special Areas Board and MD of Acadia for their continued financial support as well as our ag service boards, ag societies and agri-businesses for their assistance. The collaborative efforts of many enable us to support our local agricultural industry.

A huge shout-out to the CARA staff members who worked hard all year long to ensure quality results from trials and top notch extension events. Thank you all for your contributions. *Dianne Westerlund*

## Connecting with Producers a Success at Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing

From December 10-12, ten Applied Research Associations and Forage Associations from across Alberta brought together over 500 producers, professionals, consultants and soil-health crusaders to the biannual Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing (WCCSHG) hosted at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Edmonton.

CARA was again an integral part of the WCCSHG organization team as Dianne, Rae and Karin oversaw registration from the time tickets went on sale in mid-June until Tuesday morning in Edmonton when attendees started to arrive. Dr. Yamily Zavala was part of the Conference Proceedings and Program Committees. The three day agenda featured researchers from various Canadian and American colleges and universities including Dr. Bart Lardner (U of S), Emma McGeough (U of M), Lana Shaw (South East Research Farm) sharing their findings, industry representatives who support Canadian farmers and ranchers such as the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, and producers who shared their success and failures in implementing regenerative agricultural changes and practices they have implemented on their farms. Featured on Day 2's



CARA Soil Health Lab Manager, Dr. Yamily Zavala (L), and Lab Technician, Navneet Kaur (R), were part of the tradeshow and spoke to producers from across Western Canada about soil health indicators. Photo credits: Kabir Makan, BRRG




**FROM FARM WASTE TO FIRST PLACE!**

The 4-H kids are collecting your used plastic twine for their chance to win CleanFarm's *The Great Twine Roundup* contest & funds for their club! Contact a member to arrange pick up or learn how you can contribute your twine!

**COLLECTING NOW UNTIL MAY 2025!**

**Easy as 1, 2, 3!**

1. Shake your twine to remove as much debris as possible
2. Collect in the CleanFarms bags provided by 4-H members (or pick up at the Hanna Special Areas Office or Pine Ridge Supply)
3. Contact a member to pick up or drop off at Youngstown or Hanna Landfill sites before May 2025

\*netwrap and sisal twine are unfortunately ineligible

Producer Panel was Special Area's own Craig Ference, Double F Farms, from Kirriemuir. On top of the extensive agenda there was a tradeshow made up of over thirty companies that provide soil amendment products, livestock marketing, electric fencing supplies, grazing consultants, riparian health specialists, farm management consultants and various seed companies. The CARA Soil Health Lab was included in the tradeshow and was overseen by the CARASHL Manager, Yamily, and Lab Technician, Navneet Kaur. Yamily even brought nematodes! Attendees also learned about the importance of aggregation stability through a simple demonstration that shows the range of stability soils can have depending on geographic location and the practices that influence soil health below ground. The WCCSHG tradeshow was a great opportunity for the CARASHL to promote their services and network with those interested in submitting samples or learning more about soil health in general.



Note: Videos of conference presentations are available for purchase on EventBrite <https://wccshgrecordings.eventbrite.com/>

Rumsey Community Hall  
4:00pm - 9:00 pm

Tickets  
\$30



# Ladies Calving Clinic

## Feb 27 2025

**Local Livestock Issues-** Dr. Molly Rainforth, Maverick Vet Clinic  
**Colostrum & Peri-natal Care-** Dr. Claire Windeyer, UCVM  
**Calving Basics w Calving Simulators-** Dr. Jennifer Pearson, UCVM  
**Vaccine Handling & Storage-** Dr. Tamara Quaschnick, Zoetis  
**Producer Panel**

● **Swagbags | Door Prizes | Activity Booths |** ●  
**Mocktails | Brisket Dinner**

REGISTER

<https://LadiesCalvingClinic2025.eventbrite.com>



# JANUARY 2024

# GRAZING CLUBS

## "NUTRITION & PASTURE MANAGEMENT"

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH - CONSORT - 6PM  
@ 50TH & MAIN RESTURANT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22ND - POLLOCKVILLE - 6PM  
@ HARDGRASS HUB COMMUNITY CENTRE

FOR MORE DETAILS AND UPDATES:



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



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### CARA 2024 Board of Directors

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### CARA 2024 Staff

Dianne Westerlund, <i>Manager &amp; Forage Agronomist</i>	Lacey Gould, <i>Livestock Nutritionist and Conservation Agronomist (part time)</i>
Dr. Yamily Zavala, <i>Soil &amp; Crop Nutrient Management Specialist, Soil Health Lab Manager</i>	Rae Jorgenson <i>Office Manager</i>
Braeden Peers, <i>Crop Agronomist</i>	Shirley Burns, <i>Bookkeeper (part time)</i>
Karin Roen, <i>Program Agronomist &amp; Extension Specialist</i>	Navneet Kaur, <i>Lab Research Assistant</i>
Karly Willis, <i>Soil Health Lab Technician</i>	Jerry Pratt and Renae Pratt, <i>Field Technicians</i>
Lizanne Booker, <i>Soil Health Lab Technician (Maternity Leave)</i>	Nicole Bodnaruk, Kinley Baier, Presley Bouvier, Randi Meyers, Naman Naman, Jaskarndeeep Singh, <i>Summer Technicians</i>



**Don't miss an opportunity to expand your agricultural knowledge! Apply to join the CARA Team this summer and gain experience in applied research, crop and forage production, soil health and much more!**



The Chinook Applied Research Association is accepting applications for  
**2025 SUMMER RESEARCH TECHNICIANS**

**Responsibilities will include:**

- Assisting with the establishment, maintenance, harvest and data collection from various applied research and demonstration projects
- Assisting with tours, field days and other extension events

**Qualifications include:**

- Student of an agricultural, environmental, science or other educational program
- Valid driver's license
- Good communication skills, self motivated and organized
- Comfortable working both independently and in a team atmosphere

Please submit resumes to [cara-dw@telus.net](mailto:cara-dw@telus.net) or to  
 Box 690, Oyen, Alberta T0J 2J0  
 Contact Dianne Westerlund for more information  
 (403-664-3777 or [cara-dw@telus.net](mailto:cara-dw@telus.net))

### CHINOOK APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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