

# Forage Facts



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## In This Issue:

**pg. 1- Research Program Update**

**pg. 4- Upcoming Events**

**pg. 5- We're Hiring!**

**pg. 6- Welcome to Our New Chairman!**

**pg. 7- Regional Research**

**pg. 8- Member Information**

## The Research Plots are In!

By Johanna Murray

The Research Team has been hard at work this spring getting our plot sites and on-farm trials ready to go for the year!

In addition to the Fairview research farm we have four satellite sites with in Saddle Hills county this year, testing crop varieties and methods of pasture rejuvenation.

As well as a perennial demo with the MD of Greenview in DeBolt

We're also continuing with 9 living labs sites, and several soil health benchmarking sites.

As the small plots start growing, the summer crew is shifting gears to start harvesting the perennial projects, measuring potential silage and hay yield, along with measuring the different plant groups found in the pastures and hayfields of living labs projects.

The summer staff are also collecting soil temperature and moisture data on several projects at the research farm, and getting started on benchmarking soil tests.

With the Living Lab work they're preparing to start trapping insect pests, and scouting for plant health assessment too!

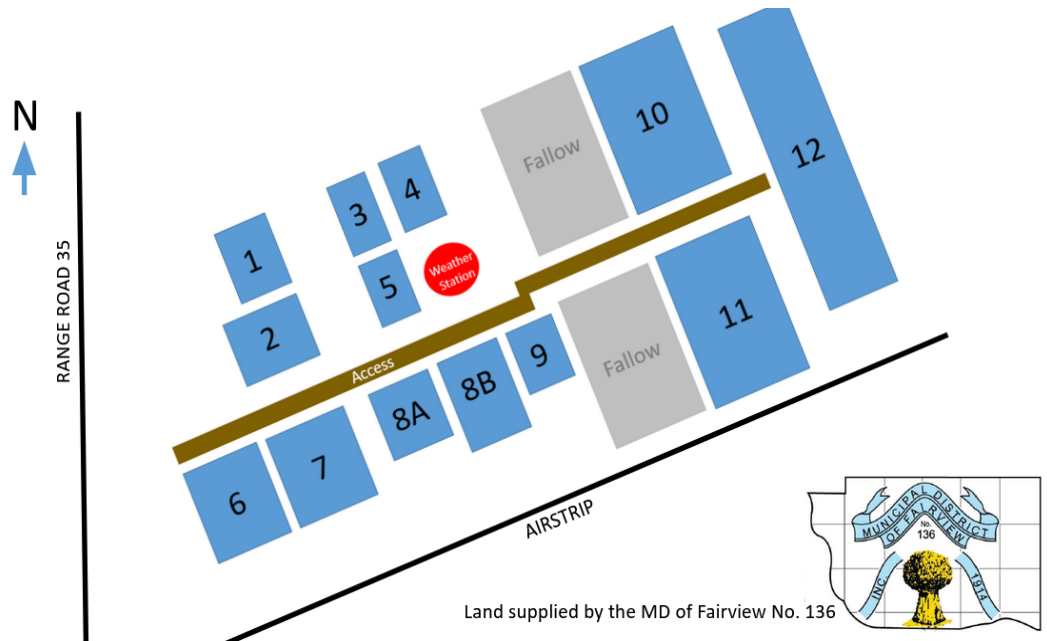
## DID YOU KNOW?

**Alberta beef producers have the highest rate of rotational grazing in the country (30.5%) Across Canada the rate of use is only 20.7%**



Perennial Wheat and Perennial Rye early establishment (2022)

## Current Trials at the Fairview Research Farm



Land supplied by the MD of Fairview No. 136

### 1 Regional Silage Variety Trials: Cool Season Cereals

The RSVTs are a method of testing new varieties for silage production and quality in multiple regions across the province. This trial examines the yield and quality of cool season cereals.

### 2 Regional Silage Variety Trials: Spring and Winter Cereal Mixtures

The RSVTs are a method of testing new varieties for silage production and quality in multiple regions across the province. This trial examines the effects on yield and quality when seeding spring and winter cereals together.

### 3 Soil Amendment: Ecotea™ on Wheat

We are continuing our running trial on the use of Ecotea on a canola-wheat rotation to improve seed yield and quality.

### 4 Cover Crop Mixture Fertility Trial: Covers & Co®

In the first year of this trial we are partnering with Covers & Co on a demonstration of cover crop performance with, and without fertilizer versus monocrop oats with and without fertilizer.

### 5 Soil and Foliar Amendments: Peneergetics® on

### Wheat

Working with Peneergetics, we are studying the yield and quality effects of soil and foliar fertility amendments.

### 6 Alberta Wheat Commission Trials

This trial with the Alberta Wheat Commission is studying the effects of two types of stabilized nitrogen (ESN and Super U) at varying rates (6A) as well as various seeding rates within the recommended range for wheat (6B).

### 7 Biostimulants on Canola

In our biostimulant trial, we are testing the effects of biochar and compost on the yield and quality of grain. This year we will be testing on canola.

### 8 Perennial Cereals for Grain and Forage

The perennial cereal crops we're testing at the research farm are still in development, but there is potential for intercropping the cereals with perennial legumes to improve performance and reduce fertility requirements. The varieties being tested are Kernza (perennial wheat) and



# 2023 Research Program Update



ACE 1 (perennial rye).

## 9 Perennial Ecosystems

Hayford Gyamfi continues to manage this project studying soil function, water use and forage yield of perennial monocultures and mixes. We collected a lot of interesting data from this project last year and look forward to more results this fall!

## Farm Scale Trials at the Research Farm

### Intercropping

On the additional acres at the research farm, we are testing intercrops of wheat and fall rye, and wheat and clover. These two intercrops will be compared with a monocrop of spring wheat on the same field.

### Cocktail Cover Crops

We also have some cover crop seeded around the research plots on the south side, as well as seeded into stubble on the north side of the research farm.

On the north side, the crop will act as a green manure to help balance out the soil that's been seeded to many different research plots over the last few years.

### Perennial Legumes

Also on the north side of the research farm is an on-going demonstration of three alfalfa varieties.

## Satellite Sites

### Saddle Hills Variety Trials

This trial is in Saddle Hills County near the Fourth Creek Community Hall. This year we are testing wheat, barley, oat, pea and canola varieties for grain yield and quality.



Special thanks to our host farmers who donated land, as well as those who have donated seed for these trials!

### Saddle Hills Rejuvenation Trials

Working with Saddle Hills County, we will be testing various methods of pasture and hayland rejuvenation at two sites - one in Gordondale and one near the Saddle Hills County Office.

At the pasture site, we will examine high stock density grazing, feeding legume seeds in minerals and broadcasting fertilizer for yield, pasture health and plant diversity.

On the hayland we will be testing varying times for seeding (spring, summer and fall) as well as fertilizer and the use of chemical herbicide for stand suppression in the spring.



Seeding an On-Farm Project (2022)

Event	Date & Time	Location
Summer Farm Tours with Big Lakes County	July 14th 6pm	Sig Holleis' Farm
Field Day at the Research Farm	August 3rd 1pm-8pm	Fairview Research Farm
Saddle Hills Crop Variety Trial Tour	August 10th 6pm	Fourth Creek Hall
Summer Farm Tours with Big Lakes County	August 11th 6pm	Doug Meneice's Farm
Cattle Market Evening	September 15th	Rycroft Hall

For more info or a full agenda for any of these events check out [peacecountrybeef.ca/upcomingevents](https://peacecountrybeef.ca/upcomingevents) or contact [info@pcbfa.ca](mailto:info@pcbfa.ca) or 780 523 4033



# 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 so that they are 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 organized by PCBFA for local farmers, and listen to some great speakers!

The job will be fast-paced and diverse. And offers extensive opportunities for on-the-job education and networking. We offer custom benefits packages, tailored to each employee as well as a flexible work environment.

Applicants 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](mailto: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.

## Thank You to Our Municipal Partners!



NORTHERN SUNRISE  
COUNTY







# Welcome to our new Chairman

Jordan Barnfield

Hello I am Jordan Barnfield. My family and I are passionate beef, lamb and forage producer from north east of Teepee Creek in the county of Grande Prairie. I have been blessed to have been raising livestock in the area for most of my life. We also spend some of our time running our cattle in the County Big Lakes during summer and fall months.

Many of you might know me from when I served on the PCBFA board in the past. I am excited to be back on the forage associations board for my second stint and represent the producers in my area and the association. There is only one board member that is remaining on from when I last served. The new board is very diverse and is a good spread of different types and different ages of producers from across the Peace Country with many different views. I am looking forward to working with and getting to know this new board of directors, as well as working with and interacting with the staff and the Peace County producers again. I hope that everyone one has a good spring and growing season. Cheers!



## *On-Farm Funding Opportunities:*

### *OFCAF Program on Hold*

*As of May 10th the OFCAF program will be on pause.*

*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 Crop-land 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>



## Regional Trials

### The Alberta Soil Health Benchmark

This province-wide project, led by the Chinook Applied Research Association is now entering its fourth year. The aim of the project is to establish a soil health benchmark database representing points and management practices across Alberta. The project examines how management practices affect soil health and soil biology across soil types and ecoregions. The summer staff will be out taking samples in the coming weeks!

### The Peace Region Living Lab

The farm projects under the Peace Region Living Lab are in full swing this year as the research teams of all 9 participating groups are getting out in the field collecting baseline pasture composition samples, soil samples, infiltration, and setting out insect traps.

All of our living lab sites consist of one producer trying something new and a neighbour, or comparison field, managed in the same way as years past. This comparison gives us a great way to measure the effects of new practices. At the end of the project, along with production data, we'll be looking at the economics of implementing new practices. Keep an eye out for tours and events with the PRLI this summer and fall!

For more info on the Living Lab projects or to see upcoming events from PCBFA and our partners, check out the website: [www.peacelivinglab.ca](http://www.peacelivinglab.ca)



**PEACE REGION**  
LIVING LAB





# Member Information

## Follow Us



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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

## 2023-24 Board of Directors

### Chairman:

Jordan Barnfield

### Vice Chairman:

Andrew Hale

### Treasurer:

Dan Martin

### Secretary:

Louise Liebenburg

### Directors:

Allan McLachlan

Bonnie Wanchuk

Garth Shaw

Kasity Bilous

Kyle Davies

Michael Strebchuk

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