



**FOOTHILLS FORAGE
AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION**

Innovation, education and regenerative agriculture

Unit 4A, 710 Centre St. SE, High River, AB T1V 0H3
Phone: (403) 995-9466 ~ www.foothillsforage.com

GRASSROOTS NEWS & VIEWS

August 2023

Director's Note — Sarah Green

Howdy folks,

As August approaches on the ranch, we are gearing up to take cows farther west and making long-term (and creative) plans for winter feed. The rain in the forecast tonight brings a small comfort after the creek heading through the yard stopped running last week. Despite the dry conditions, cattle prices are strong and that offers some reassurance as everyone starts to ship animals.

The dry summer reminds me how important grass management and long-term planning are to a successful grass-based business. Understanding the importance of rest periods, litter cover, protecting riparian areas and adapting one's grazing rotation becomes essential in dry years. A good reminder this week came as we pushed in posts for a temporary electric fence. The difference in soil moisture in the healthy plant communities versus the over-used areas was striking. It reminded me how landscapes are much more resilient and able to withstand extremes if we strive to keep them healthy. Thousands of years of adaptation have benefits!

Next to managing the grass, water continues to be a focus for us since flexibility in our grazing system depends on reliable water sources. Although an expensive endeavor it is a long-term investment. Our newest solar water system

brought water to a field that otherwise could not have been grazed this year. I'm looking forward to creating new ways of managing this piece of land with our yearlings in the coming seasons. The limited rainfall is also creating a renewed appreciation for the beavers and their network of dams. Massive amounts of water have been held and retained down our valleys.

Throughout this year of challenging conditions, learning, innovation and networking with other people are all very important. FFGA is such a leader in creating spaces for these very things and I feel lucky to be part of it. I'm really looking forward to the field day on August 16th in Gem about managing grazing on native grasslands. I encourage everyone to find an event that piques your interest and no doubt you will learn something innovative, inspiring and have a truly enjoyable day with like-minded people!

Sarah

(Photo: Sarah with her husband Harley and two sons.)



IN THIS ISSUE

Three insights on controlling Canada thistle through grazing	3
Watch out for blue-green algae where livestock drink	4
Celebrating Wray Ranch, the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award winner	6 & 7
A Case Study on Replacement Heifer Selection	9 & 10

MANAGED GRAZING STRATEGIES ON NATIVE GRASSLAND FIELD TOUR

GEM HALL & GEM COMMUNITY PASTURE



16 AUGUST 2023
11:45AM - 4:00PM

Topics include:

- Producer Funding update
- Considerations when grazing Native Grassland
- Rotational Grazing Strategies
- Tour of the Gem Community Pasture
- *Optional tour of pasture grazing under pivots at Gemstone Cattle Co after the event*

Speakers include:

- Mike Roberts, Manager of the Waldron Ranch
- Daniel Doerksen, Gem Grazing Association

Cost (includes lunch) :
FFGA Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$20

www.foothillsforage.com/nativegrassland



On the Cover: Hay crop at the Olds College Pitstra Site. Photo: FFGA

Thank you for your support!



Three insights on controlling Canada thistle through grazing



Photo: Invasive Species Council of B.C

How do you solve a problem like Canada thistle? In areas that can't be sprayed with herbicide, rotational grazing might just be the answer.

Grazing is a successful weed control option for pastures near wetlands, for example, said Edward Bork, professor of rangeland ecology and management at the University of Alberta.

"There are strict guidelines on where you can use herbicides, and so there are a number of producers we have worked with that have used this very effectively to get control of their thistle in their riparian zones," said Bork.

Using grazing to control weeds such as Canada thistle relies on the selective nature of all grazing animals, Bork explained in a webinar hosted by the Alberta Forage Industry Network in May. Grazing affects the plant composition of pastures in two ways: directly and indirectly.

The direct effect happens when an animal chooses to graze a particular plant. "The reduction in leaf area, the reduction in the number of growing points, and the decline in the vigor that defoliated plants has an impact," he said. "There's also environmental changes, things like a reduction in litter and soil drying."

The indirect effect is when one plant is defoliated by grazing while leaving another, such as thistle. "Thistle plants have access to more water, more sunlight, more nutrients, and they get bigger and bigger and bigger. And that indirect effect is really a competitive shift, which favours the non-defoliated plants."

Along with his research team,

Bork has studied how to optimize rotational grazing for effective thistle control. Read on for three key insights from these studies.

Length of recovery time is critical for weed suppression.

The first part of this research was to monitor the indirect effect of grazing on the amount of thistle present in a pasture. To do so, Bork and his team clipped the forage in different test plots throughout the growing season to simulate different grazing systems and intensities, leaving the thistles behind.

Starting in mid-May, they clipped the forage in each plot according to different treatments—continuous/high intensity-high frequency, low intensity-high frequency, and high intensity-low frequency.

In mid-August, they measured the thistle biomass in each plot, finding that the continuous treatment led to the greatest amount of thistle biomass and the lowest forage accumulation. The high intensity-low frequency treatment stood out as the best option for weed control, with the greatest thistle suppression and more forage biomass yield.

"Can we manipulate thistle populations by changing our rotational system? Yes, absolutely. Can we change this whole populations by increasing the vigor and regrowth of our grasses by giving them a lengthened rest period? Yes, we can," said Bork.

"It's actually more important that you give your pastures a long rest period after you graze them," he continued. "Grasses by and large are very grazing tolerant. They have evolved for thousands of years to be grazed, and they're very adaptive, regrowing, given an opportunity. What hurts them is when they're grazed over and over in short order, and they're not given enough time to be able to recover."

You can convince cattle to graze thistle for weed control...

Next, Bork and his team studied the direct impact of rotational grazing on thistle, including whether stock density and grazing pres-

sure would force cattle to graze thistle, and how this might aid in controlling the weed.

The trials ran over three extremely dry years in the early 2000s, with high intensity-low frequency and low intensity-high frequency grazing treatments in four different locations. The cattle had to be baited with some oats first and were initially reluctant to graze these areas, Bork explained, but eventually they chose to defoliate the thistle.

For example, the high intensity-low frequency treatment saw three to four days of grazing followed by a six-week recovery period. Bork reported that these areas saw 70 to 80 per cent utilization, and this led to rapid forage regrowth, a net increase in forage production, and an impressive reduction in thistle density over the three-year study.

"When we started, this thistle population went right across. When we finished three years later, these cattle had grazed out the thistle. It was gone," he said.

...But don't try this with all weeds.

Is this actually safe for cattle, though? In the case of thistle, yes, as it has no poisonous compounds and is a surprisingly good forage source.

"There's a reason why thistle has the thorns, because the forage quality on young thistle plants is upwards of 18 to 20 per cent protein," said Bork. "It's trying to defend itself because it's actually good forage quality otherwise."

However, seek out advice if you have other weeds you want to control, and never try to force cattle to graze a plant with poisonous compounds.

Author: Piper Whelan

Original Article: <https://abpdaily.com/innovation-technology/three-insights-on-controlling-canada-thistle-through-grazing/>

Watch out for blue-green algae where livestock drink



Photo: FFGA

In over three decades as a veterinarian, Roy Lewis never saw a cow die from ingesting blue-green algae from an infected water source.

But he still says it's an issue ranchers should watch for.

Blue-green algae can be instantly deadly to an animal that ingests a sufficient amount. However, it's tricky to identify as the culprit, making it difficult to diagnose as an official cause of death.

"The toxin dissipates fast, so testing water is often not fruitful and you find nothing following post-mortems of cattle. It is usually diagnosed by ruling out other causes," said Lewis, a retired large animal veterinarian.

"However, affected cattle are usually found very close to the water source with little sign of struggle, much like water hemlock weed poisoning," Lewis said.

In a summer that's seen the high temperatures in which the algae thrives, it's important to check for it in dugouts and other surface water bodies from which livestock drink, Shawn Elgert writes.

"Blue-green algae can look like blue-green scum, pea soup or grass clippings suspended in the water. You should start watching for it when the temperatures rise above 25 C," wrote Elgert, an agricultural water engineer with the Alberta government, in an article on alberta.ca (Dangers of blue-green algae).

If suspected, contact a water specialist to determine whether it is toxic, wrote Elgert.

"You should also remove your livestock from the water source in the in-

terim and prevent them from accessing it. One rule of thumb is that if you can grab it as a solid mass in your hand, it is not blue-green algae."

The good news is that it can be prevented and managed. Aerating the dugout can reduce the chances of algae development, according to Elgert.

"Aeration of the dugout can also help improve the water quality. A dye packet can also be thrown into the dugout to help prevent photosynthesis from occurring, thereby reducing the growth of blue-green algae. However, one action alone may not be enough to prevent growth."

Wind can push the algae into highly concentrated pockets invisible from the surface, wrote Elgert.

"Since blue-green algae can rise or fall in the water column, inspection of the dugout should include peering into the deeper part of the water. Always be safe around the dugout by going along with another person and have a rope with a flotation device attached."

Blue-green algae growth depends on nutrients in the water. Buffer strips, grassed waterways and culvert controls are effective tools for reducing nutrients in dugouts. More information is available in the Quality Farm Dugouts manual at open.alberta.ca

Remote watering is one of the most effective means of keeping nutrients out of water sources. Lewis said this practice alone has reduced the potential of livestock deaths from algae ingestion.

"It was more prevalent years ago with guys watering out of dugouts and sloughs," he said.

"Now most of them have remote watering set up, so they'll pump the water that's deep down in the dugout out to a trough. It's been shown that if you got good fresh water close by, cattle will drink out of it rather than going to this dugout. So the risk gets less and less."

An online resource tracks blue-green algae in public water bodies, said Lewis. Hosted by Alberta Health Services, Blue Green Algae Health Advisories posts notices about

bodies of water where it has been spotted. The notices can be found at albertahealthservices.ca.

Although focused primarily on preventing human access to the algae, Lewis said it has farm management value as well.

"It helps us in the veterinary world because if you know this lake in this region has a pretty high level of it, you're going to be more on the lookout for it."

Other preventive measures are more difficult unless a new dugout is planned. If so, Elgert advises making it deep.

"Temperature is an important factor in the growth of blue-green algae, so a deeper dugout with steeper slopes, while avoiding slope deterioration, would help make the dugout water cooler," he said.

He also advised against building dugouts in the waterway. Sediments can bring more nutrients into the dugout and depth can be lost quickly.

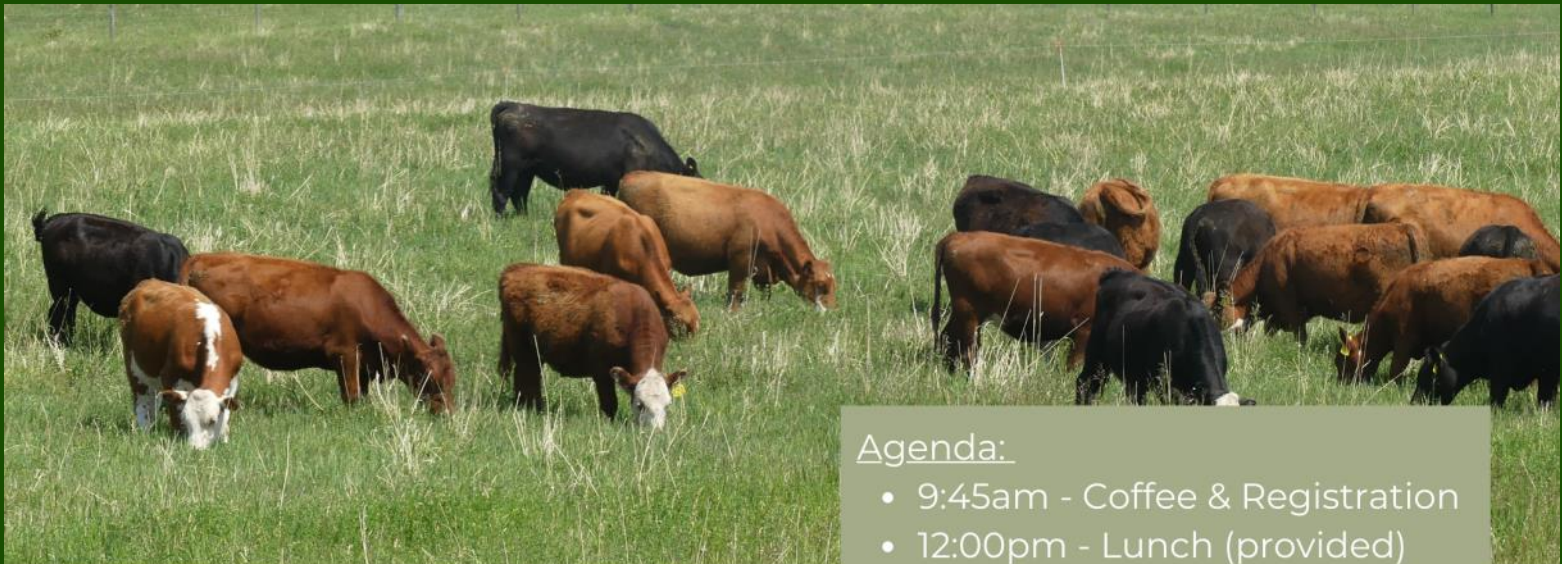
The most common method to address blue-green algae is application of a copper product registered for use in farm dugouts. However, it should be used with caution, Elgert noted.

"Once you treat it, consumption should be restricted for up to a month. The use of copper will break the cells open and release the toxins — if present — into the water all at once. It is important that cattle do not drink the water during this time so the toxins can degrade.

"You can follow up with aluminum sulphate and/or hydrated lime treatments afterwards to remove the nutrients from the water to prevent re-growth. Sometimes these coagulant treatments are better than a sole copper treatment."

Author: Jeff Melchior

Original Article: <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/livestock/watch-out-for-blue-green-algae-where-livestock-drink/>



CATTLE HANDLING WORKSHOP

Mike Sears Ranch, Nanton
September 14, 2023

Cost:

FFGA Member: 25 / Non-Member: \$30

www.foothillsforage/cattle

Agenda:

- 9:45am - Coffee & Registration
- 12:00pm - Lunch (provided)
- 3:30pm - Wrap Up

Topics included:

- Cattle Behaviour & Flight Zones
- Low-Stress Handling
- Effective Herding Dynamics
- Hands-On Demonstration



Thank you to our Corporate Partners

Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Conserving
Canada's
Wetlands



Celebrating Wray Ranch, the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award winner



Photo: ABP

Celebrating Wray Ranch, the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award winner

Since 1992, Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) has recognized farms and ranches across the province whose natural resource stewardship practices contribute to the environment and enhance productivity and profitability.

Alberta Beef Producers, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada are pleased to announce Wray Ranch and the Wray family as the recipients of the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award.

Ask the Wray family about their ranch, and it quickly becomes clear that everything they do is shaped by a deep reverence for the land.

This perspective shines through whether they're touring visitors in pastures that overlook a dramatic coulee, moving cattle to a new paddock, or reviewing production data at the kitchen table.

"Being out on the landscape, being engaged with nature is very rewarding," says Doug Wray, the third generation of his family to manage this ranch west of Irricana, Alberta.

"We get to see life cycles, we get to see calves born, reach maturity, become cows in the herd. It's a very natural world to live in, to have a hand in all of that."

The two generations of Wrays work closely together, with Tim (left, pictured with Doug) now taking more of a lead. "He's sketching out the plans, he's executing a lot of the decisions. Linda and I

mentor, we decide what directions we're going to go, but we're now running on his plan," says Doug.

The Wrays' stewardship story began in 1910, when Doug's grandfather arrived in the Irricana area, northeast of Calgary. For 80 years, the family operated a mixed farm, with the local conditions supporting both crop and pasture production.

"Intermediate-grass prairie would be the native habitat. We have some prairie grassland that's never seen a plow on this farm, and we recognize and treasure that resource," says Doug.

Doug and his wife Linda have operated the ranch for the past 25 years, shifting their business to a grazing operation in the late 1990s. As they both loved raising cattle and were looking to the future, with their children going their own directions, livestock became their new focus.

Opportunities such as attending a Ranching for Profit school and joining the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association (FFGA) helped to shape this new direction. Soon they seeded 1,000 acres of former cropland to high-legume perennial pastureland, and divided pastures into 20-acre paddocks to support more frequent pasture rotations.

Today, the fourth generation of the Wray family has taken its place in managing the ranch. Doug's nephew Tim Wray and his wife Joanne returned to the ranch in 2015, where they live with their three children. Tim and Joanne bring a new perspective and a willingness to learn and innovate, opening new doors for this century farm.

"Better than we got it—that's always been the mantra, is to leave it in a better state than it was when we started," Linda Wray (right, pictured with Joanne Wray) explains. "You always want to leave it better for the next generation."

Giving more to the land
The Wrays have used a year-round

grazing system for more than 20 years, carefully monitoring each paddock for forage volume and quality. From May to October, their cattle graze tame pastures, and after weaning in early November, calves will winter on swath-grazed greenfeed. The cow herd winters on native coulee pastures, which are stockpiled to last until late January, at which time they're moved to greenfeed swaths. If there is sufficient grass, backgrounded calves will be kept over to the next fall as yearlings.

One of the Wrays' water projects is located in this coulee, where they've fenced off the riparian areas to better support the wildlife that call it home. Canada's beef operations play an important role in conserving fragile riparian areas and providing wildlife habitat.

This system allows more than just the cattle to thrive naturally. More than 75 bird species have been spotted on the ranch over the years. With funding from ALUS and Rocky View County, the Wrays have further supported wildlife by fencing the riparian areas on the ranch and implementing offsite watering projects run by solar and wind-powered pumps.

Supporting life below the surface is just as important, and the family has restored the health of their soils by leaps and bounds. When they first moved from conventional tillage agriculture to a grazing operation, the organic matter on their 1,000 acres of cropland was 2.3 to 3 per cent. Today, organic matter on that land is now more than 7 per cent, the result of pasture management and tillage practices that prioritize conservation, as well as the use of swath grazing and bale grazing in winter.

These management practices have also helped to increase infiltration capacity and soil aggregate stability while reducing soil compaction and density. As well, this land is estimated to sequester up to 60 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per acre.

"If we can get those systems in the soil working right to raise healthy crops, to raise healthy livestock to provide healthy food, that's what we're doing," Doug explains.

(Continued on page 7)

The Wray family is well known for their involvement in the forage industry and their willingness to share their experiences and knowledge with other producers. Doug has participated as a mentor in the Beef Cattle Research Council's rancher-researcher mentorship program, among many other volunteer opportunities.

A commitment to continuous improvement drives their activities, as the family is always looking to learn more about grazing, pasture management, and soil health.

"The stuff we learned in the 20 years we did it together, and now with Tim, with new ideas, and technology is growing, too, so you learn different things," says Linda. "It's never a process that stands still. You're always trying to move forward."

This focus on learning led Doug to become a well-known advocate within the forage industry. He was a founding member of the Alberta Forage Industry Network and represented Alberta through the Canadian Grassland and Forage Association, receiving the latter's Leadership Award in 2016.

Participating in research and sharing their experiences with other producers and agriculture groups are also important to the Wrays. For example, Tim organized an on-farm cover crop trial in 2019, bringing together FFGA, Food Water Wellness, the Irricana Ag Society, and the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry. He is currently participating in a Regenerative Agriculture Lab with Rural Routes to Climate Change, which is focused on introducing regenerative agriculture to the mainstream.

With so much out of the producers' control, Tim explains, managing the cattle and how they impact the land is their key priority. "We're watching that all season long, every season—how the cattle move, how much rain we're getting, how the plants are doing," he says.

"Probably the biggest challenge is there's so many things out of our control. We're part of a system that's so sophisticated and buzzing with life," says Tim.

"The best we can do is present ourselves humbly to the day, observe what's going on, and with our broad network across the industry, within research, beyond our sector even...try and

understand and appreciate how the ecosystem functions to make a viable business."

With the past five years bringing drier than average conditions, the Wrays' passion for regenerative agriculture has proved vital in how they've dealt with challenges created by reduced precipitation and hotter temperatures. To decrease grazing pressure on their pastures, they've reduced their herd size, rented pasture, and worked with neighbours to use any crop failures as a feed source.

"You must give more and take less in order to let the land heal and return the blessing," they acknowledge. "We are pleased that after two consecutive hot dry years our pastures are still in good shape, with stockpiled grass to catch snow and ground thatch to preserve valuable moisture."

"We've spent bit a lot of time learning how to be better graziers," says Doug Wray. "We divided it into 20-acre paddocks, with water in the corner of the paddock somewhere, and proceeded to move cows every two or three days for the next 25 years."

Always progressing for the next generation

With their sights set on future generations, the sustainability of Wray Ranch continues to be a major priority for the family.

"Living on a ranch that's been in the family now for 113 years, and with the next generation coming on board, we want to leave our land better than we found it, and being stewards of the land is something that we all aspire to," says Doug.

Using their network of trusted experts and peers to help inform their management decisions, the family has set several goals for their business. These include continuing to improve their grazing, soil, and livestock resources, increasing dugout capacity, and finding methods of using little to no tillage to rotate weaker pastures back to annual crops before returning to stronger perennial pastures.

Tim and Joanne Wray are passionate about sharing their love of the land with others, from their three young children and other producers to people from urban communities who have never experienced ranch life.

It all comes back to being able to care for this land and their cattle, a privi-

lege the Wray family doesn't take for granted, and a lifestyle they aim to share with others.

"When I look at this place and what it has brought to our family, it's been a place where people encounter the majesty of life and the power of friendship," says Tim.

"To try and give another generation the opportunity to experience that is very motivating."

Author: Piper Whelan

Original Article: <https://abpdaily.com/trail-blazers/celebrating-wray-ranch-the-2023-environmental-stewardship-award-winner/?fbclid=IwAR3yUry788pzqm2f8bJES-1YGJczyFgJu4YS2Sa6Ag84Ab1Dc-J3iKids>



PODCAST CORNER

What is FFGA listening to?

Monthly Podcast recommendations given by FFGA Directors

PODCAST CHANNEL
WORKING COWS

TITLE
CHANGING STOCKMANSHIP



SCAN ME

LINK

<https://workingcows.net/ep-298-changing-stockmanship-dawn-hnatow/>

SOUTH AFRICA AG & SIGHTSEEING TOUR



January 19 – February 4, 2024

Experience the nature, rich history, and culture of South Africa. There will be opportunities to take in the culture through a visit to the Blyde River Canyon, a mango sub-tropical farm, open land rover safaris and game drives as well as indulging on a traditional Boma Dinner. We will visit the Kruger National Park, Boulders Penguin Colony, House of J.C le Roux, , Boschendal Wine Estate, Abalone Tour, Table Mountain, and V & A Waterfront. We will also get the real agriculture experience by visiting to the Inyoni Crocodile Estate, Embryo Plus Centre, Beefmaster Alliance, Scientific Bonsmara crossbreeding programme & Eragrostis Pastures. We will visit sheep, cattle, corn, soybean operations and much more!

Package Pricing includes: Land Travel & International Flights

Prices vary depending on group size!

Twin prices will vary from \$8742.00 – \$9473.00 per person

For Full Itinerary: <https://www.foothillsforage.com/events>

To Book, Contact Lawrence Rowley
(403) 764-2044 or lawrence@leadertours.ca



Leader Tours Inc.

A Case Study on Replacement Heifer Selection – Part 1

By Livestock Gentec

In our first installment of Cattle-Hacks we introduced a new tool developed by Livestock Gentec, the Replacement Heifer Profit Index™ (RHPITM) It includes hybrid vigour along with genomic values for traits, such as birth weight, residual feed intake, and carcass traits to provide an index value that allows producers to directly compare the economic value of each animal in their herd.

Early indications have been that a vastly disproportionate percentage of “open” cows and heifers occur in animals with low RHPITM Scores. A mutual friend of the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association (FFGA) and Livestock Gentec, the Wray Ranch, is currently trialing the technology, and has allowed us to follow progress. This is the first installment.



(Wray cattle swath grazing. Photo: FFGA)

There is a good chance you are familiar with the Wray “clan”, as they have been leaders in the agricultural sector for many years as it relates to farming, forage, and beef production. In addition to their involvement with the FFGA, they have also regularly opened their herd and pastures to participate in research to improve agricultural process and practices, and volunteered their time to share their expertise at industry events. The relationship with Livestock Gentec developed through these activities.

The Wray Ranch has also been featured as the recipient of 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award presented by Alberta Beef Producers, Ducks Unlimited, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The ranch, located near Irricana Alberta, is co-owned / operated by Tim and Joanne Wray representing the 4th generation to lead the ranch as the baton is gradually passed forward from Doug and Linda.

So, first off, congratulations to the Wrays as the well-deserved recipients of this environmental steward-

ship award. For anyone interested in seeing first-hand some of the best-practices employed on the Wray Ranch, it is also featured on the Welcome to Alberta Tour hosted by Alberta Beef Producers with the Canadian Beef Industry Conference on August 14th.

Second, Gentec would also like to extend our gratitude to the Wrays whose participation and support of Gentec initiatives has been and is much appreciated. This has included the family providing input to Gentec’s International Industry Advisory Committee; participating in various Gentec conference presentations and panels; allowing on-ranch validation of genomics tool to occur in their herd as well as just having tested replacement heifers with Gentec’s most recent tool the Replacement Heifer Profit Index™ (RHPITM).

We spoke to Tim about the award and on the reasoning behind the ranch’s approach to science. Regarding the former, Tim’s first comment was that their families are grateful to have been selected as the recipient but that they look around the industry and see many individuals who are pursuing every opportunity to educate themselves and, like themselves, adopt those practices necessary to pass the baton forward to the next generation of beef producers in the form of an operation that is more vital, resilient, and environmentally sustainable than when they received it.



(Doug and Tim Wray. Photo: ABP)

In terms of the latter, the answer was simple. “As technology changes, you learn new things and as a result we change too. Information provides options, even if you don’t use it; a decision not to act is a decision too. You can’t be asleep at the switch as it is hard to get right when you consider the interactions between the soil, forage, genetics, and management. Any one of these can derail the train even if all the others are perfect, and that doesn’t even take the weather into account. At times, it can seem like a leap of faith, but it

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

may also be a necessary act of survival.”

Jumping back to the ranch itself, it comprises roughly 2,700 acres and 300 commercial cow/calf pairs and some custom grazing; the 2023 drought has reduced this to 135 cow/calf pairs and 270 yearlings. The ranch was involved in validating the value of hybrid vigour in crossbred commercial cattle* with Herdtrax, (now by Telus Agriculture) which Tim described as their long-time partner in herd improvement.

The RHPITM combines the value of hybrid vigour (which has been shown to be a valuable means of selecting for replacement heifers in the immediate term) with genomic progeny differences for relevant traits that can be used to select and breed for improvement in future



(Wray cattle grazing cover crops. Photo: Rural Routes)

daughters of these animals.

Not surprisingly, the rationale behind the trial is to increase the genetic potential of the cow herd. In this instance, out of 150 head, 71 heifers were submitted for DNA testing based on weight, age, and a thermal imaging test for thermal efficiency (more on this in the second update). The ranch estimates that the value of these tests will be split between the immediate potential to reduce open rates but even more important in times of herd reduction when you are forced to “cull the bottom”. “When times are good, and you are trying to expand your herd aggressively, you are trapped in that you have to keep what you have. In tougher times, if you can be certain in which animals to cull, you can better position yourself for the next cycle by creating a small, better herd”.

For those wishing to see Wray Ranch up close, to chat with the Wrays, and to hear more about the operation, its sustainability initiatives, genomics testing experience and participation in thermal imaging initiatives, you can register for the Welcome to Alberta Tour hosted by Alberta Beef Producers with the Canadian Beef Industry Conference, August 14-17.

Author: Clinton Brons, Livestock Gentec



RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

February 8, 2024 – Olds College

SAVE THE DATE!

For more info visit: www.RedBowAg.com



Ducks Unlimited
Canada



It's not just winter wheat anymore... **it's winter cereals!**

Grow profitable crops and contribute
to conservation. Learn how: contact Monica
at m_klaas@ducks.ca or **403-489-9911**





**Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**

NEED HELP WITH YOUR SCAP OR RALP APPLICATION?

**Connect with Sonja at FFGA:
(403) 612-7204**

or

**enviro@foothillsforage.com
to be connected with our
application specialist**



**FOOTHILLS FORAGE
AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION**

Board of Directors

Chairman:

Daniel Doerksen
(403) 633-0530

Vice Chairman:

Daryl Chubb
(403) 836-2202

Treasurer:

Justin Blades
(403) 336-5952

Directors:

Jerry Baerg
(403) 826-2016

Ryan Scott
(403) 682- 8377

Sarah Green
(403) 603-8722

Wolter van der Kamp

(780) 335-3249

Dave Sammons
(403) 934-7614

Tanis Cross
(403) 652-0954

Angela Kumlin
(403) 363-4923

Ben Campbell
(403) 803-9190

Staff

Manager:

Laura Gibney
manager@foothillsforage.com
Cell: (403) 998-4687

Communications Coordinator:

Kayla Minor
comm@foothillsforage.com
Cell: (403) 682-7116

Environmental Coordinator:

Sonja Bloom
enviro@foothillsforage.com
Cell: (403) 612-7204

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.

This Publication is made possible by our major funder - Results Driven Agriculture Research



FFGA is a proud member of



CRSB
Canadian Roundtable
for Sustainable Beef