

Forage Facts



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Open for Applications: On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

From rdar.ca

RDAR is excited to announce that it will be open to receiving applications for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program starting August 4, 2022.

RDAR was announced as one of 12 national delivery partners for the federally funded program in February 2022. Over the last several months, RDAR has been preparing to launch the program.

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) is a cost-share funding program that supports farmers in adopting best management practices (BMPs) that reduce greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions and store carbon, specifically for in-field nitrogen management, expanding cover cropping, and implementing rotational grazing practices.

This program helps producers adopt different practices by offsetting 85% of the cost. Alberta farmers and ranchers can apply for up to \$75,000 in funding for to implement practices related to nitrogen management, rotational grazing,



and cover cropping.

To help producers prepare to apply for funding, RDAR is hosting a series of one-hour OFCAF webinar sessions. These sessions will help farmers and ranchers understand the application process, eligibility and how to apply.

At the time of publishing, upcoming webinars will be on August 15th, 16th & 17th.

More information on applying to this program be available on the OFCAF website (rdar.ca/ofcaf) OFCAF application intake begins August 4, 2022 and continues through March 2024.

Keep your eyes open for OFCAF Assistance Workshops put on by PCBFA in the near future.

Provided by Barry Yaremcio

Covering a silage pile or pit with plastic requires a lot of manpower and supplies. It is an expense that some producers do not want to incur. Covering with straw, liquid molasses, or leaving the silage uncovered is considered by some to be an alternative to plastic. Not covering a silage pile or pit with plastic has many consequences.

For forages to ensile properly; an anerobic environment is required. Bacteria and other microbes that ferment the material first produce acetic acid, then lactic acid which lowers the pH and stabilizes the silage so it does not deteriorate. If fermentation is complete, there should be minimal amounts of butyric acid present.

During the ensiling process, soluble sugars and proteins are used by the bacteria as a food supply which causes a weight loss or shrink. The longer it takes the plant material to ferment, the greater the weight loss.

Poor fermentation reduces silage quality in many ways:

It takes longer for silage to ferment when oxygen is present. Dry matter losses can be much higher than the 5 to 8% commonly found in silage covered with plastic. Some estimate the losses to be double. A Penn State fact sheet indicates a 75% dry matter loss in the top 10 inches of packed silage when not sealed under plastic.

Spoilage occurs on the top of the silage. The black material is rotted silage. Four inches of freshly packed silage deteriorates into one inch of this material. Dry matter losses are higher than what is perceived by the eye.

Including 5% of the rotted material in the ration reduces total digestibility of the ration by 10%. This material should be re-

moved from the top of the pile or pit prior to feeding.

Silage temperatures increase rapidly during fermentation. If temperatures exceed 40 degrees Celsius, some of the protein is tied to the fibre components and isn't available to the animal. Depending on length of heating, 10 to 30% of the total protein in the silage may be unavailable.

The impact of aerobic fermentation with uncovered silage reduces the amount of energy and protein available to the animals. The loss of soluble sugars during fermentation reduces TDN or energy content. Additional supplementation may be required to meet animal requirements. Test the silage and balance the rations accordingly.

There's nothing a producer can do with last year's silage other than carefully manage feeding it to the herd. However, covering silage pits and piles with plastic next crop year can increase the amount of feed available for next winter's feeding plan.

For more information about covering silage pits or piles and the impact on feed value, contact Barry at 403-741-6032 or bjaremcio@gmail.com.



Notice of Special Meeting September 16th



ATTENTION: PCBFA MEMBERS – NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL MEETING

Date of notice: August 3rd, 2022

The PCBFA Board of Directors wishes to bring the following notice to your attention. In order to continue offering our scholarship programs in compliance with the CRA's requirements for charitable tax status, we are required to update the official objects of the society.

The current objects of the society are as follows:

To advance education in the field of agriculture by conducting unbiased, scientifically sound research trials and demonstrations under our local Peace Country growing conditions, for the farmers and ranchers of the Peace Country.

To advance education in the field of agriculture by hosting seminars, workshops, field days and other learning opportunities, and providing written educational materials on agriculture for the farmers and ranchers of the Peace Country.

To protect the environment for the benefit of the public by promoting farming and ranching practices that are environmentally responsible and sustainable, thus conserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity on a long-term basis.

To promote and maintain efficiency and high standards of practice in the agriculture industry for the benefit of the public by offering technical assistance and training on the implementation of best management practices, for individuals engaged in the agriculture industry.

We hereby propose that the following object be added:

To advance education in the field of agriculture by providing scholarships to students who are enrolled in an agriculture-related program or course.

As per our bylaws, we will be holding a Special Meeting to discuss and then vote on this resolution. The meeting will be held at the Rycroft Ag Events Centre, on September 16th at 5:00PM.

Please note: only matters set out in the notice for the Special Meeting are able to be considered at the Special Meeting.



Upcoming Events

Event	Date & Time	Location
Peace Country Forest Grazing School	September 9th & 10th	Eureka River Hall
PCBFA Special Meeting	Friday, September 16th 5pm	Rycroft Ag Society Hall
Cattle Market Outlook Evening	Friday, September 16th	Rycroft Ag Society Hall
Finding Fairness in Farm Transition with Elaine Froese	Friday, November 18th	Chateau Nova, Peace River
Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing	December 13-15th	Edmonton

For More Information or to Register:

peacecountrybeef.ca | 780-523-4033 | info@pcbfa.ca

Last Call to Visit Our Plots!



Our plot sites are still open to the public, and plot labels and information are still at site. If you have not already had a chance, please visit before they are all harvested!

Fairview Research Farm: West of Fairview on Hwy 64A, north 1 Mile on RR 35

Teepee Creek Site: West of Teepee Creek on Hwy 674

Debolt Site: North of Debolt on Hwy 736, East 1/2 mile on TWP 740

High Prairie Perennial Site: Across from the High Prairie Ag Society on Hwy 679

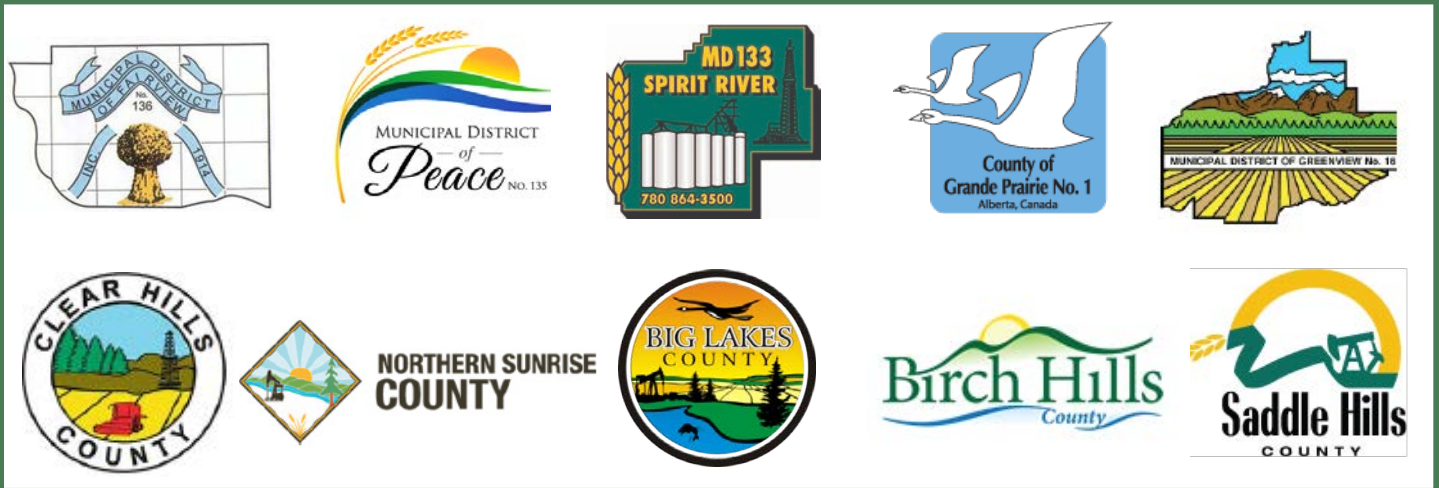
DREAM. GROW. THRIVE.

You have a vision
We can help you achieve it

If you're a farmer under 40, we have the financing and resources to help move your business forward.

Learn more at fcc.ca/YoungFarmer

Thank You to Our Municipal Partners!



WESTERN CANADA CONFERENCE ON SOIL HEALTH & GRAZING

WESTERN CANADA



Conference on Soil Health



Western
Canadian
Grazing
Conference

Presented by 10 Alberta Forage & Research Associations



FEATURING

Dr. Bobbi Helgason, Dave Sauchyn, Dr. Ed Bork, Greg Judy, Dr. Kris Nichols, Jay Fuhrer, Dr. Tim McAllister, Dr. Yamily Zavala, Dr. Monika Gorzelak, Daryl Chubb, Kim Cornish, Stuart Schutter, Dr. Yvonne Lawley, Kristine Tapley, Producer Panelists and More

BANQUET & KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

James Rebanks, an English sheep farmer and award-winning author from the UK.

Early Bird Pricing until October 31, 2022

Producer	\$475.00
Farm Unit (2 people)	\$900.00
Producer One Day	\$250.00
Student	\$375.00
Student One Day	\$175.00
Banquet Ticket	\$60.00

Tickets do not include Banquet Ticket which MUST be purchased separately

SOIL & GRAZING: BIOLOGY NOT GEOLOGY



DECEMBER 13, 14 & 15, 2022



DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
WEST EDMONTON

16615 109 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4K8



REGISTRATION &
DETAILS VISIT:

<https://www.absoilgrazing.com/registration>

Peace Country Forest Grazing School



PEACE COUNTRY FOREST GRAZING SCHOOL

Make the Most of Your Bush Pasture!

School Topics Include:

- Bush Pasture Management & Assessment
- Identifying the Value of Forested Pasture
- Plant ID
- Riparian Management
- Living with Wildlife
- Forestry Opportunities

To Register or for More Info:
johanna@pcbfa.ca | 780-523-4033

September 9th & 10th
Eureka River Hall

Time

Friday 1:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday: 8:45am - 4:45pm

School Cost

Full School: \$120/Person

One Day: \$60/Person





Member Information

Follow Us



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



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



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

Member Soil Testing Service

PCBFA Members receive 1 free basic soil test or 2 free feed tests with their membership.

All soil tests are sent to Element Materials Technology in Grande Prairie and tested for macro & micro nutrients, organic matter, acidity, and cations.

Soil Test Pricing:
After 1 Free Sample
\$50/sample

Soil Test Drop Off Site:
Call to arrange soil sample drop off

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Get in Touch with Our Staff

Liisa Jeffrey

Executive Director

e: liisa@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-394-7419

Dr. Akim Omokanye

Science Director

e: akim@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-835-1112

Chelsey Hostettler

Farm Projects Coordinator

e: chelsey@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-834-8780

Katie McLachlan

Extension & Office Manager

e: katie@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-772-0277

Dr. Blasius Azuhnwi

Research Scientist

e: blasius@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-835-6799

Buthaina Al-Maqtari

Research Coordinator

e: buthaina@pcbfa.ca

p: 403-667-2219

Johanna Murray

Extension Coordinator

e: johanna@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-523-4033

Fairview Office

e: info@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-835-6799

Shelley Henkel

Research Technician

e: shelley@pcbfa.ca

p: 780-978-9088

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