

# Forage Facts



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## In This Issue:

**pg. 1 - AGM Recap**

**pg. 4 - Upcoming Events**

**pg. 5 - Farewell!**

**pg. 6 - The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan**

## 2023 AGM Wrapped!

PCBFA held our 2023 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, February 25th in Rycroft.

We held our business meeting, where Executive Director, Liisa Jeffrey gave a review of the past year at PCBFA - highlighting the work completed by the PCBFA team, a funding update, and an update on the status of PCBFA's Strategic Engagement process.

Katie McLachlan awarded the 2022 Member of the Year award to Garth Shaw. Garth was selected for the



award this year for his many past and present contributions to the Association - particularly with his involvement and volunteer-ism towards PCBFA's research efforts on the additional acres at the Fairview Research Farm.

Liisa recognized two PCBFA board members for years of service - Clay Armstrong and Michael Gross had served four years on our board of directors. Thank you guys!

There was 4 positions available on the board of directors, one in the southwest, two in the north, and one at large. After two elections, we are happy to welcome Andrew Hale back to the board, and welcome three new board directors: Bonnie Wanchuk, Jordan Barnfield, and Garth Shaw. We thank Clay Armstrong, Michael Gross, and Clint Os-



trem for their service to PCBFA's board, and look forward to working with them in the future.

The business meeting wrapped up in time for a delicious steak supper. After supper, Buthaina Al-Maqtari & Blasius Azuhnwi presented results of our spring & fall cereal intercropping project. This project was of great interest at the Fairview Research Farm in 2022 due to a happy accident in our protocol.

This project looked at intercropping barley, oats and triticale with winter wheat, winter triticale, and fall rye. The intercrops were seeded in May of 2021 and silaged in August 2021. May of 2022 saw the winter cereals come back vigorously, and the decision was made to leave them to combine. Buthaina and Blasius went over the project treatments in detail and a brief economic benefit of being able to take off two crops with one pass of the seed drill. More information on this project can be found in our 2021 Research Report, which can be found on our website. Physical copies of the report can be requested from PCBFA's Fairview Research Farm Office.



To finish off the evening, we had a Regenerative Producer Panel, featuring Curt Hale from the Hines Creek area, and Durwood Hodgeson from the Girouxville area. They shared and conversed with the crowd about how they extend their grazing season with cover crops, how they manage grass in the summertime, and various tips and tricks for dealing with the various challenges related to raising beef cattle.

We thank everyone who joined us for our AGM, and we look forward to seeing everyone this summer!



# On-Farm Climate Action Fund One-On-One Assistance



**There is Currently Funding Available to Your Farm or Ranch to Implement New Practices around Nitrogen Management, Cover Cropping & Rotational Grazing!**

**Peace Country Beef & Forage Association has a staff member who is available to assist you with your OFCAF Applications.**

**Due to funding constraints, there will be a charge for in-person, one-on-one service as follows:**

**PCBFA Members: \$50/hour + Mileage**  
**Non-PCBFA Members: \$75/hour + Mileage**

All producers are welcome to book appointments at the Fairview Research Farm Office and will only be charged the hourly rate.

Please note: This service only includes application assistance. Producers will still need to consult a P.Ag or CCA for Action Plan sign-off.

To book an appointment to go over OFCAF, please contact Johanna Murray at 780-523-4033 or email [johanna@pcbfa.ca](mailto:johanna@pcbfa.ca)





# PEACE COUNTRY FOREST GRAZING SCHOOL

Make the Most of Your Bush Pasture!

March 15th  
Eureka River Hall

### Topics Include:

- Bush Pasture Management & Assessment
- Using Native Species
- Forestry Opportunities

### Time

9:30am - 3:30pm

### Cost

\$40/Person  
\$70/Farm Unit

To Register or for More Info:

johanna@pcbfa.ca | 780-523-4033



CENTRE FOR  
BOREAL RESEARCH





# Farewell Katie



On March 3rd, we said goodbye to our Extension & Office Manager, Katie McLachlan.

She has made the decision to move on to the next stage of her career with the MD of Fairview. We wish her the best of luck and look forward to working with her in the future

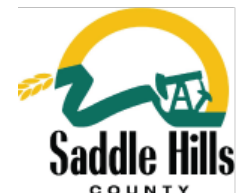
If you were working with Katie, or interested in OFCAF Funding, please contact our Extension Coordinator, Johanna Murray for further assistance. She can be reached at 780-523-4033 or email [johanna@pcbfa.ca](mailto:johanna@pcbfa.ca)



## Thank You to Our Municipal Partners!



NORTHERN SUNRISE  
COUNTY



The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a program that aims to help farmers in Alberta implement practices that protect the environment and maintain the sustainability of their farms. The program is voluntary and provides farmers with a framework for identifying and addressing environmental risks on their farms.

The EFP program began in 2003 and has been delivered by the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) since 2013. The program is based on a comprehensive assessment of environmental risks on farms and the development of management plans to address those risks. The assessment includes a review of land use, livestock and crop management practices, nutrient management, water use, and waste management.

The EFP is designed to provide farmers with a framework for identifying and addressing environmental risks on their farms. The Environmental Farm Plan is a practical way to view your entire farm through a different operational lens. The EFP process helps you to easily think through basic factors on your farm such as soils, water, inputs, waste, energy use and many other facets of



your operation. Having a step by step guide to produce an operational plan can help you, those you work with and other professionals, such as accountants and lawyers, have a greater understanding of what you do every day.

The EFP also provides farmers with access to resources and support to help them implement best management practices on their farms. This includes training and education on topics such as





# What You Need to Know



soil conservation, nutrient management, and water use. The program is also sometimes used as a precursor to apply for grants and programs that provide financial assistance to farmers to help them implement new practices that improve the sustainability of their farms.

Another benefit of the EFP is that it helps to improve the image of the agricultural industry in Alberta. By demonstrating a commitment to environmental sustainability, farmers can build trust with consumers and the wider community. This can help to improve the reputation of the agricultural industry in Alberta and support the long-term viability of farming in the province.

The first step of registration begins through the Alberta EFP website [www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com) or by calling 1-587-200-2552 to receive over the phone assistance. Once registered, click on the confirmation email you received to fully activate your account. Once registered, a technician will be assigned to you over the following two weeks.

If you feel comfortable you can begin your online workbook, with the learning content guiding you through most of the process. However if you have any questions, you can contact your technician or attend a local/online workshop to receive additional support.

In conclusion, the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary program that helps farmers in Alberta to identify and address environmental risks on their farms. The program provides farmers with a framework for assessing their farms and developing management plans to address potential risks. The program also provides resources and support to help farmers implement best management practices that improve the sustainability of their farms. By participating in the EFP, farmers can improve the environmental sustainability of their farms, improve their reputation with consumers and the community, and support the long-term viability of farming in Alberta.

**COME VISIT US THIS  
MONTH AT:**

## **Peace Country Classic Agrishow**

- **March 9th, 10th & 11th  
at Evergreen Park**

## **SARDA Agricultural Tradeshow**

- **March 16th, 17th & 18th  
at the Falher Arena**





# Member Information

## Follow Us



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[@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

### Chairman:

Clay Armstrong

### Vice Chairman:

Allan McLachlan

### Treasurer/Secretary:

Dan Martin

### Directors:

Michael Gross

Michael Strebchuk

Andrew Hale

Clint Ostrem

Louise Liebenberg

Kasity Bilous

Kyle Davies

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