FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION
Innovation, education and regenerative agriculture

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GRASSROOTS NEWS & VIEWS
March 2026

Manager's Note (A year in review)- Laura Gibney

Greetings FFGA Members

2025 offered more moisture in most areas, even though it came later in the season then usual, providing some relief on pastures and feed supplies. Strong cattle prices created more optimism within the industry. Followed by a relatively mild winter, we head into spring hoping for timely moisture.

At the Foothills Forage & Grazing Association 2025 was another much-appreciated year of stability. Continuing to work closely with Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation (AGI) and Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) FFGA's base funding was maintained along with a one-time Capital Fund which enabled FFGA and our sister associations to catch up on some much-needed capital equipment. FFGA has worked hard for many years to diversify our revenue streams in order to grow and enhance FFGA while we strive for long-term stable revenue and are happy to report we have continued to make progress on this in 2025. The board and staff spent a couple of days revisiting and updating the association's 5-year Strategic Business Plan as well as an in-depth 18-month action plan, positioning us well as we move into 2026. FFGA is proud of the position we are in today with a consistent, capable, and energetic staff team, a cohesive and engaged board of directors, an active membership, thriving partnerships and a healthy financial position. We look forward to continuing to serve the FFGA membership across our entire region in 2026.

FFGA partnered on the delivery of 32 events and webinars with an attendance of 2,349 people in 2025. Our Grassroots News & Views newsletter continues to be distributed monthly to our members and partners. Currently FFGA has a membership of 140 Farm Businesses, 400 hits on the website monthly, 3,235 followers on Facebook, 1,458 on X and 775 followers on Instagram. Through our producer members, online followers, and industry partners our impact on agriculture, the environment, and rural communities continues to grow.

Our Environmental portfolio continues to thrive with Sonja assisting producers on 119 Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs) in 2025 as well as continuing to offer guidance on various on-farm funding initiatives.

FFGA is a proud partner of the Regenerative Alberta Living Laboratory (RALL) Initiative. This 5-year project looks at how land management correlates to soil health indicators, nutrient availability, nutrient release potential, and soil function in real-life agriculture systems. In these later years of the project, it is exciting to see the producer cooperators getting direct feedback on how the geology of their land, management decisions, soil types, and moisture affect production, carbon stores, and soil health. The project plays a major role in mapping soil health and soil carbon across the province. FFGA looks forward to what the final year of the project will bring before it wraps up on March 31, 2027.

As we move into 2026, we have been busy with our International Ag Tour to Uruguay, writing grant reports, wrapping up the 2025 financial year, preparing for our AGM and continuing to deliver events. This spring we will be looking at some opportunities for purposeful expansion and growth, while gearing up for another active growing season of tours and events.

We continue to deliver innovative, regenerative, and pertinent agriculture information to our members through workshops, conferences, field days, webinars, our monthly newsletter, and social media platforms. As always, I very much enjoy working with the innovative and passionate producers through the FFGA membership and board. It is fabulous attending board meetings where the energy and ideas flow and create an atmosphere of excitement for the future. Thank you to Sonja and Kayla for your continued hard work and dedication to FFGA, as well as our members and partners for staying connected and supporting us through another year, your support has been crucial as we build momentum and look forward to what the future brings!

Laura Gibney
FFGA Manager

IN THIS ISSUE

FOOTHILLS FORAGE & GRAZING ASSOCIATION

Member Renewal 2026

Foothills Forage & Grazing Association membership is $50 (+GST).
Membership is per operation and includes all family members and staff within that operation.
If you've paid online before, you may already be set up for auto-renewal.
If you're unsure, please contact Kayla at comm@foothillsforage.com.

FOR DETAILS: https://www.foothillsforage.com/membership

On the Cover: A gaucho holding a group of cattle in Uruguay on the Agriculture & Sightseeing Tour 2026. Photo: FFGA

Thank you for your support!

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
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MD of RANCHLAND NO. 66

Tips for Creating Uniform Calf Crops


Photo: FFGA

When evaluating factors that impact ranch profitability and efficiency, producing uniform calf crops can't be overlooked.

"I think calf uniformity can be really important to the rancher," says Emma Briggs, faculty supervisor for the research feedlot and the commercial cow herd for Kansas State University Ag Research Center in Hays, Kan.

What does a uniform calf crop look like? It can start with the basics of frame size, weight and other phenotype characteristics, but that's not the full story in today's beef industry.

"Uniformity goes beyond just looking at necessarily appearance," Briggs explains. "It also reflects things like reproductive success for replacement heifers and staying within that 365-day calving interval to be as efficient and productive as possible."

Tight or planned calving intervals improve phenotype uniformity, but bull selection can improve genotype uniformity for performance on and after the ranch.

"A key point is really looking at genetic consistency," Briggs says. "So, using sires that have similar EPDs [expected progeny differences] and making sure that we're not picking bulls that are in the first percentile for growth and then also picking bulls that are in the 50th percentile."

On the topic of genetics, understanding breed composition and purpose is critical.

"Other factors to keep in mind are breed composition and type. Make sure that they're going to have similar purpose characteristics, so you're not going to have anything too high on the spectrum, good or bad," Briggs says.

Strategic crossbreeding is a tool ranchers can utilize to hone in on animal purpose and work toward uniformity, too.

"Crossbreeding can be a really beneficial tool, especially if you are having some animals that can lean towards that terminal side maybe," Briggs explains. "A crossbreeding system gives us a lot of hybrid vigor and is essentially free pounds of lean calf sometimes, depending on the different production standpoint that you have."

Uniform calf crops impact ranch management past marketing calves in the fall and winter each year.

"Reducing differences in these calves helps develop a good replacement heifer strategy," Briggs says. "It also helps on the back end with cow nutrition management and maintaining good body condition score, because a 1,200-lb. cow is likely going to have different needs than an 1,800-lb. cow."

Efficiency of time when working cattle is also an important outcome of calf uniformity.

"There's nothing more frustrating than having a 90-day-old calf with a 1-day-old calf and you need to give them all vaccine, but then the 1-day-old calf can't really have it quite yet," Briggs says. "So, trying to make those calving windows a little bit tighter makes it easier to ensure we give these calves the vaccines they need."

Outside of planned calving windows and planned genetic selection, what else can producers do to improve calf uniformity?

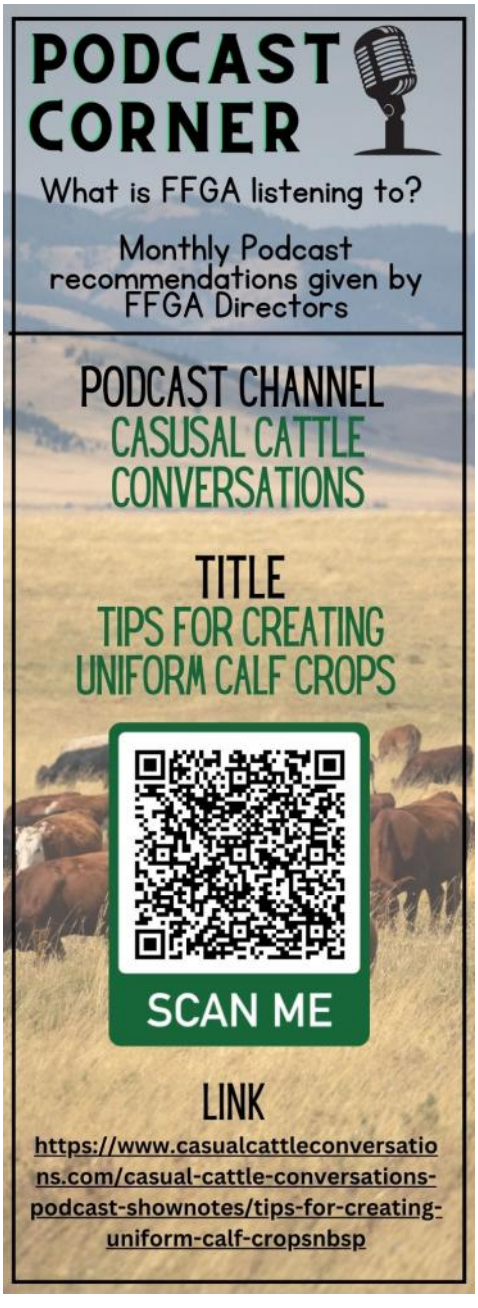
"Have a goal and have traits that you look at to create uniformity," Briggs says. "Stick with those and stay away from single-trait selection."

Additionally, remember these kinds of changes happen over the long run.

"Uniformity doesn't happen overnight," Briggs summarizes. "If you are looking to start by shrinking your calving window, don't overlook the variety of synchronization tools available to you. Even a simple one-shot PG can really push your cows to come into cyclicity sooner and at the same time."

You can listen to the full conversation on the "Casual Cattle Conversations" podcast.

Author: Shaye Koester-Wanner
Original Article: https://www.drovers.com/news/beef-production/tips-creating-uniform-calf-crops



MEET THE 2026 BURSARY RECIPIENTS

FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

FALLON COCKWILL

My name is Fallon Cockwill, I live on a grain and livestock farm south of Arrowwood, Alberta, in the Buffalo Hills.

I am currently in my second year at the University of Lethbridge earning a Bachelors degree in Agricultural Studies. After I have completed my degree, I plan on pursuing a career in animal nutrition.

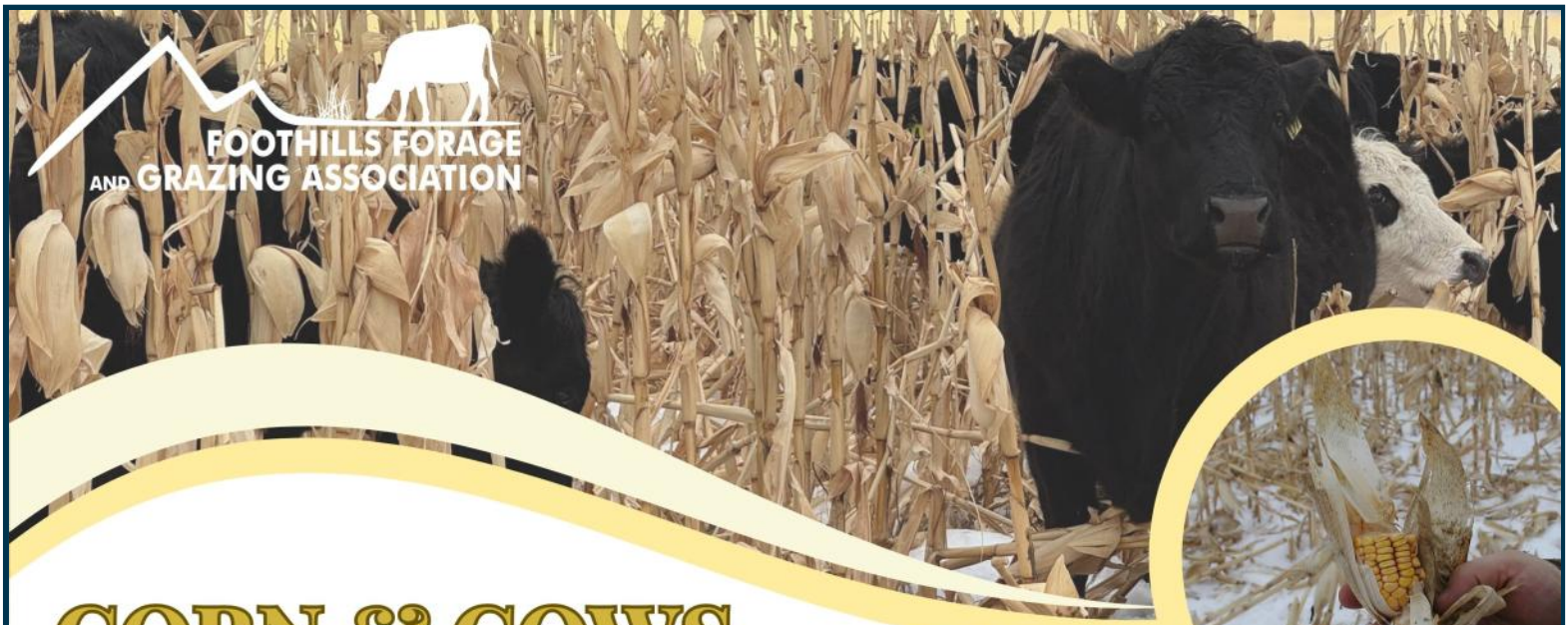
I am very honoured to be a recipient of the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association bursary

JACK PAGE

My name is Jack Page and I live on our family farm just outside of the small town of Strathmore, Alberta. I live at home with my parents and two dogs and currently I am working in between my Dad and grandpa's grain operation and Kenwynn Farms Cattle feedyard. I enjoy working on and fixing up old trucks, doing some fishing with my friends, working cattle, and of course farming.

I will be attending Olds College in the coming fall 2026 term for Agricultural Management in production with hopes of continuing on growing crops while branching out into the cattle industry. I plan on being able to keep sustainably farming throughout my whole life and be able to keep that going for generations to come in western Canada.

Thank you to Foothills Forage & Grazing Association for selecting me as a bursary recipient.



CORN & COWS GRAZING TOUR

March 25 2026

Sammons Land & Cattle
222036 Twp Rd 232, Wheatland County

AGENDA

- 10:00am - Coffee & Registration
- 10:15am - Corn Considerations & Experience, Nutrition Considerations
- 12:00pm - Lunch (inlcuded)
- 12:45pm - Field Tour with Electric Fencing Conversation
- 3:00pm - Wrap up

COST:
FFGA MEMBER: $20
NON-MEMBER: $30

REGISTER AT:
WWW.FOOTHILLSFORAGE.COM/CORNGRAZING

Vulcan County · Wheatland County Agriculture & Environment · Rocky View County · Kneehill County

Thank you to our Corporate Partners

Gold Partners

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Reducing disease risk from calving season onwards


Photo: FFGA

With winter calving almost at a close, grassland producers are preparing for their own spring calving season.

Chad Ross calves his herd of 800 to 1,100 cows as close to nature as he can. The owner and operator of L-7 Land and Cattle at Estevan, Sask., switched to grassland calving in the mid-2000s. Unless a heifer is delivering for the first time or there's trouble, his approach is very hands-off.

Calving in May just makes sense, he said.

"That's when the deer have their babies, and things just work better. Our first-time heifers, we're checking them two and three times a day, just because it's their first time, and if they need help, we're there to assist. But cows have very little trouble. They just do it."

Even with this hands-off approach, there are still lots of things that Ross can control as he manages his land and his herd.

Using rotational grazing, Ross is moving his herd every three to five days and can keep a close eye on all of his pregnant cows. Strong grass nutrition has meant strong milk production, oftentimes too much for a calf to feed on. Udder breakdown happens quicker in these instances, so Ross prefers animals with negative milk expected progeny differences (EPD). Ross said his cull rates increased exponentially on that factor alone.

"We found that the cows were milking too hard for the udder attachments that they had. We had to really focus on lower-producing milk cows, as well as good udder attachments to lower that cull rate."

Calves born in late spring are usually weaned in December, said Ross, but he is willing to keep them with the mother cow until February or March if he has enough feed to do so. The longer the calf stays with its dam, the better it learns, he said.

"If you're bringing females back into the herd, they tend to learn that they need to get out there and forage with their mother. They learn how to do that. They learn our system."

Lauren Stefaniuk, registered veterinary technician at Veterinary Agri-Health Services Ltd. in Rocky View County, Alta., said producers should always be talking with their local vets or grazing specialists about the best moves for their herds. Overcrowding can be a challenge for pasture calving, but proper herd management is essential, said Stefaniuk who recommends the Sandhills system. While it does require quite a bit of space, this management practice provides the most disease risk mitigation, she said.

"Our goal is to keep calves in groups of similar age to reduce transmission of pathogens from older to younger calves," said Stefaniuk.

When purchasing new cattle herds, which include pregnant mothers, Ross does his best to separate them with this land management practice. But in the past 25 years, he's seen many producers getting out of the cattle business. Moving cattle as frequently as he does, they've had fewer problems with disease anyway, he said, but they can also successfully integrate new members of the herd.

Stefaniuk advises producers to quarantine any new animals for about two to three weeks, but there are also tests they can run during that period to ensure animals aren't introducing any new problems into their herd. Johne's disease, also known as paratuberculosis, has been a big concern for cattle producers, said Stefaniuk, and is highly contagious with no cure.

"Talk to your veterinarian about the risk from their source and see if you can do some diagnostics before mixing them all together."

Besides herd management as a risk mitigation tool, Ross protects his herd with a full vaccination protocol at the 30- to 60-day mark as well as a second round in September.

Stefaniuk sees producers either vaccinate their cattle in the spring or during pregnancy checks. Bovine viral diarrhea, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, parainfluenza-3 virus, and bovine respiratory syncytial virus are some common diseases that producers are vaccinating for, but what a herd needs is very location- and herd-dependent, said Stefaniuk. All producers should be discussing this with their local veterinarians, she said.

"Different areas will deal with different things, but generally speaking, for vaccines, we want to be mindful of when we're vaccinating and what we're vaccinating with."

Stefaniuk noted some modified live vaccinations will cause abortion issues in heifers while the killed vaccine may not. But administering live vaccines during pre-breeding could be possible as well. Again, the best course of action is for producers to develop a vaccine protocol with a local veterinarian.

Colostrum management is essential to building up disease resistance in calves, let alone ensuring a low morbidity rate in the herd. If a calf isn't suckling within four hours from birth, it will miss out on a nutritional boost and many antibodies that are transferred from the cow to calf through immunoglobulins, said Stefaniuk. Without immunoglobulins, calves are left "more susceptible to various pathogens that are either in the environment or being transferred by other calves who are already born," she said.

Without proper colostrum management, there's a failure of passive transfers, said Stefaniuk. The possibility of a calf coming back from this is unlikely, but Stefaniuk has never seen a producer take the extreme measures necessary to bring a calf back from this problem.

"You can try to treat illness as it arrives, but it is often impractical and cost-prohibitive for a beef producer to attempt to reverse the condition," she said.

Some calves need a supplemental supply of colostrum. For example, Ross said this sometimes happens with heifers. Stefaniuk advises ranchers and farmers to look for sources within the herd or

(Continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)
a trusted commercial source. Colostrum from dairy herds can cause problems for beef calves so Stefaniuk suggests only giving colostrum from beef cows to beef calves.

The birth of twins can cause problems, said Ross, as some cows have trouble nursing two babies at a time. Rejection happens and Ross said he won't fight the cow to nurse both. Markets are good for calves so he will bottle feed until they're ready to be sold.

That being said, Ross won't bring calves into his herd, since the risk of disease transfer is greater in calves. It's scary not knowing what an animal is going to be introducing to your herd, he said, so it's not worth the risk.

"You just don't know what biohazards are in that calf. It could cause an extreme wreck because your herd might be naive to what they're bringing in."

From an animal health standpoint, Stefaniuk concurs. Trying to introduce an outside calf to a new cow could mean an "unfamiliar, newly introduced issue." Trying to incorporate new animals during calving time is generally not a good idea anyway, she said. The immune systems of new calves aren't "up to snuff quite yet and potentially introducing pathogens from other operations could be problematic."

If you're bringing in an outside cow or calf, "try to keep the pair separate from the rest of the herd if you can."

Managing what comes onto the farm is another important part of disease mitigation. Ross and his wife have travelled to farms in New Zealand, Japan, Korea and Australia. They either discard their footwear when they come home or wash it thoroughly. Disease transfer has been a concern for the cattle industry, and Ross said he doesn't want to be the one responsible for introducing something into Canadian cattle herds. When it comes to prevention, he advises everyone to be as strict as possible to protect the entire cattle industry.

Washing boots and giving visitors a chance to clean up can protect home herds, whether the visitor is from another country or just down the road, said Stefaniuk. After attending a cattle sale, which hosts farmers and ranchers from all over, wash your boots as soon as you're home, she added.

Producers should also be concerned about their own health when caring for cattle. Stefaniuk mentioned several diseases that are transferable from cattle to humans, including salmonella, E.coli, campylobacter and a parasite called cryptosporidium.

The best prevention method is wearing gloves and washing hands when handling sick cattle. It doesn't take much exposure to cause illness, especially when working with scouring calves, said Stefaniuk. She also suggests wearing a mask to prevent splatter from being ingested.

During post-mortems, always wear gloves, she said.

"If you suspect one of those pathogens to be a contributor to death, it's a good idea to put a mask and eye protection on here as well."

Veterinarians are always around to help, said Stefaniuk, especially if a producer has photos or samples to send in for diagnostic testing. These are great tools to help determine the cause of any health issues on the farm, she said.

Author: Becky Zimmer

Original Article: https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/livestock/beef-cattle/cow-calf/reducing-disease-risk-from-calving-season-onwards/

Grazing in the 'sweet spot' for Prairie producers


Photo: FFGA

Keeping grass in a specific growth stage can dramatically increase forage production for grazing while reducing labour, says Alberta rancher and author Tom Krawiec.

Krawiec's "grazing in the sweet spot" philosophy is a method that allowed him to scale from 40 cow-calf pairs on 373 acres in 2000 to 5,000 yearlings on 5,500 acres by 2007 with minimal hired help.

"It was just myself and the summer students," Krawiec said at last month's Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association's 2025 Regenerative Agriculture Conference in Brandon.

Why it Matters: Grazing at the right moment in the plant's growth cycle can dramatically increase forage production, animal performance and profitability, an Alberta rancher says.

Krawiec's "sweet spot" is a specific point in grass growth, just before plants enter the reproductive phase, when around 15 to 20 per cent of plants are in reproductive phase and the rest remain in late vegetative state.

"The other thing about grazing in the sweet spot that is really critical is that I only take 20 to 40 per cent (of forages) during the growing season," he said.

Feeding soil biology year-round

Krawiec said his approach feeds soil biology multiple times per year rather than just once.

When plants enter reproductive phase, they redirect energy from root exudates, which feed soil microbes, into seed production.

Root exudates are fluids emitted through the roots of the plant. They contain a complex cocktail of sugars, amino acids, organic acids and metabolites. They promote microbial activity, facilitate nutrient cyling in the soil and foster overall soil health.

"The thing about letting plants go into reproductive phase is that that's where they release the least amount of exudates," Krawiec said.

"Instead of releasing exudates into the soil, those exudates go into producing seed."

Gaining livestock performance

The impact on livestock performance has been substantial. Krawiec reported increasing daily gains on heifers from 1.5 pounds per day to 2.5 lb. per day after implementing his system.

"Livestock are on a high level of nutrition the whole grazing season," he said.

Cow-calf producers using his methods commonly see 60 to 80 pounds higher weaning weights, while sheep producers can achieve lambs weighing 100 to 150 lb. in four and a half months, Krawiec said.

"It's a really simple thing. I just created a sweet spot, and the sheep do the rest."

Conception rates in the first breeding cycle consistently exceed 80 per cent, with his highest achievement at 83 per cent, Krawiec said.

Grazing system math

Central to his approach is respecting both the graze period and rest period. He discovered, through observation, that livestock naturally indicate when a paddock has been grazed too long.

"The first day they walked back to water, I gave them a strip. Second day, they had to walk back to water. Day three, same thing, they had to walk back a lot of the water. Day four, same thing … but as we're coming back to graze, they stopped in the first strip, and that's when I realized that was my graze period," he said.

Through this discovery, Krawiec determined that at his latitude (similar to Athabasca, Alta.), the graze period is three days. Keeping livestock in a paddock longer results in overgrazing.

The rest period calculation follows a specific formula. With a three-day graze period and a minimum of 13 paddocks, the math works out to 36 days of rest.

Rest periods increase at more northern latitudes due to fewer daylight hours, Krawiec said.

Grazing chart

Krawiec said his grazing chart is an essential planning tool, one he's used since 2000. He went so far as to say he couldn't use his grazing system without it.

"I can't stay on track and keep my forage because I have two cardinal rules when I'm grazing: one is I have to respect the rest period, and number two, I have to respect the graze period," he said.

The chart allows Krawiec to adjust rotation speed based on growing conditions. In 2021, when temperatures hit 38.5 C for nearly four weeks in June, he adapted by extending his second rotation to 55 days after discovering through strip grazing that grass growth had slowed but not gone dormant.

By adjusting his rotation accordingly, speeding up his third rotation to 42 days, Krawiec maintained high-quality forage through November and stockpiled enough grass to calve 1,000 cows the following spring over 20 days.

"The results were amazing, but what I did was not amazing. I just used my grazing (method) and I just adjusted to conditions," he said.

Krawiec described a "tipping point" at approximately 175 stock days per acre where the system becomes self-sustaining, requiring no inputs except management to continue increasing forage production.

"It becomes a self-propagated system, and what I mean by that is that the forage production increases without any inputs except our management," he said.

Reaching this level typically takes two to three years, he added.

In November 2024, Krawiec backgrounded freshly weaned calves on stockpiled pasture at a cost of 12 cents per day. A forage test from that period showed 24 per cent protein and 65 per cent total digestible nutrients.

That paddock yielded 317 stock days per acre in total harvest across multiple grazing periods.

Success with the system requires training livestock to move as a coordinated group, Krawiec stressed. He developed a technique he calls "the wave" for moving calving cows.

A video shows him moving 225 pairs by himself in a controlled manner without cows running back.

Krawiec also mixed species in his operation, running cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and turkeys together. That was primarily to save labour, though he believes this also contributed to increased forage production.

Author:
Miranda Leybourne

Original Article: https://www.producer.com/livestock/grazing-in-the-sweet-spot-for-prairie-producers/

WE'RE HIRING!

FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

REGIONAL EXTENSION COORDINATOR

The Foothills Forage & Grazing Association (FFGA) is looking for a part-time Regional Extension Coordinator to plan, deliver and continue to develop FFGA's Extension Portfolio in the north-east part of the FFGA Region (focused mostly in the Counties/MDs of: Big Horn, Mountain View, Kneehill, Rocky View, Wheatland, Newell and Vulcan). FFGA is a non-profit producer organization based out of High River. FFGA focuses on all aspects of forage and livestock production in south central Alberta through demonstration trials, newsletters, social media and extension events which include workshops, seminars, field days, tours and webinars.

This position offers the opportunity to grow and develop FFGA's Extension Program under the direction of the Manager and Board of Directors. The successful candidate will interact closely with producers, researchers, extension specialists, industry and educational institutions.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Lead FFGA's Extension Program, primarily, but not limited to, the north-east part of FFGA's Region
- Partner liaison; actively work to maintain and build partnerships with other applicable groups to facilitate the delivery of mutually beneficial programs (counties, NGOs, corporations, etc.)
- Plan, advertise, execute and report on extension events and demonstration projects
- Actively pursue additional funding and grants as applicable to FFGA's extension program
- Report to and work with the FFGA Manager on board approved initiatives
- Other initiatives as agreed upon with the FFGA Manager

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS:

- Practical working knowledge of agriculture in western Canada
- Ability to communicate effectively in written, verbal and electronic formats
- Ability to work within timelines and meet deadlines
- Organized and reliable
- Motivated to excel both in a team environment and independently
- Ability to use computers and related technology efficiently
- Valid driver's license with a clean abstract
- Agriculture science degree or diploma combined with experience will be given preference

Renumeration: $28 - $35/hour, based on qualifications and experience.
Projected 20-28 hours of work weekly.
Job posting is based on part-time employment; however contract applicants will also be considered.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to:

FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

Laura Gibney, Manager
Foothills Forage & Grazing Association
Email: manager@foothillsforage.com

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026
Start Date: May 2026

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

FFGA

FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2026- HIGHWOOD CENTRE, HIGH RIVER

- **11:30AM - REGISTRATION**
- **12:00PM - LUNCH**
- **1:00PM - AGM BUSINESS MEETING**
- **2:00PM - KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SHAUN HANEY**
- **3:30PM - WRAP UP**

Please note, you must be a member in good standing to vote during the Business Meeting. Memberships can be purchased online at: www.foothillsforage.com/membership or at the door!

Are you interested in joining the Foothills Forage & Grazing Association Board of Directors? Email manager@foothillsforage.com or contact a FFGA Director for more details!

COST:
FFGA MEMBER: $30
NON-MEMBER: $40

Shaun Haney is the founder of RealAgriculture, a leading North American ag media platform delivering news and insights on policy, agronomy, and farm management. He hosts RealAg Radio on SiriusXM's Rural Radio Channel 147 and RealAg on the Weekend across Saskatchewan and Alberta.Shaun is also a regular contributor to RFD-TV, Agritalk, and US Farm Report, and co-leads RealAgristudies, a farmer-focused market research initiative launched in 2019.

Visit: www.foothillsforage.com/2026AGM

Please register before March 11, 2026

FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Brandon Toews

I'm a 4th generation rancher, near Linden. I help manage the family ranch using rotational grazing with adapted genetics, & a focus on soil health and profitability. My wife & i also run the Route 304 Farm Store which direct markets some of our beef and other local food. I bring experience in grazing management, genetics, and an open mind as a committed life long learn

Martina Wade

I reside in Dalum with my husband Steven, and my son Dean. I represent the fifth generation from both sides of my family that has made our living from agriculture. I grew up on a cow calf operation in the shortgrass prairies in Finnegan Alberta. Our operation in Dalum consists of a purebred and commercial cow calf herd. Recently we have converted the grain land into hay and pasture allowing my husband to work full time from home. My family has always placed a high importance on the stewardship of the native grasslands, and we continually look for ways to improve our management practices to create healthier soils, land and livestock. The continuing educational initiatives provided by our forage associations serve as a vital asset for the agricultural community.

Matt Malyk

Our family centennial farm is located NW of Airdrie AB. My wife and I came back to the farm in 2019, and got back into cattle. In February, 2020 we attended a Jim Gerrish workshop put on by FFGA. In spring of 2020 we were setting up pasture for rotational grazing. Things kind of escalated from there. Attending ranching for profit in Okotoks in 2022. I also attended one of Wally Olson's Sell Buy Marketing course's, which was another game changer for us. We utilize multi-species cover crops for swath grazing through the fall and winter. We also incorporate grain crop residue "bunches" for winter feed for our bred cows. Its been quite the adventurous journey so far, both challenging and rewarding. The best part is being able to share it all with my young family and getting to farm alongside my dad.

Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

Maintaining a healthy environment is essential to the success of Alberta's agricultural producers. The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program helps you identify and address environmental risks in your operation. It will also increase your understanding of legal requirements related to environmental issues.

The EFP will play a key part in:

- Safeguarding your local environment
- Building credibility for your operation with financial institutions and the community at large
- Sustaining the health and future of the agriculture industry

The EFP program provides you with a voluntary, confidential self-assessment process to evaluate the environmental risks and strengths of your operation and develop a plan to address those risks and strengths.

Learn more about how agricultural practices affect the environment. Learn more about management options that protect soil, water, air and habitat quality. Identify what you are already doing well and where improvements can be made

BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION
Alberta EFP
ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION

To find out more about the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan, please visit www.albertaefp.com

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Mission: Assisting producers in profitably improving their forages and regenerating their soils through innovation and education.

Vision: We envision a global community that respects and values profitable forage production and healthy soils as our legacy for future generations.

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