

Forage Facts

Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

March 2019, Volume 14, Issue 170



Steps for Developing a Grazing Plan for Your Farm

By: Katie McLachlan

Summer is coming (I promise!) and it is never too early to get planning for the upcoming season! What is a grazing plan? A grazing plan is a physical, drawn out plan that matches animal numbers to forage yields.

Step 1

As with most plans, the first step in developing a grazing plan is defining your goals and objectives for your grazing operation. This includes profitability measures, lifestyle choices, and biological outcomes such as soil health, forage production, ecosystem impacts and animal performance.

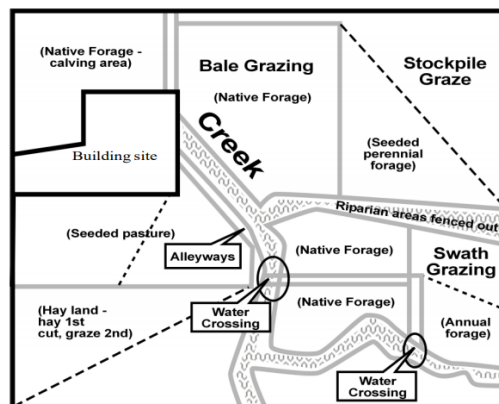
Examples of goals for a grazing system include; increasing livestock numbers, increasing forage availability, improving animal performance, reducing feed and labour costs, and soil goals such as increasing soil health or reducing soil erosion.

Step 2

When making your plan, it is essential that you take an inventory of your resources. How much forage is available? What times during the grazing season is forage available? Will the forage meet the animals nutritional requirements? How long do you intend to graze? What physical infrastructure is on hand or needed? How can you reduce the impact of poorer quality forages on your land?

Step 3

There are a number of tools for mapping your farm and maintaining ongoing records of your cattle, forage, paddock utilization, etc. Many graziers like to use paper charts, excel spreadsheets and hand-drawn maps. There are also more and more mapping apps available such as PastureMap from Summer Technologies. It's free to map your paddocks and start tracking, though ongoing record-keeping will require a subscription. For mapping without the tracking, farmers and landowners can produce their own digital maps with Google Earth Maps.



Example of a completed Pasture Plan. From: Pasture Planner, Guide for Developing Your Grazing System

Step 4

Once your plan is made and cattle are turned out, it is important to monitor how your plan is working. If you make adjustments through the season, be sure to note them on your plan for future years and plans.

Join us on Tuesday, March 26th for Peace Country Beef Cattle Day at the Grimshaw Legion. We will be chatting about grazing planning, adaptive grazing management, the VBP+ program, and much, much more!

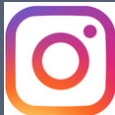
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PCBFA's Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, February 22nd in Fairview.

We would like to send a huge thank you to Kirk Cowell and Nancy Van Herk for their service on our Board of Directors. It was a pleasure to work with you both on our Board and you will be missed!

We would like to welcome our new board members Michael Gross from Hines Creek and Clay Armstrong from Hythe.

We had the honor of awarding our very first Peace Country Beef & Forage Association Agricultural Scholarship to Francis MacArthur (pictured left), a young high school grad from a ranch near Fairview. We wish Francis the best of luck next fall at Olds College!

We honoured a number of producers who have volunteered their time, equipment and expertise over the years. Without the support of our local community and membership, we would not be able to do what we do!

We awarded our second ever Member of the Year award to Allan McLachlan (pictured right), in recognition of his hours of volunteered time and equipment at the Research Farm this past summer.

Our Years of Service award goes to members of who have served for 4 years on our Board of Directors. This year, we had the

pleasure of honoring Nancy Van Herk and Preston Basnett (pictured right), having each completed 2 full terms serving PCBFA on our Board of Directors.



Finally we honored two long time members of PCBFA with our first ever Lifetime Memberships! Lifetime Membership will be given to members who have gone above and beyond over the years, helping to build our association to where it is today. Our inductees this year were Guy L'Heureux & Grant Gaschnitz (pictured below). Both of these gentlemen have served on our Board of Directors, hosted many projects and events, and have been strong advocates of PCBFA over the years. Thank you Guy and Grant!



After supper, we enjoyed a number of presentations. First, we heard a recap of one of our research trials: *Improving the Forage Energy Content of Cover Crop Cocktail Mixtures* delivered by our very own Research Coordinator, Akim. Then, Katie gave us a brief overview of our 2019 Agricultural and Sightseeing Tour to Argentina. The tour will be leaving on November 19th, returning to Canada December 3rd. To wrap up the evening, we heard from Lesley Kelly of the Do More Agriculture Foundation, who presented us with thoughts, tools, and tips for dealing with mental health struggles on the farm.

Thank You to all who joined us!

Thank You to the PCBFA Board of Directors

Jordan Barnfield
Preston Basnett
John Prinse
Faron Steffen
Thomas Claydon
Robbie Hale
Allan McLachlan
Kelvin Krahn
Clay Armstrong
Michael Gross

Do You Have Project or Workshop Ideas?

We are always looking for ideas! Give us a call!

PCBFA Member Perks:

- Two Free Feed Tests Per Year
- Ration Balancing Assistance
- CAP Application Assistance
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Scale & Tag Reader Available for Member Use
- Soil & Livestock Water Quality Testing

Thank You to Our Municipal Partners

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Clear Hills County
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MD of Greenview
Big Lakes County
County of Grande Prairie
Northern Sunrise County



Introducing a New PCBFA Board Director

Clay Armstrong

Hi Everyone, I'm Clay Armstrong. Myself, along with my wife and 2 children farm near Hythe, AB approx. 30km from the BC Border. We are first generation farmers since 2010 and have grown into a mixed live-stock operation of cow/calf, backgrounding, pasture raised pork and poultry on approximately 700 acres. We direct market our products to our customers in both bulk and retail cuts. We sell directly off farm, through social media, and through word of mouth, to families in the Peace Country as well as the rest of Alberta.

We currently manage our land and animals holistically and utilize intensive rotational grazing our cows, pigs and chickens. Our goals are to improve our lands and animals by focusing on soil health and low stress handling of both livestock and family!

I am very excited with the focus and initiative that the PCBFA has taken to educate us producers on the importance of soil health, how to utilize annual and perennial cover crops for reduced inputs and also for

extending the grazing season. With the amazing events and high-end presenters that PCBFA draws to the Peace Country is simply amazing, as well as extremely beneficial to all those who attend.

I would like to see the PCBFA continue the journey with soil health, cover crops, and helping local producers capitalize on the numerous grant available through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.



The Do More Agriculture Foundation

Mental Health First Aid for Agriculture

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Certification Training will provide you with the skills to support someone who is developing or dealing with a mental health concern or crisis.

When: Tuesday, March 19th & Wednesday, March 20th
9:00 am — 4:00 pm

Where: GPRC Fairview Campus, Room AC 144

Mental Health First Aid Certification Training facilitated by Bridges Health

Limited Space Available in this Course

For More Information or to Register:

peacecountrybeef.ca | info@pcbfa.ca | 780-835-6799 ext.3

PEACE COUNTRY BEEF CATTLE DAY

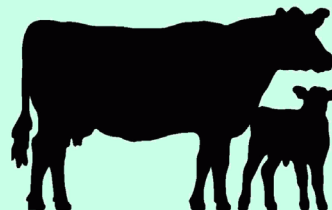
PCBFA GRAZING SERIES

FOCUS ON
GRAZING
PLANNING

WITH PRESENTATIONS ON: **TUESDAY
MAR 26, 2019**

- ADAPTIVE PASTURE MANAGEMENT
- GRAZING PLANNING TOOLS
- VBP+ PROGRAM
- PRODUCER PANEL

9:30 AM
REGISTRATION
STARTS 10:00AM
GRIMSHAW
LEGION



COST
\$30/MEMBER
\$50/MEMBER PAIR
\$40/NON-MEMBER
\$70/NON-MEMBER PAIR



For more information or to register:
peacecountrybeef.ca | info@pcbfa.ca |
780-835-6799 ext. 3
Or Nora at NPARA
nora@npara.ca | 780-836-3354



Upcoming Events

Event	Date & Time	Location
Industrial Hemp Market Info Session	March 5th 10am - 3pm	Girouxville Community Hall
Peace Country Classic Agri-Show	March 7th-9th	Evergreen Park, Grande Prairie
SARDA Agricultural Trade Show	March 14th-16th	Falher Regional Recreation Complex
Mental Health First Aid Course	March 19th-20th	GPRC Fairview Campus
Peace Country Beef Cattle Day	March 26th 9:30am Registration	Grimshaw Legion Hall
<p>For More Information or to Register for any of These Great Events, Visit peacecountrybeef.ca/upcoming-events Email info@pcbfa.ca Call 780-835-6799 ext. 3</p>		

Huge Thank You to our 2018-2019 Board of Directors



L-R: Preston Basnett, Robbie Hale, John Prinse (Treasurer), Thomas Claydon, Allan McLachlan, Farron Steffen, Kirk Cowell (Vice Chair), Nancy Van Herk (Secretary), Jordan Barnfield (Chairman) & Kelvin Krahn

Connect with Us!

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