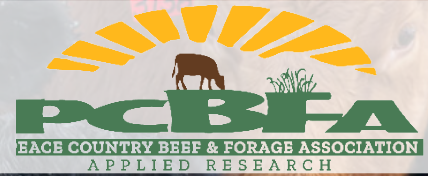


# Forage Facts



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## **Ready or Not, Calving Season is Coming**

Supplied by the Beef Cattle Research Council

There are many aspects of a producer's day-to-day life that are out of their control. The weather, including precipitation, winds and plummeting temperatures, can test the best-made plans in the most organized of operations.

Producers all hope for a smooth calving season with predictable weather conditions and adequate feed inventories, but will sleep easier knowing that they have a plan if things go in a different direction. No

matter when you start calving, long before the first calf hits the ground, there is much that can be done to decrease the stress and workload during a busy season. Focusing on four main aspects of planning can ensure a safe and successful calving season.

### **Prevent disease before it starts by having a biosecurity plan.**

- Avoid comingling any new cattle with pregnant cows and implement strict quarantine times for animals coming back to the main herd.
- Separate classes of cattle into different areas so you can manage risk based on what group is most susceptible to disease. Naïve animals such as first calf



heifers and new calves should be kept in the highest risk category. Consider implementing a calving strategy to help minimize calthood disease.

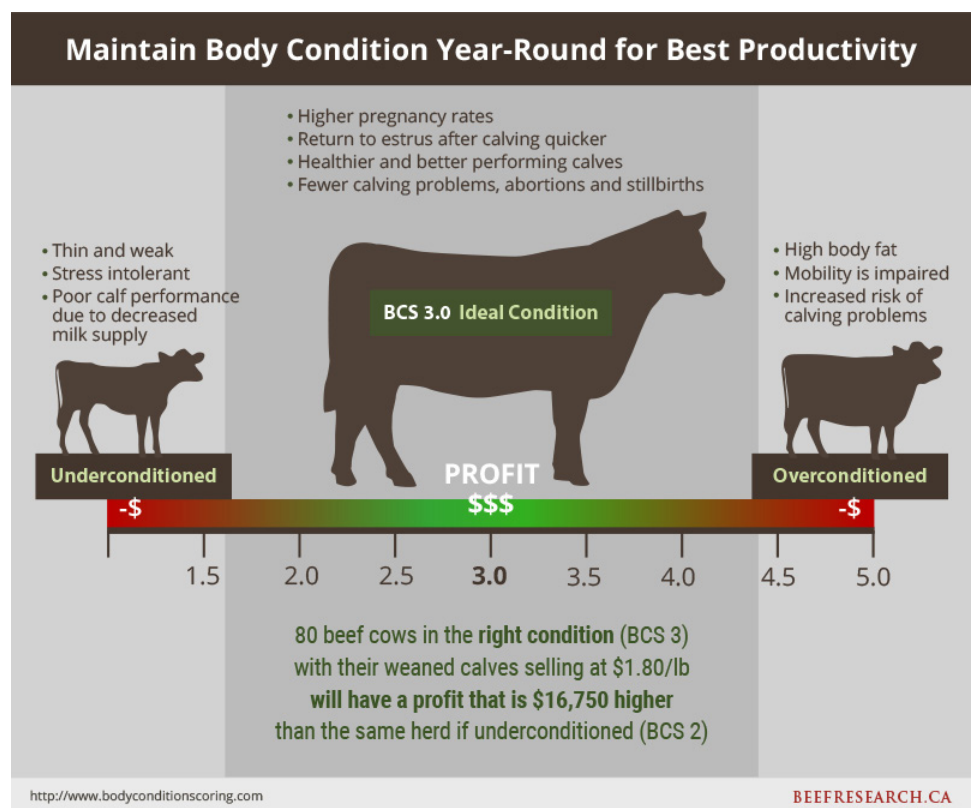
- Print off a Google map of your calving areas so you can strategically plan how to move through groups of cattle in your day-to-day chores to prevent the spread of contaminants to high-risk animals.
- Eliminate possible contaminants such as old feed piles, manure and dead-stock. Think ahead to spring melt and be prepared for wet areas and how drainage can lead to standing stagnant water and disease reservoirs. Always have adequate dry bedding available when it is not possible to move cattle to clean and dry areas.
- Clean your equipment. Ensure that the loader tractor you used to spread manure in the fall has been properly cleaned and disinfected before using it to bed new calves.
- Create areas on your farm specifically for sick animals. Ensure those animals do not share water or have cross-fence contact with healthy animals. Never place sick animals in the same area as naïve animals, such as first-calf heifers.

### Use your feed wisely and allocate according to animals' nutritional requirements.

- Evaluate the body condition score of your herd and decide if changes need to be made in order to raise or lower the score.
- Test your feed and use the results. Ensure that you are feeding the appropriate ration as the cow herd enters the production stage with

highest nutritional requirements.

- Review your feed budget. Are you still on track with your fall feeding plan? Measure your inventory, calculate your feed use and make sure you have enough minerals or supplements to get you through the busy season.
- Consider access to your feed supply. As the snow piles up or the frost comes out of the ground are you able to easily access all feed sources?



From *beefresearch.ca*

### Ensure your herd health management is on point; healthy cows make healthy calves.

- Make certain your cows are properly vaccinated to ensure quality colostrum.
- Discuss your calving plan with your veterinarian. This will ensure that your Veterinary-Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) is current so you can access timely advice and medications if problems arise.
- Stock your farm's medicine supply with the appropriate medications in case of illness and

# Calving Season is Coming!



develop protocols on how and when to use them.

- Clean your calving supplies, keep them in good working order and readily available.
- Stock quality colostrum supplements and/or replacers.
- Prepare calving sites and plan for adverse weather events. This includes being able to access handling facilities in case of an emergency. Always have a plan or a readily accessible trailer in case you need to haul an animal to the veterinarian.

## Set goals and level up your record-keeping.

- Evaluate last year's calving records. Address the problem areas and refine what went well.
- Decide what data you would like to capture and what you plan to do with it.
- Update your protocols including any prescriptions that may be needed.
- Take the opportunity to train any staff or family members who may not be fully up to date on the record keeping process. Explain any new systems and stress the importance of consistent records.

Stay tuned to future editions of Forage Facts for more tips to get you through Calving Season.

Happy Calving!

## Calving Equipment Checklist

- Calving Chains & Handles
- Calf Puller
- Head Snare
- Esophageal Feeder
- Thermometer
- Calf Sled
- Latex Gloves
- Obstetrical Sleeves
- Calf Bottle
- Sterile Syringes & Needles
- Buckets
- Rags
- Obstetrical Lubricant
- Medications
- Frozen or Packaged Colostrum
- Electrolytes
- Flashlight
- Record Book
- Pens & Pencils



Event	Date & Time	Location
Winter Watering Systems Tour	Thursday, January 26th	Eaglesham
Peace Agronomy Update	Monday, January 30th	Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview
Drought Recovery Series - Grazing Planning with Jim Gerrish	Friday, February 3rd	Online Webinar
Below Ground - Soil Health & Wealth	Wednesday, February 8th	Rycroft
Cocktail & OFCAF Workshop	Thursday, February 9th	Sexsmith
Cocktail & OFCAF Workshop	Friday, February 10th	Falher
Drought Recovery Series - Nutrient Management with Akim Omokanye	Friday, February 10th	Online Webinar
Drought Recovery Series - Hay Production & Feed Planning with Barry Yaremcio	Friday, February 17th	Online Webinar

**For More Information or to Register:**  
[peacecountrybeef.ca](http://peacecountrybeef.ca) | 780-523-4033 | [info@pcbfa.ca](mailto:info@pcbfa.ca)

**We Are  
Hiring!!**



## Summer Agriculture Research Technicians

Full Time from May 1 –August 31, 2023

Location: Fairview, AB

The Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) is a non-profit, producer run group that strives to provide leading edge, credible and locally viable information to Peace Country producers, through our applied research and extension programs. Our vision is to create agricultural systems that are profitable, regenerative, self-sustaining and self-maintaining. We bring together a network of innovative producers to discuss ideas and develop profitable and sustainable ways to produce forages and livestock.

We are looking for several ambitious and hard-working Summer Agriculture Research Technicians to be part of our PCBFA team. Someone who has a genuine interest in the agriculture industry, and even better – ag research!

As a Summer Agriculture Research Technician, you will work closely with our Lead Research Technician. You will gain hands-on experience in all aspects of the applied research process – from field design and planning, set up and implementation of research projects, to collecting, compiling and analyzing data.

If you enjoy time outdoors, a fast-paced work environment, and doing something different every day, you will appreciate the fieldwork associated to ag research! Some of your duties would include assisting with sorting and weighing seed and samples, plot layout, seeding, mowing, spraying, harvesting, plot maintenance, soil sampling, data collection, and taking field notes and observations. These duties will be carried out in variable weather conditions.

You will also provide support in the planning, coordination and implementation of tours, workshops, and field days put on by PCBFA for local farmers and agronomists, and get to listen to some great speakers! A smaller portion of your time will be spent in the office helping with the writing, preparation, and mailing of extension articles and publications, as well as the compiling, analyzing, and reporting of project data generated from research projects.

Qualifications: Must have valid driver's license, strong communication and teamwork skills, detail oriented, and ability to work extended hours as required. Any experience related to farming operations is an asset. Please indicate if you have practice or knowledge with any of the following – load/haul trailers, operate tractor, combine, ATV or any other machinery. Wage negotiable depending on experience. Start and end dates are flexible. Assistance with affordable housing options is available.

If you're interested, please send a cover letter and resume to [manager@pcbfa.ca](mailto:manager@pcbfa.ca).

Application Deadline: January 15th, 2023\*

\*spots may be filled prior to deadline if suitable candidates are found

Grant Gaschnitz was a prominent figure across the Peace Region, and had a significant impact on the agriculture community. He was a champion of strengthening Peace Country farms and ranches, ensuring the region got the attention it deserved, and was especially dedicated to encouraging and supporting young people in becoming successful and thriving farmers and ranchers.

The sponsorship is administered by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association, an organization that was strongly supported by Grant; Grant was a member for many years, sat on the board of directors, and was awarded a lifetime membership. The Peace Country Beef & Forage Association is a non-profit, producer run group that strives to provide leading edge, credible and locally useful information to Peace Country producers, through applied research and extension programs. The Gaschnitz family would like to continue to offer the support Grant offered for our young producers for so many years by creating a sponsorship that will support an endeavor that a young Peace Country farmer or rancher wants to pursue that will help him/her to succeed with their operation and further their education and management skills.

### Application Criteria:

- Must be a resident of the Alberta Peace Region
- Must be an agricultural producer
- Applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 40
- Application must ask for support in pursuing further education in an agriculture related area



- This education could be a producer course or conference OR post-secondary program (degree or diploma) that will further their knowledge and management skills related to farming or ranching in the Peace Country
- Open to anyone interested in furthering agriculture knowledge; applicants do not have to be enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

### Sponsorship Details:

- Funds will be forwarded upon completion of the course/conference, with at least one receipt and proof of enrollment/registration provided
- One sponsorship will be awarded each year in

# Now Open for Applications!



the amount of \$500.

## To apply:

Complete and submit the application form (Available online or by calling Katie at 780-772-0277)

Mail or email completed applications to:

Grant Gaschnitz Memorial Ag Knowledge Sponsorship c/o PCBFA

Box 3000

Fairview, AB T0H 1L0

Email: [manager@pcbfa.ca](mailto:manager@pcbfa.ca)

Deadline to Apply is February 15, 2023.

Recipient will be Announced at PCBFA's Annual General Meeting in Late February

If you would like to make a donation to the Grant Gaschnitz Memorial Fund, please make a cheque payable to: Grant Gaschnitz Memorial Ag Knowledge Sponsorship, and mail to the above noted address.

## Thank You to Our Municipal Partners!







# Member Information

## Follow Us



[/peacecountrybeef](https://www.facebook.com/peacecountrybeef)



[@PCBFA](https://twitter.com/PCBFA)



[@peacecountrybeef](https://www.instagram.com/peacecountrybeef)



[Peace Country Beef & Forage Association](https://www.youtube.com/PeaceCountryBeef&ForageAssociation)

## Attention East Peace Members!

We have partnered with Big Lakes County & the MD of Greenview to ship feed samples this fall!

### New East Peace Drop & Shipping Sites:

MD of Greenview Ag Services  
- Valleyview

Big Lakes County Office  
- High Prairie

Big Lakes County Office - Kinuso

## 2022-23 Board of Directors

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Clay Armstrong

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Allan McLachlan

### Treasurer/Secretary:

Michael Strebchuk

### Directors:

Michael Gross

Dan Martin

Andrew Hale

Clint Ostrem

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Kyle Davies

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