

The Forage Voice



Welcome to the latest edition of "The Forage Voice", the official newsletter of the Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN). In this issue see what's new with your AFIN Board and the Forage industry!



Alberta Forage Industry Network Chair Report May 2018 Newsletter

Weather in 2018 has been interesting to say the least! From record snowfalls into April, a delayed wet spring and now drying winds predicting the forecast for the remainder of the year is really a challenge! What else would we have to talk about from the forage side of things...well... let me tell you!

Our 2018 Forage Update and Annual General Meeting was held March 6 in Leduc, the central location is convenient for those travelling to attend. The speakers ranged from Genome Editing to the Paradigm Shift of Land as a Resource to the Land as an Ecosystem and plenty of stakeholder updates! There was something for everyone! We had speakers from the Middle East (Ed Shaw 2017 AFIN Leadership Award recipient) and Mexico (Kim Cornish), technology served us well! Check out our website at www.albertaforages.ca for conference proceedings.

Winner of the 2018 Alberta Forage Industry Network Leadership award is Graeme Finn from Madden, Alberta. He and his family are the owners of Southern Cross Livestock and he is President of Union Forage. Graeme is constantly on the look out for new endeavours to

President of Union Forage. Graeme is constantly on the look-out for new endeavours to improve forages in Western Canada. He focusses on year-round grazing in high legume pastures, annual crop grazing, and intensive rotational and winter swath grazing strategies. His philosophy is to work with the environment to improve the environment and he is always willing to talk grass! He embodies leadership in the forage industry!

The Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) recently hired a new Executive Director, Alan Hall. Myself and Grant Lastiwka met with Alan and are really looking forward to continue the positive relationship between ARECA and AFIN improving 'network' connections.

The 9th Annual CFGA (Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association) Conference is planned for Calgary this November 14 – 15. Your AFIN directors are assisting with the local details for the conference, it is shaping up nicely, be sure to mark your calendars! Check out the CFGA website for conference specifics <http://www.canadianfga.ca/>.

www.Foragebeef.ca, a website providing technical information for the Canadian Forage Beef Industry was created by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada with help from forage beef specialists across Canada and maintained thereafter by Alberta Agriculture staff. This has been a group effort since the start, and will likely continue in that direction. The site will have a new home in the near future with the good folks at the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) watch for that transition coming soon!

I want to take this opportunity to thank outgoing AFIN Board members Lyndon Mansell and Cyrus Weasel Fat. We will really miss Lyndon, as one of the founding members of AFIN he was the voice of reason during some chaotic moments and his knowledge of Board Governance kept our passionate board on track! Cyrus was a quiet contributor for the Forage Export sector.

Introducing your 2018 – 2019 AFIN Board of Directors who represent the diversity of the forage and grasslands sectors in Alberta, there are some familiar names and some new members to the Board:

Chair: Christine Fulkerth, Olds, AB

Vice Chair: Surya Acharya, Lethbridge, AB

Treasurer/Secretary: Nora Paulovich, Manning, AB

CFGA Representative: John Bland, Irricana, AB

Director: Mark Hagen, Wainwright, AB

Director: Amber Kenyon, Busby, AB

Director: Heinz Lemmer, Dalroy, AB

Director: Brian Palichuk, Seven Persons, AB

Director: Ed Shaw, Carstairs, AB

Director: Brent Thygesen, Armena, AB

Director: Doug Wray, Irricana, AB

Board Advisor: Grant Lastiwka, Innisfail, AB

Board Advisor: Holly Mayer, Calgary, AB

Administration: Kristen Hall, Nanton, AB

AFIN is certainly well represented by this fine group of volunteers!

Here's to a great growing season with lots of sun for photosynthesis and carbon storage and the right amount of moisture to make it all happen!

Check out our Website: www.albertaforages.ca

Follow us on Twitter: @AFIN_INFO

Like us on Facebook



The 2018 Forage Industry Update & AGM was a success! On March 6 a group of very passionate people met in Leduc to participate and engage in discussion about the latest forage research, some new ideas about carbon mapping and to find out the latest from some very valuable companies that work with forages. With presentations from Henry Janzen, Stacy Singer, Kim Cornish and Ed Shaw, there is no doubt that the participants left learning something new! The afternoon was filled with forage industry updates from some very important forage groups such as:

AFSC

Alberta Beef Producers

ARECA

Alberta Lamb Producers

Alfalfa Seed Commission

Wilbur-Ellis

BrettYoung

Ducks Unlimited Canada

A big thank you to all that attended. We hope that you enjoyed the event, and we are already looking forward to next year. Head to our [website](#) to see more [pictures](#) and [speaker presentations](#), and please stay tuned as we start planning for next year.





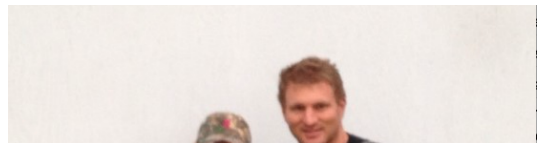
The 2018 AFIN Leadership Award Winner is Graeme Finn. To see some of our past winners, click [here](#). While you are on our website, take some time to check out the criteria for nominations. It's not too early to start thinking about the next deserving individual for this award.

Graeme and his wife, Heather, and their two young daughters, Claire and Morgan currently run a beef operation near Madden, Alberta. They manage a cow calf operation as well as running grass yearlings with a focus on year round grazing both high legume pastures and annual crop grazing. They have been successful in incorporating intensive rotational grazing and winter grazing strategies into their management system. Graeme is in his 25 year of living in Canada and has been involved with some of his mentors for most of that time, mentors like Doug Wray ,Grant Lastiwka and members of FFGA

Graeme was past Vice President on the ARECA (Agricultural Research Extension Council of Alberta) Board and sits on the research advisory committee of the ABP as well as sitting on the board of ACIDF (Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund) , BCRC, Canadian round table for sustainable beef research committee and the UK and Canada AgriFood research council and is a mentor on the young cattleman's leaders program and mentor of the beef council researcher mentorship program and sit on the board of FFGA , and is on the Calgary stampede international agriculture committee

His passion for looking at new ways to do things and finding ways to be profitable both by cutting the bottom line as well as looking outside the box to improve profit margin and run a beyond sustainable cattle grazing operation has made him keen in all of the ARECA associations and getting more people involved in them.

Graeme has been involved in the agricultural industry in his capacity with ACIDF, FFGA, BCRC, CRSB and ARECA to try and help advance agriculture in any way. He is also president of union forage. He is always willing to lend a hand and keen to talk anything grass to people.





We would like to meet our two newly elected board members (pictured above– Amber Kenyon, left; Brent Thygesen, right):

Amber Kenyon

Amber runs a custom grazing operation with her husband Steve just outside of Busby, AB where they spend their summers rotationally grazing cattle, pigs and chickens. In the winter she has been a speaker at different conferences and schools and is now working for Gateway Research Organization as their Farm Energy Outreach Officer. She also direct markets pastured meat into nearby Edmonton. Amber has a passion for sustainability and enjoys camping and hiking throughout the summer.

Brent Thygesen

"I look forward to working with the AFIN board to strengthen the communication ties of everyone involved in this industry through-out my term. Alberta has much to offer and one thing that doesn't always get talked about as much is our export ability for the forages that we produce. As a mixed operation producer I am keen to open new markets and promote our industry throughout the country and the world. I currently reside at my ranch with my family near Armena, AB and my life revolves around my livestock and my professional work with Ducks Unlimited Canada. I'm excited to combine my professional and home life roles into a new experience on the AFIN board and look forward to the work ahead."



Picture from left to right: (Back) Heinz Lemmer, Brian Palichuk, Brent Thygesen, John Bland, Grant Lastiwka, Kristen Hall (Front) Doug Wray, Surya Acharya, Christine Fulkerth, Nora Paulovich, Amber Kenyon
(Missing) Mark Hagen, Holly Mayer, Ed Shaw



ALBERTA FORAGE TECHNOLOGY USE & FUTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT: PRODUCER SURVEY

The questionnaire will take about 20 to 30 minutes to complete, and your responses to the survey are completely anonymous. All your answers and identity will be kept strictly confidential as per Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP), and will be used only for statistical purposes. As a survey participant, your name will be entered into a draw to win \$250 Visa Prepaid card. The survey will be available until July 31, 2018.

Your participation is voluntary but very important. Your participation is essential if the results are to be accurate and comprehensive. If there are any questions in the survey you do not wish to answer, please feel free to write/select "Decline to answer," and go on to the next question.

Access to survey data and contact information. The results of the survey will be available in about six months after the completion of the study. If you wish to obtain a copy of these results before it is released to the public, please contact (acharya@uleth.ca). The scientific publications and/or report produced from this study will also be available to all through our (AFIN) website:

<http://www.albertaforages.ca>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5FF2868>

REJUVENATION OF DEPLETED PASTURE USING BLOAT-FREE

LEGUMES FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE CATTLE GRAZING

Direct seeding into existing pasture is expected to reduce time for rejuvenation and loss of productivity. To accomplish this, experiments were conducted to determine appropriate method of pasture rejuvenation using bloat-free forage legumes. Four sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia* Scop.) and three cicer milkvetch (CMV) (*Astragalus cicer* L.) populations were seeded into alfalfa and grass pastures using three seeding methods to compare their ability to establish and persist in the mixtures. At Lethbridge where the old pasture was predominantly alfalfa, significantly higher proportion of newly established plants were observed when the pasture was completely plowed and reseeded with both alfalfa and test populations (cultivation method) than directly seeding sainfoin or CMV for rejuvenation.

populations (cultivation method) than directly seeding sainfoin or CMV for rejuvenation. Between the two test populations sainfoin contributed higher proportions of plants to the pasture mix compared to the CMV populations. Two of the three new sainfoin populations, AAC Mountainview and LRC3432 seeded in alternate rows with alfalfa contributed >20% in total dry matter yield at each harvest. In grass pastures at Ponoka and Red Deer maximum biomass contribution from test populations when drilled were 2.3% and 8.2% respectively. Grass-legume mixtures with >10% legume stands increased soil available nitrogen in 2 years. Although in two years sainfoin and CMV mixed pastures did not sequester organic carbon in soil, they increased microbial carbon biomass and enzyme associated with C-cycling. Seeding of two sainfoin populations AAC Mountainview and LRC3432 into established alfalfa pasture could improve productivity of existing pasture while preventing bloat in grazing cattle.

Upcoming Events

MFGA's First-Ever Regenerative Ag Conference
Adapting to Today's Food & Farming World
November 27, 28, 2018 at Victoria Inn, Brandon MB
The program's line-up of speakers will be featuring some of the most highly sought after speakers on the Ag circuit, a trade show and an amazing banquet!
*Exhibit and sponsorship opportunities available and discount registration for MFGA members. **TO REGISTER or for more details, go here.***
<http://mfga.net/conference/>



THE NORTH PEACE APPLIED
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



HOSTS 3-DAY SCHOOL ON REGENERATIVE FARMING & RANCHING
DEVELOPED & TAUGHT BY THE SOIL HEALTH ACADEMY & DR. KRIS NICHOLS

COURSE OUTLINE

- The school will be 50% classroom and 50% "hands-on" in the field.
- 1) Soil Health demonstrations
 - 2) Understanding the 4 ecosystem processes critical for soil function
 - 3) The concepts of biomimicry
 - 4) Strategies of Agroecology
 - 5) Principles of soil health
 - 6) Animal/Insect integration
 - 7) Identifying and Addressing resource concerns
 - 8) The strategy and logistics of designing biological primers (polyculture cover cropmixes)
 - 9) Adaptive multi-paddock grazing:
 - 10) Farm and ranch financial planning & management
 - 11) Ranch/Farm economics: Stacked Enterprises
 - 12) Direct marketing
 - 13) Ecological nutrient management
 - 14) Social aspects of soil health



DATES: FIRST SCHOOL JULY 9, 10 & 11
SECOND SCHOOL JULY 12, 13 & 14

LOCATION: NPAPA RESEARCH FARM, MANNING, AB

COST: \$1500/PERSON OR \$2500 PER FARM UNIT OF 2

FOR REGISTRATION FORM AND MORE DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NPAPA.CA
or CALL US @ 780-836-3354 OR EMAIL nora@npapa.ca



FOOTHILLS FORAGE
AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

- Riparian Lands Management—May 31 & June 1, Crossfield Municipal Library
- Range & Pasture Management Workshop—June 15 & 16, Beaupre Community Hall
- Livestock Off-site Watering System & Fencing Demo—June 28, Wheatland County
 - Soil Health Field Day—July 6, Stavely Range Research Ranch
- Forage to Beef—July 10, Waldron Ranch Grazing Coop and July 11, Difficulty Ranch & Whiskey Ridge Cattle Co
- Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women—July 24 & 25, Stavely Community Hall
- Foundation Forage: CFGA Conference—November 14 & 15, Sheraton Cavalier in Calgary
 - Water & Agriculture Conference—November 22, location TBD

For more details and how to register for these great events please visit www.foothillsforage.com and go to the "Upcoming Events" Tab

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FORAGE INDUSTRY NETWORK

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