



**FOOTHILLS FORAGE
AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION**

Innovation, education and regenerative agriculture

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GRASSROOTS NEWS & VIEWS December 2023

Coordinator's Note — Sonja Bloom

Howdy folks,

As the holidays approach and we get ready to say goodbye to 2023, I'd like to take some time to reflect on the past year. 2023 was an exceptionally busy year with many great opportunities to gather and share in each other's company; something that has been sorely missed since our Covid isolation days. Sometimes I still find a mask in an old coat pocket and chuckle to myself; those were crazy days.

I returned to FFGA towards the end of January and jumped into my new role as Environmental Coordinator. Kayla has taken over the Communications role for FFGA which has allowed me to return to work part time and focus on the Environmental portfolio. You might be asking what this portfolio looks like for the association, here is a quick snapshot of what I worked on this past year.

Environmental Farm Plans is a large portion of my work that I focus on. As FFGA operates in 13 municipalities, I take requests from producers to work on their EFP's from across most of SW Alberta. This year, I have accepted 70 new producer requests and have worked on over 50 webbooks. This is shaping up to be our biggest EFP year to date!

Other projects that I have been focusing on this past year include helping producers navigate different funding programs offered from many different groups. These include the new SCAP programs such as RALP, the ALUS program which is available in some SW communities, Ducks Unlimited funding programs, and other opportunities available in local areas. If you missed the first Securing Success events but want to learn more about these programs (and come work on your EFP, RALP Application or

Grazing Plan), be sure to join us in Acme on January 10 and Patricia on January 30th (see page 8).

While reflecting on this past year, I am reminded again of the many reasons that I absolutely love my work with FFGA. I'd be remiss to not mention my most favorite part of my job; the field tours and workshops. This year was a whirlwind with over 20 events hosted across our region. We will have a breakdown of all these events in our Annual Report this spring. 2024 is shaping up to be an even busier year with a number of quality events already taking registration such as; Ladies Livestock Lessons (page 2), Ranching Opportunities; where yours truly will be presenting on Funding Opportunities (page 10), Identifying Cattle Efficiency workshops (page 11), and 2 Regenerative Alberta Living Labs workshops (February 27 & 28, details to come). If you need a last-minute stocking stuffer, these events make great gifts.

Just a reminder to our membership that there has been changes to mine and Kayla's phone numbers. Please be sure to update your contact details for both of us (our numbers are on the back- page 12) and if you text the old FFGA cell, please note that you are not talking with FFGA staff.

From my family to yours, wishing you all the best this holiday season. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Sonja

(Sonja with her Husband George and son Robert in Waterton)



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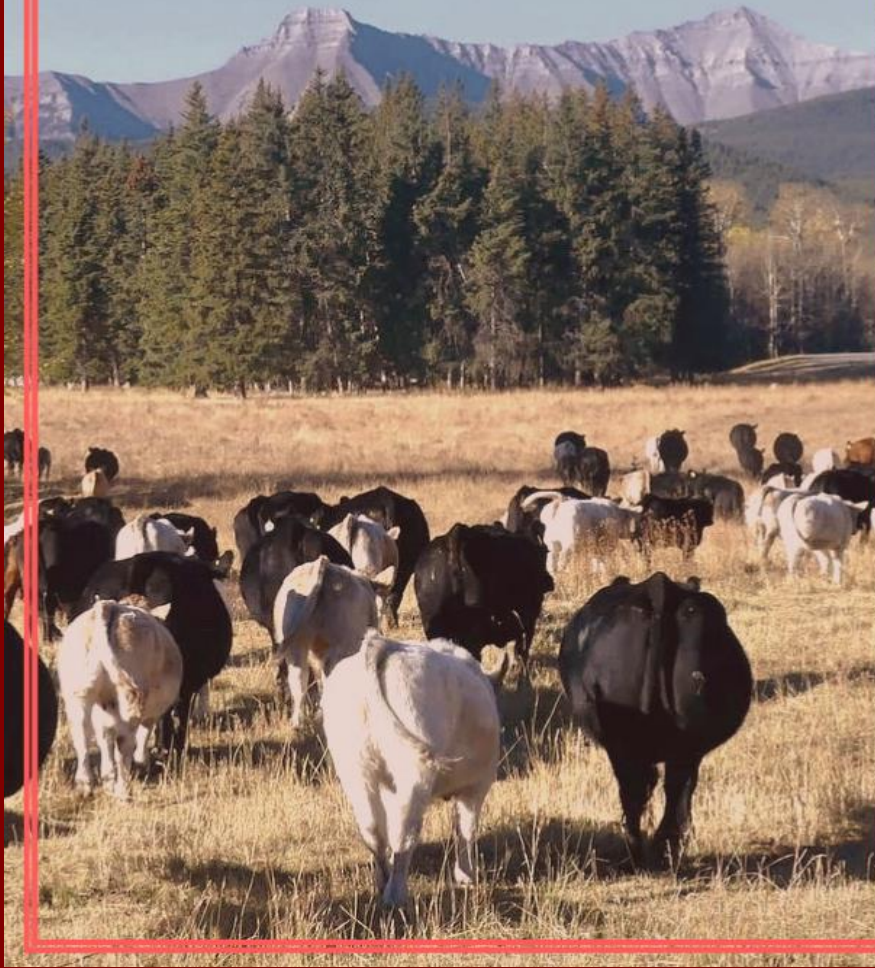
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Ladies Livestock Lessons

In partnership with The Stockmen's
Bunkhouse Bonanza

January 19, 2024

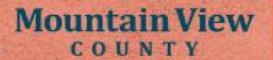
Cochrane Ranchehouse, Cochrane AB



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Topics include Livestock First Aid,
Pasture Management, Livestock
in Our Ecosystem and More!



On the Cover: FFGA and RMC Ranching for Profit School. Photo: FFGA

Thank you for your support!



Tips for winter water systems for cattle



Photo: FFGA

Michelle Panko, program information specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture, recently offered tips and outlined winter system options at a Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association webinar.

For those struggling with freezing water bowls, Panko suggests looking at in-line heat tape, which is inserted into the water line and plugged in.

A utility pump and about 15 feet of four-inch hose with an adapter will also thaw waterbowls.

"You just need a five-gallon pail of hot water. You put your pump in there, plug in your pump, and then that hose that's connected, it's going to pump hot water. You can put it down your waterline and jet that hot water down to the depth of wherever it's iced up."

Producers are also using game cameras and their cell phones to monitor water systems. "You do have to have cell service so that can be a limitation."

Look for a game camera with a time lapse mode, or every movement will trigger the camera. "You don't want that happening when it's cattle watering or birds flying into a water bowl, because it's going to send you a gazillion pictures."

Instead, use the time lapse mode to schedule a photo once every few hours.

Panko also outlined several options for winter water systems:

Water Box. Install insert through frozen ice into water body. Self-operating and can be accessed 24/7 by livestock. Uses geothermal energy from water. Must train animals to use it. May have to scoop ice in cold weather. Consider additional units for a large herd.

Aquifer trough/drink tubes. Highly insulated, use geothermal heat from water. May need to remove ice, especially

on cold days. Be aware of minimum herd size recommendations.

Portable solar systems, such as from Sundog Solar, can be used year-round with a winter insert. Make sure pump size matches water flow capacity. Check well capacity against number of head you're watering. Size system for number of head you intend to water, or more, as pump and batteries can become less efficient over time.

Propane stock tank heater, purchased separately from solar systems. Offers thermo-statically controlled heating. Adjustable brackets allow attachment to most metal, concrete or poly tanks. Keeps a three- to five-foot radius of water open.

DU~AL Year-Round Watering System uses a flameless catalytic heater with propane. Insulation conserves heat. Use with solar system or adapt to underground pressurized line.

Drain-back bowl with motion eye, available from several companies. Motion eye activates submersible pump, excess water drains into wet well. Water supply should be within 15 feet of soil surface (dugout or high water table). Corrugated poly cribbing preferred for wet well, as it doesn't rust and is sturdy. Need a filter to keep debris out of pump when water drains. Can work with a solar system.

Frost-free nose pumps. Panko recommends training cattle to use them. Best used on top of well with high water table or wet well off a dugout, she says. No pump or heat source required. Nose pump is mounted on insulated cribbing. One nose pump should water 100 head.

Thermosink Livestock Watering Systems work with pressurized lines, no power required. Operate with geothermal heat. May have to chip ice if not enough cattle are drinking, cattle don't drink within 24 hours or it's -30 C or colder. Use mineral oil around float to prevent freezing.

Trough made from an industrial mining tire. Nearly indestructible. Usually used with buried, pressurized waterline. Burying tire pit below ground level should allow for geothermal heat. A thicker tire provides more insulation. In cold weather, will need

to clean ice. Small calves can be bumped into large troughs, so design in a way to prevent that and/or allow cattle to get out.

Author: Canadian Cattlemen Staff

Original Article: <https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/news-roundup/tips-for-winter-water-systems-for-cattle/>

PODCAST CORNER



What is FFGA listening to?

Monthly Podcast recommendations given by FFGA Directors

PODCAST CHANNEL

HERD QUITTER

TITLE

RAISING CROPS, CATTLE AND A FAMILY



SCAN ME

LINK

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3Tt1OKzLNzSdWAMEJAIHYg>

Livestock Gentec wins ASTech Award

FFGA is excited to Congratulate Livestock Gentec on winning the 2024 ASTech Award!

Historical FFGA involvement with Gentec going back “the better part of a decade” that allowed FFGA members to share their reality, opportunities and priorities to inform ongoing research as well as allowing Gentec to present real-time advances being made. This has been achieved through joint participation in field days, farm visits, membership participation in the research, validation, and demonstration of these technologies and Gentec attendance at FFGA AGM through the years.

FFGA has in fact been one of the early innovators in delivering both the information on, and opportunity to participate in, the trial of many of the genomic tools for which Gentec has just been recognized as an ASTech Award Recipient highlighted by RDAR below. These tools include EnVigour HX, the Replacement Heifer Profit Index, and well as the Feeder Profit Index that have all been developed and validated in part through our own memberships herds.

In fact, preparations are ongoing to continue our collaborative efforts as early as February 2024. Details can be found on page 11.

Not that this is our first interaction with the FFGA. Back in 2018, Foothills Forage and Gentec co-hosted a two-day event that included three pasture-walks with:

- The LaBrie Family (Difficulty Ranch) showcasing their forage management philosophy, ecological initiatives, and how they have worked to optimize the performance of their cow herd to match their environment;
- The Goetjen’s (Whisky Ridge Cattle Company) highlighting their approaches regarding swath grazing, perennial forages, and innovative fencing techniques that aimed for better wildlife inclusion, lower maintenance, and ultimately, an increase in their land’s cattle-carrying capacity;
- Waldron Grazing Cooperative featuring walks showcasing soil health, the benefits of multi-species grazing, and a drone demonstration.

Once again we thank RDAR for their generous support in improving the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of Agricultural sector and thrilled to see their investment in an FFGA collaborator so prestigiously recognized.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together – and see farther by standing on the shoulders of giants.

And so it has been with Drs. John Basarab and Graham Plastow at Livestock Gentec at the University of Alberta. John was delighted to accept the 2023 Best in Sector ASTech Award for INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE / AGRI-FOOD on behalf of Livestock Gentec and the whole team (collaborators, industry partners and funders) at the ceremony in Calgary on November 3rd.

Seeing Farther: Benefits that continue to be delivered to the beef industry include:

- Conversion to genomic SNP parentage technology.
- Assembly of the largest database of Canadian commercial crossbred cattle.
- Improving feed efficiency of local herds and breeding stock.
- Development, commercial validation, and delivery of genomics tools for commercial producers that include: EnVigour HXTM genomic breed composition and hybrid vigour; Replacement Heifer Profit Index ScoreTM ; and Feeder Profit IndexTM .

Going Together: John’s drive to improve the beef sector has been guided by “his giant” Dr. Roy T. Berg for over 35 years, and supported by industry and provincial and federal governments.

John worked with Alberta Agriculture as a research scientist and is now RDAR Research Professor in Livestock Genetics at the University of Alberta. He has been a member of the executive of Livestock Gentec since 2008.

Going Far: With Graham and the Gentec team, John has worked tirelessly to deliver unbiased advice on how genomics tools can best be applied to improve beef herds and producer productivity.





FFGA 2024 BURSARY

CALLING ALL POST- SECONDARY STUDENTS

Deadline is February 16, 2024

Are you enrolled in a full-time program that will contribute to the future of the forage & livestock industry? If that is a 'yes', this bursary is for you!



SCAN ME

For all qualifications & to apply visit:

<https://www.foothillsforage.com/bursary2024>



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Conserving
Canada's
Wetlands



Pasture Management: Healthy and Productive Grasslands



Photo: FFGA

Assess and maintain grassland health and keep your herds well-fed on native grasses and forbs with these pasture management techniques.

In the middle of a tallgrass prairie, it can seem like time stands still. Day after day, the bluestem grass sways in the breeze, and the buffalo wallows continue to look like a herd of bison passed through just the other day. Underneath this calm façade, though, an entire ecosystem is hard at work. With the right care, you can work in conjunction with that ecosystem to find a system for managing your grassland that benefits both your pasture and your animals.

Know Your Landscape

For centuries, tallgrass prairies have played a vital part in ranching and cattle production.

While these pastures can be left to their own devices, without proper management and care, they can fall prey to invasive trees and noxious weeds. As my brother-in-law, Klayton Krispense, says, “If not cared for, your productive piece of grassland can become a depressing section of wasteland.”

Doug Spencer, state grazing specialist with the Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service, explains some of the basic principles of good grassland management: “Know your landscape and ecological context, the needs of the plants, the needs of the animals or livestock, and work to strike a balance of meeting needs while providing additional ecosystem services,” he says. “Herbivory [grazing and browsing], fire, and climate interacted to shape Kansas grasslands.”

When evaluating your pastures, consider improvement techniques that will benefit both your grassland and your grazing livestock.

When looking at your piece of rangeland, consider what factors are affecting it. What kind of forage does it produce? Is it grazed regularly, or has it been overgrazed? Has it been burned recently? Are invasive weeds present? According to Spencer, you should ask yourself whether you’re fully understanding and properly utilizing all the factors contributing to the current condition of your grassland.

Evaluate Regularly

Keep a watchful eye on your grassland to help avoid any unpleasant surprises. We regularly evaluate pastures in spring and fall, before we put the cattle out to grass and then again to know when to take them off.

In early spring, we perform regular maintenance and repair to our fences, and we evaluate the pastures to see if burning would be beneficial. If a piece of grassland is infested with small trees (such as cedars), was unevenly grazed the previous season, or was partially burned at some point, a controlled burn can help promote an even level of new growth, which helps encourage cattle to graze the entire pasture instead of favoring sections.

Signs of Grassland Health: Native Grasses and Forbs

Most pastures in our area of the Flint Hills consist of a blend of native grasses and forbs. Many forbs get a bad rap as “weeds,” but just because a plant is considered a weed doesn’t necessarily mean it’s harmful. Weeds can simply be unwanted plants in a particular place. According to research done by the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station in 2012, up to 29% of a cow’s diet can consist of forbs. Before undergoing harsh treatments to remove the “weeds” from your pasture, consider whether some of them are beneficial feed for your herd.

Keep in mind, though, that some species of plants and trees can be harmful to an ecosystem, and even considered “noxious.” In grassland specifically, sericea lespedeza and musk thistle can cause concern. “Additional plants, such as teasel [common or cut-leaf] and old-world bluestems can be county-option-designated and are also on the increase in grasslands,” Spencer says. “While not noxious, there are additional plants that

could be considered invasive or obnoxious within grasslands. Some woody species to be concerned with include eastern red cedar, hedge, and locust, but several others can invade depending on what the local seed source is. The loss of grasslands due to woody plant encroachment is a serious concern across the Great Plains. When grasslands are lost, we lose biodiversity, pollinators, working lands, opportunities for hunting and outdoor recreation, carbon sequestration, and water security.”

According to Spencer, a pasture that contains quite a few weeds could indicate a large amount of bare ground, allowing weeds a place to both germinate and grow. Broomweed can come up in large quantities if the ground was bare the previous fall. Weeds can also indicate a weakened community of native plants, which can be a result of anything from drought to overgrazing.

For help identifying weeds and developing a treatment plan, contact your local county extension agent or rangeland specialist. They may even have suggestions for preventative measures you can take to avoid the issue in the future.

Sometimes, a simple step can be taken to help prevent an infestation. For example, if musk thistle is located in our pastures, we remove the entire plant (with gloves!) and put any seed heads in a separate feed sack to be burned. If not managed properly, musk thistle can spread between pastures and cause issues for neighbors, so it’s important to keep on top of it regularly.

Grassland Soil Health

Healthy soil is the foundation of healthy grassland. When asked about soil health, Spencer tells people that grasslands are managed by observing only about a third of the whole situation, as about two-thirds of annual production remains underground, keeping the soil healthy and supporting the biotic community. “Complete turnover in root systems happens every three years or so and leads to high organic matter content in our grassland soils,” he says. “We make management decisions viewing a third of the situation, and our treatment of the above-ground community has a twofold impact

(Continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

belowground. It's up to the manager to decide if that's a positive or negative impact."

According to Spencer, if you dig down into well-managed native rangeland, you'd hope to find healthy soil that's dark in color thanks to the high organic matter content. It would be full of live roots and, as Spencer puts it, "well-aggregated, resembling cottage cheese curds."

Not all soil is created equal, so it's helpful to have a basic understanding of the various types of soil you might have. "Knowing your soils is part of knowing your landscape and ecological context," Spencer says.

According to agronomist Andy Kelsey, soil types can change within every 1/4 to 1/2 mile. Some examples of common soil types in our area include Irwin silty clay, clime silty clay loam, reading silt loam, and Labette silty clay.

Clay is finely textured and "sticky" if wet. It can range in color from black to gray and even yellow in some places. Sandy soil has loose particles that don't retain water or nutrients. Loam soil has larger particles, allowing plant roots to penetrate deeper and water to better infiltrate. An example of silt soil can be found in fields where water has washed the top layer of soil into a concentrated area called a "silt bar." Silt particles are between the size of clay and sand particles, and they can feel somewhat slippery to the touch.

To learn more about your soil, check out the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Web Soil Survey or the SoilWeb app, developed by the NRCS and the University of California, Davis, Soil Resource Laboratory. Results can be detailed, even down to a specific area of a field.

Manage Erosion

While erosion doesn't affect grassland production as much as it can affect cropland, it'll certainly change how your land continues to function. According to Spencer, if the plant community is weakened, it can lead to bare ground, offering more place for water runoff. In areas where cattle walk the same path day after day, eventually wearing a "cow trail" into the ground, water will flow to the lowest point, continually running down through the cow path as it cuts away dirt. Eventually, a ravine can form.

To help manage erosion, Spencer says you should maintain healthy grass-

land and watch for any changes in the pasture. "Identify where changes in water flow or vegetation cover are occurring or could occur, minimize the negative animal disturbances, and allow vegetation recovery," he says. "Proactive management decisions will help prevent the need for costly items, such [as] engineered structures for erosion control."

Pros and Cons of Controlled Burns

When a controlled burn is executed properly and during the appropriate season, it helps eliminate any remaining dead grass and debris from the previous grazing season, removes parasites and ticks overwintering in the grass, and promotes a more even growth of new grass. According to Kelsey, if a controlled burn is done at certain times, it can be used to target and kill specific weeds that are just beginning to grow, as well as any remaining weed seed.

While fire certainly can be helpful, it has some drawbacks. Kelsey notes that as fire burns, nitrogen and sulfur are gassed off into the atmosphere (both of which are extremely important for good growth in a majority of plants), and potassium is lost as ash remaining after the fire then blows away.

As a grassland manager, weigh the pros and cons and make an informed decision before implementing a controlled burn. Consider the climate. Is it forecasted to be an extremely dry season? Look at how even the grass is. Notice if only a specific section of the pasture has been grazed and if there's a large amount of tall, dead grass that could poke cattle in the eyes as they reach for the shorter, new growth.

Pasture Management and Grazing Systems

When keeping livestock on grassland, Spencer says you must know the carrying capacity of your pasture before you decide on a particular grazing system. While you have several options to consider, he suggests implementing a system that's manageable for both your availability and your skills. You'll also want to choose a system that meets the needs of both your grassland and your animals.

Methods of management can change from year to year and season to season. Spencer warned against continuing with the same management style just because it worked in the past. Keep in mind the changing variables each year, whether lack of rain, changes in the sizes of animals (and demand for forage), or any

change in feed production due to an invasive species moving in. For example, according to my father-in-law, Todd Krispense, a local rancher and third-generation cattleman, it can be good to stock a pasture lighter or remove the animals sooner during dry years. Keep watch on how much forage is available, and don't automatically assume you need to burn each spring. In colder climates, if grass is overgrazed in fall before going dormant and freezing, it can be hard on the root system. To avoid this, don't leave livestock to graze too late into the season.

Grazing systems come in a variety of different shapes and sizes, from a single animal left in a pasture year-round to an intense "mob grazing" system, where a herd is regularly rotated to a new section of grass. What we implement on our farm is a hybrid system; we stock a single pasture heavily, but we don't leave the cattle on late into the season.

It can also be beneficial to graze more than one type of animal at a time. Klayton Krispense raises Boer goats, which tend to eat forbs, woody plants (such as buckbrush), and other unwanted pasture plant species that cattle might normally pass up in exchange for grass. I encourage you to read more on multi-species grazing systems and the benefits they offer, including reduced parasite problems and targeted plant control.

According to Todd Krispense, when managing rangeland, it's important to keep a long-term plan in mind. Even though it might seem like a particular practice or method is profitable in the short term (such as overstocking or overgrazing), some practices can be detrimental to your grassland and will cause damage when continued for a longer period. While some producers push for more animal productivity, an old rule of thumb for forage production is "take half, leave half."

Whether you have a single animal or an entire herd, making an effort to manage your grassland effectively will be important to the long-term health, productivity, and profitability of not only your land, but your animals too!

Author: Ashleigh Krispense

Original Article: <https://www.grit.com/farm-and-garden/pasture-management-healthy-grassland-zm0z23jazawar/>

SECURING SUCCESS: FUNDING & GRAZING STRATEGIES FOR YOUR OPERATION

Join FFGA at one of the workshops on local funding opportunities. At these workshops, producers will have a chance to network with experts from the programs and other local organizations. In the afternoon choose to work hands on with experts and technicians in 1 of 3 breakout sessions; Environmental Farm Plans, RALP Funding Support, or How to Build your Grazing Plan.

January 10, 2024 - Acme Community Centre

January 30, 2024 - Patricia Community Hall

9:00am - 4:00pm

Cost (lunch Included)

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

www.foothillsforage.com/securingsuccess



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

SAVE THE DATE

Overcoming Challenges in Weed Management in Regenerative Agriculture

With Kris Nichols and Kim Cornish

February 27, 2024 - Standard, AB

February 28, 2024 - Fort Macleod, AB

Topics will include Weed Management for Regenerative Systems on grazing pastures, and crop land.

Watch for more details to come!



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Consider feed requirements for beef cattle during cold weather

Photo: FFGA



When the weather outside is frightful, cattle need a helping hand.

“The ability of cattle to withstand cold conditions is impacted by the lower critical temperature, or LCT,” said Karl Hoppe, a livestock specialist with North Dakota State University’s extension service.

“When the temperature drops below the LCT, maintenance requirements will increase and performance can be affected.”

The LCT will vary depending on thickness of the hide and hair coat, whether the animal is wet or dry, and factors such as age, stage of production and body condition of the animal.

“In general, an LCT of 18 F (-8 C) commonly is used for animals with a dry, heavy coat,” said Hoppe. “However, well-adapted cattle in good body condition during mid-gestation may be able to tolerate temperatures as low as -6 F (-21 C) without negative impacts on performance.”

Below the LCT, the maintenance energy requirement of cattle will increase as cows divert more energy to maintaining body temperature. To compensate, additional energy must be provided in the diet.

“If additional feed and protection from elements are not provided, cows will burn body energy stores to produce heat and maintain the function of vital organs,” said Janna Block, another NDSU livestock specialists.

“If extreme weather conditions are short-lived, effects on body condition losses may be minimal. However, extended cold conditions without additional energy provided will result in weight loss that will further reduce body condition and insulation and impact the cow’s ability to deal with cold stress.”

Like people, cattle experience the

effective temperature, which includes air temperature, humidity and wind chill.

Wind can increase heat losses much more quickly than when air is still at the same temperature. Several charts, such as this one, are available to help producers calculate the effective temperature.

Wind Speed (mph)		Temperature (°F)										
		0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
Calm		0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
5		-6	-1	3	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43
10		-11	-6	-1	3	8	13	18	23	28	33	38
15		-15	-10	-5	0	4	9	14	19	24	29	34
20		-20	-15	-10	-5	0	4	9	14	19	24	29
25		-27	-22	-17	-12	-7	-2	2	7	12	17	22
30		-36	-31	-27	-21	-16	-11	-6	-1	3	8	13

David Ames, Colorado State University

To account for increased energy needs due to cold temperatures, a general rule of thumb is to increase the energy density (total digestible nutrients or TDN) of the diet by one per cent for each degree below the LCT.

For example, a temperature of -15 C with a 30 km-h wind results in an effective temperature of -26 C, five degrees below the LCT mentioned above for cows in good condition with a heavy winter hair coat during mid-gestation.

Under normal conditions, cows require an energy density of at least 50 per cent TDN during mid-gestation. In this example, cows would require an additional nine per cent TDN for a total of 59 per cent TDN.

“During extended cold temperatures, meeting additional energy needs with increased amounts of low-quality forage can be difficult, and may even be dangerous,” Block said. “As metabolic rates increase in order to increase heat production and maintain body temperature, appetite and voluntary feed intake are increased.

“When large amounts of low-quality forage are consumed, inadequate protein and energy limit fermentation by rumen microbes. This will reduce nutrient absorption and slow the reduction of particle size in the rumen.

“Over time, large feed particles accumulate in the abomasum, fluids stop moving through the digestive tract, and blockage occurs. This condition is known as abomasal impaction.”

Signs of impaction include a distended abdomen, weakness and anorexia, as

well as reduced manure excretion. Affected animals typically die within a week. Higher-quality forages and/or supplements such as grain or byproducts may be necessary to avoid this situation during extreme cold weather events.

Feeding late in the afternoon will help ensure that heat from fermentation will be maximized during the coldest part of the night. It is also important to ensure that cattle have consistent access to fresh water to help increase nutrient utilization and reduce the risk of impaction.

“In addition to adjusting diets, providing windbreaks and bedding can increase the ability of livestock to effectively manage cold stress,” said Hoppe.

“While heavy winter haircoats offer excellent protection against cold weather, wet and/or windy conditions can reduce the insulating properties.”

In particular, livestock on rangeland or winter pasture may not have adequate protection from the elements. Low spots and trees that offer natural protection from wind and snow are not available in every situation, so producers may need to provide portable solutions such as large round bales or panels covered with a tarp or canvas.

In the case of severe cold stress, cattle may experience hypothermia, which slows metabolic and physiological processes and diverts blood away from extremities. This can result in frostbite to teats, ears and testes.

Therefore, producers must consider potential negative impacts not only on cows but also on herd bulls. Bedding can provide additional insulation between cattle and snow or frozen ground, and reduce the risk of frostbite.

“Beef cattle are very resilient, and are capable of adapting and performing in cold temperatures when provided with adequate rations and protected from the elements,” said Block.

Author: North Dakota State University

Original Article: <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/contributor/north-dakota-state-university-release/>

RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 8, 2024 - OLDS COLLEGE



To register visit: www.RedBowAg.com

Topics include Grazing Sustainability, Water Management, Producer Funding and Programs, Cattle Handling Demo and Much More!



OLDS COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY



**FOOTHILLS FORAGE
AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION**



**Kneehill
COUNTY**



IDENTIFYING CATTLE EFFICIENCY USING INFRARED AND GENETIC TECHNOLOGY

	February 13, 2024	Klassen AgriVentures Linden, AB
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OR

	February 15, 2024	Lilybrook Herefords Claresholm, AB
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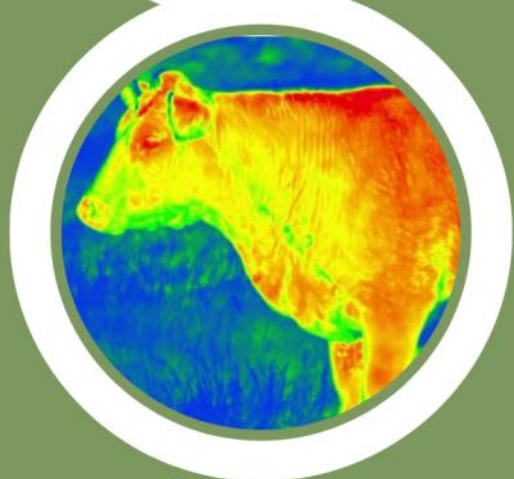
Agenda:

- **9:45am** - Coffee & Registration
- **10:00am** - Presentation & Cattle Demonstration with Dr. Al Schafer
- **Noon** - Lunch (provided)
- **1:00pm** - Producer Experience with Doug & Tim Wray
- **2:00pm** - Genetic Technology presentation with Livestock Genetc

Cost:

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

<https://www.foothillsforage.com/cattleefficiency>



Merry Christmas

HAPPY HOLIDAY'S

From FFGA Board & Staff



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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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