

Forage Facts



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A Herd of Goats is called a Trip.

Executive Director's Update

By Liisa Jeffrey

Hello members,

As many of you know, our board and staff team have been working on developing a new strategic plan for the association, which will be built on extensive feedback collected over the past winter from many of our stakeholders, including members and non-member producers alike.

One of the key issues identified from the stakeholder feedback was inadequate communication between the organization and our members and other stakeholders. In an effort to begin to improve this, I will be providing a brief operational and strategic update to the members about 3-4 times per year in our Forage Facts newsletter. For this first update, I would like to touch on a few key areas:



Strategic Plan Progress – the board reviewed the internal and external assessment report (which included the stakeholder feedback), and then developed 4 new strategic goals for PCBFA. The board and staff worked together to develop 2-4 objectives within each goal, and now the staff team is working on developing the metrics for measuring the success of each goal, before the final draft plan goes to the board for approval. We are expecting the plan to be finalized by the end of the summer or early fall, at which point it will be shared.

RDAR Core Funding – for the 2023-24 fiscal year, we will be receiving roughly double the previous year's core grant funding from RDAR, moving from \$163,888 to \$333,333. This increase will come with some additional expenses and workload (we are now required to complete a full audit of our financial statements, as opposed to a review engagement), however

overall, it is good news for the association. We hope for this additional funding to continue beyond just this year.

Human Resources Grant – we were successful in obtaining a federal grant through Ag For Life which will be used to contract a Human Resources firm to evaluate and improve our HR policies and procedures (including recruitment, on-boarding, training, performance management, compensation, and employee policies), and provide human resources training to our staff team. This aligns very nicely with one of the goals under the new strategic plan, which focuses on the development and retention of a strong and vibrant staff team.

Check back for more updates in future issues of Forage Facts, and if there is anything in particular you would like to see in these updates, please send me an email at liisa@pcbfa.ca. Please also feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss anything I've touched on in the updates.

Thank you,



Liisa Jeffrey, B.Sc. (Agr.), P.Ag.

On-Farm Funding Opportunities:

OFCAF Program on Hold

As of May 10th the OFCAF program will be on pause. RDAR is assessing the remaining funds and working through the existing applications. Intake is expected to resume on August 15th 2023.

The SCAP Program is Open!

If you're still interested in applying for funding this spring, the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership and Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Programs are open. These two programs are the successors of the CAP and Growing Forward Programs and will require an active EFP to receive funding.

Some of the activities funded are: Cross Fencing, Offsite Watering Systems, Converting Cropland to perennial pasture, Farm technology (soil sensors etc), and Shelter belts.

More information and full funding lists can be found at:

<https://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap-programs.aspx>

Mark Your
Calendar!



Join
PCBFA for a
**Workshop &
Pasture Walk
with Greg Judy**

June 13th - Hanson Ranch - Valleyview
(Bring your own chair!!)

June 17th - Bonanza Hall

Join expert grazier Greg Judy
for a day of learning and pasture walks!

Agenda:

Coffee & Registration 8:30 am
Classroom presentations 9 - 12
Lunch included!
Pasture Walks 1-4:30

Cost:

\$60/member
\$100/Member pair
\$70/Non member
\$120/Non member pair

For more information or to register:

www.peacecountrybeef.ca | info@pcbfa.ca | 1 780 523 4033

Can't make it on the day? Check out our website for Greg's full Alberta tour!





We're Hiring!

Interim Executive Director

Full-Time, Temporary (14-18 months)
Location: Flexible, Semi-Remote (Within Peace Country)
Salary Range: \$80,000 - \$90,000

We need a bold and resourceful Interim Executive Director with a keen business mindset and fearless attitude to lead our extraordinary team in the development of agricultural systems that are both environmentally and economically sustainable.

As the Interim Executive Director, you will work closely with our board of directors to successfully execute our new strategic plan. You will champion and lead our staff team in developing an exceptional extension program, and conducting high-calibre research. You will also focus on building strong relationships with industry partners and stakeholders, and manage the financials of the association, keeping clean and precise records.

The job will be fast-paced and diverse, and offers extensive opportunities for on the job education and networking. This is a challenging position, and an incredible opportunity to give your career and your resume a boost – the learning opportunities are endless. Your primary challenge will be to keep the entire team communicating effectively and functioning at the highest level.

Extension & Office Manager

Full-Time, Permanent
Location: Fairview, Alberta
Salary Range: \$65,000 - \$80,000

We need a professional and organized Extension & Office Manager with superb communication skills and a keen interest in agriculture, to work with us to develop a cutting-edge producer education program, and to keep our operation running smoothly!

As the Extension & Office Manager, you will oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization, lead the extension team in the delivery of workshops, field days, farm tours, and more, manage PCBFA's communication channels, handle all our book-keeping and administrative needs, and provide support to the entire team.

The job will be fast-paced and diverse, and offers extensive opportunities for on the job education and networking, as well as a great combination of both office and field work. Your challenge will be to improve communication with our membership and stakeholders, and to translate PCBFA research into accessible and engaging formats.

All positions at PCBFA will receive a fully matched RSP, a great health insurance plan, flexible work hours, generous paid time for illness and medical appointments, and training allowance.

We're Hiring!



Equipment & Field Coordinator

Equipment & Field Coordinator
Full-Time, Permanent
Location: Fairview, Alberta
Salary Range: \$50,000 - \$70,000

We need a diligent and determined Equipment & Field Coordinator with a genuine desire to enrich the agriculture industry, to lead our fieldwork team, run our safety program, and keep our vehicles and equipment in tip top shape!

As the Equipment & Field Coordinator, you will coordinate and lead the activities of our summer research team in the field, lead the development and maintenance of safety protocols and orientations, prepare supplies and equipment for the field, and maintain vehicles and farm equipment in good working order.

You will also have the opportunity to provide input on the development of agriculture research projects, and will gain practical experience in many aspects of the applied research process. And you will get to attend schools and field days put on by PCBFA for local farmers and agronomists, and listen to some great speakers!

Must have a valid driver's license. Experience and comfort with operating and maintaining equipment such as tractors, ATVs, and zero-turn mowers is essential. Experience hauling such equipment with pick-up truck and trailer would be a significant asset. Experience with agriculture and/or research would also be considered an asset but is not necessary.

If you're interested in joining our dynamic team, please send a resume to hr@pcbfa.ca, along with a short description (500 words or less) of why you think you would be a good fit for the role. Please reference the job title in the subject line.

For more info on any of these positions visit peacecountrybeef.ca/careers



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY



Predicted Grasshopper Development

By Ross Weiss, Tamara Rounce, Jennifer Otani and Meghan Vankosky

(Adapted from the Prairie Pest Monitoring Monitoring Network Website)

May 14, 2023

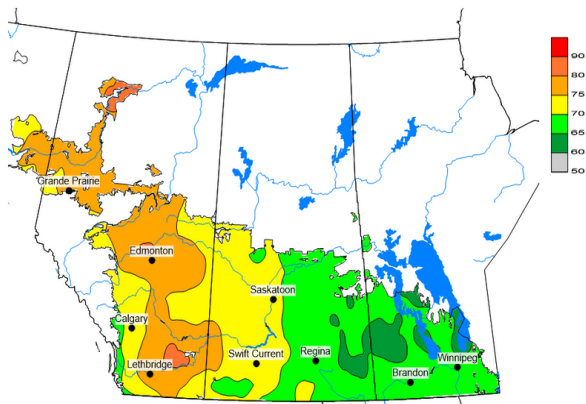


Figure 1. Predicted grasshopper (*Melanoplus sanguinipes*) embryological development across the Canadian Prairies as of May 14, 2023

Model simulations were used to estimate development of grasshopper eggs as of May 14, 2023. Compared with average spring temperatures, temperatures in Alberta and western Saskatchewan have been well above average so far in 2023. Unseasonably warm temperatures continue to contribute to rapid grasshopper egg development (Fig. 1). Compared to egg development expected if temperatures were like long-term to climate normals, egg development in 2023 is well ahead of average (Fig. 1). Cool conditions in Manitoba have resulted in slower development rates that are similar to long-term average development rates.

As a result of above normal temperatures, model outputs predict that grasshopper eggs have already started to hatch across Alberta and western Saskatchewan (Fig. 2). We have received reports of grasshopper nymphs from both provinces. This spring, grasshopper eggs are hatching approximately 10 days earlier than

Grasshoppers
2022 Survey

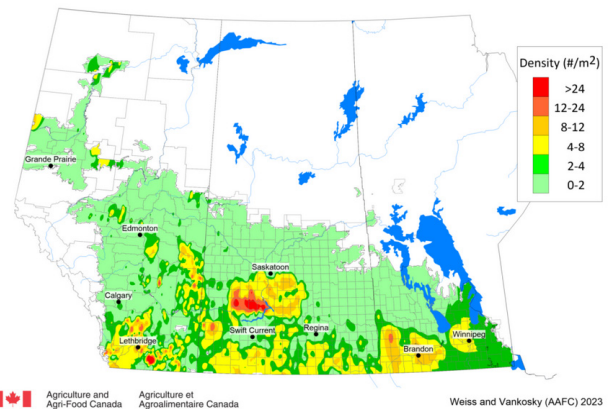


Figure 3. Estimated grasshopper population densities in late summer and early fall 2022 in western Canada; based on knowledge of the life history of the primary pest species, including *Melanoplus sanguinipes* (migratory grasshopper) (Map by Ross Weiss, AAFC-Saskatoon).

normal. Areas with highest densities of adult grasshoppers in summer of 2022 overlap with regions with greatest predicted egg development so far in spring of 2023 (Fig. 3), including a large region extending from south of the Yellowhead Highway corridor to the Canada-USA border. Prairie farmers should be scouting for grasshoppers early this spring and summer, especially if conditions remain warmer and drier than normal over the next few weeks.

May 14, 2023

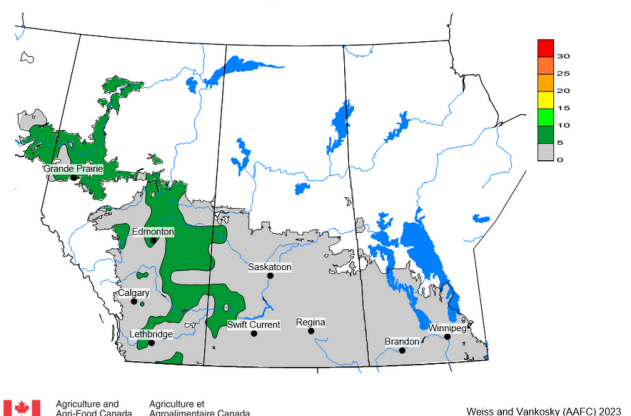


Figure 2. Predicted grasshopper (*Melanoplus sanguinipes*) hatch (%) across the Canadian prairies as of May 14, 2023.

Forage Pests in the Peace



PALE WESTERN CUTWORM

by: Shelby Dufton, Amanda Jorgensen, Jennifer Otani and Meghan Vankosky

(Adapted from the Prairie Pest Monitoring Monitoring Network Website)

This week's Insect of the Week is the Pale Western Cutworm. This cutworm feeds below ground, with larvae hatching in late April through early May. Young larvae tunnel through the soil, producing holes on newly emerged shoots and furled leaves. Older larvae will sever plants just below the soil surface and may pull and eat the severed shoots underground. Mature larvae are a pale greenish gray, with a yellow, black striped head.



Pale western cutworm, Phil Sloderbeck, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org (cc-by-nc 3.0)

Growers are out seeding, and the cutworms are ready for it – the time to start scouting for cutworms is now! Scouting occurs by manually examining plant foliage and digging in the soil near damaged or missing plants – focus on transition zones between damaged and healthy plants. Even if you have not started seeding a field yet, consider checking volunteer plants for cutworms or feeding damage. General cutworm monitoring protocols can be found on the Monitoring Protocols page.

Species-specific protocols can be found in the Cutworm Pests of Crops on the Canadian Prairies.

There are over 20 cutworm species that can cause economic damage to your crop, each with different feeding behaviour, preferred hosts, and lifecycle. Cutworms will feed on prairie-grown commodities including canola, mustard, wheat, barley, triticale, peas, alfalfa, clover, fescue, and timothy. Species identification is especially important! It helps growers determine how and when to scout, whether the cutworm species is found above-ground (climbing) or below-ground, recognize damage, and choose appropriate control options. The species of cutworm will also determine the time of day for monitoring and applying controls.

Action and economic thresholds exist for many of the cutworm species – please use them. Thresholds help control costs by eliminating unnecessary and non-economic spraying and reduce your impact on non-target insects. These non-target insects include the natural enemies that work in the background to control cutworm populations!

The Prairie Pest Monitoring Network is comprised of field crop entomologists who conduct research and actively monitor insect pest populations to support crop protection programs on the Canadian prairies. It includes researchers from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and university researchers. Industry stakeholders provide regular input and valuable insight at annual PPMN working group meetings.

Find more info, and weekly updates through the field season at www.prairiepest.ca



Member Information

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



[peacecountrybeef.ca](https://www.peacecountrybeef.ca)

Member Feed Testing Service

PCBFA Members receive 2 free feed tests with their membership.

All feed tests are sent to Central Testing Labs in Winnipeg. Nutrients and minerals are tested by wet chemistry.

Nitrate, Mould, and Mycotoxin tests can be completed and will be invoiced at lab cost.

Feed Test Pricing:

Feed Tests for Members (after 2 free) - \$45/sample

Feed Tests for Non-Members - Billed at Lab Cost

Nitrate Testing - \$15/sample

Rush Shipping - \$50

Hay Probe Deposit for Non-Members - \$100

Feed Test Drop Off Sites:

Fairview Research Farm, County of Grande Prairie's Clairmont Office, MD of Greenview's Valleyview Office, Saddle Hills County Office, and the Lesser Slave Watershed Council Office in High Prairie

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