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 2022

Summer Student's Note — Morgan Robertson

Hello,

I recently finished my first year at Olds College with one year left. I am currently taking Agricultural Management, with a focus on production. I have learned the basics of crop identification, how to record and summarize financial transactions, nutrition values for livestock, and much more that will help further my education and give me an idea of what area I want to continue my education in. After my two years at Olds College, I plan on getting my degree in Agriculture by attending the University of Saskatchewan and taking their Animal Science program. I have always enjoyed being around cattle and helping out on my family ranch with calving season, processing, and feeding as well. I was part of the Longview 4-H Beef Club for nine years, 4-H helped me realize just how much I wanted to stay involved in the cattle industry. There is much more to cows than a delicious steak on your plate. With the benefits they provide to our grasslands and the ecosystem, I knew I wanted to continue working in this incredible industry.

In November of 2019, I bought two Belted Galloway heifers and bought four more in May of 2021. This unique cattle breed caught my eye with their Oreo cookie look, so I decided to start a business of raising and selling Belted Galloway's and I call the business Oreo Cattle Company. Through this I have also learned many things, from publishing a website to communicating with potential buyers. Growing up as a shy kid, which I can sometimes still be, I have learned to speak up and communicate my thoughts. This is all thanks to the Public Speaking competitions in 4-H and is one of the many useful skills I gained from 4-H.

With a foot in the cattle industry, I also wanted to get off the ranch and experience and learn more about what is beneath the grass and dig a little deeper. Through my summer job at FFGA, I have learned the steps taken to soil sample and I have seen the different types of soil in Alberta. From soil sampling on crop land, native grass, and tame grass, I have learned it is much easier to soil sample when it has just rained. It has been an interesting and informative experience thus far into soil sampling. I have also been able to attend the workshops that FFGA puts on, and through this I have really enjoyed learning from producers and experts in this field. Some of the more recent workshops such as the Odette Menard Soil Health Field Tours and the OH and Tongue Creek Tour, I was able to expand my knowledge in both soil health and different ways to control brush encroachment. I especially enjoyed taking a closer look at what is happening beneath the ground and what practices can be done to help compacted soils, and the steps taken to assess soil health. The summer has gone by quickly and I have really enjoyed working at FFGA, and look forward to going back to Olds in the fall.

Morgan

Morgan and her Belted Galloway's

IN THIS ISSUE

Into the woods	4 & 5
Converting Marginal Cropland To Perennials Builds Soil And Profitability	6 & 7
What works — or at least helps — in reducing livestock predation?	9

Walshe Community Hall
August 20, 2022
5pm
Tickets available at
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/james-hargrave-legacy-foundation-summer-celebration-tickets-365930115827

Scholarship Applications Are Open
$3000 for individuals or groups working in the beef and grazing industry. For more information go to jameshargravelegacy.com

On the Cover: **Sainfoin at the Palmer Ranch near Hillspring Alberta. .**

Thank you for your support!

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
M.D. of PINCHER CREEK
FOOTHILLS COUNTY
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of BIGHORN
MD of Willow Creek
WHEATLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Mountain View COUNTY
Kneehill COUNTY
MD of RANCHLAND NO. 66
STARLAND COUNTY
Vulcan COUNTY

On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

Foothills Forage & Grazing Association will be hosting a number of workshops, field days, and webinars in the coming months to introduce and support producers in adopting Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) eligible under OFCAF. Keep an eye on our website and newsletter for upcoming events.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

OFCAF is an initiative to help farmers tackle climate change. Funding for this project [in part] has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions – On-Farm Climate Action Fund.

RDAR is a program delivery partner that will administer OFCAF in Alberta, for Alberta's producers. RDAR will deliver OFCAF in three activity categories:

1. Improving nitrogen management
2. Enhancing soil health with cover crops
3. Strengthening rotational grazing systems

Who is eligible to recieve funding?

To receive funding, applicants must meet these conditions:

- **Be an active producer including a proprietorship, corporation, or registered partnership that can demonstrate a minimum of $25,000 of gross farm income in Alberta.**
- **Work with a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) (See: Guide to Accessing Agricultural Recommendations in Alberta (rdar.ca/ ofcaf/access-recs)) to develop a BMP Action Plan that also identifies the cost difference from usual practices.**
- **Complete an application that includes a recommended BMP Action Plan and a funding request.**
- **Provide permission for post-project inspections.**
- **The minimum project size is $2,500. Applicants must pay 100% of the costs upfront, with no in-kind payments. All payments will be considered taxable income.**
- **Only applications that have been approved by OFCAF in writing will be eligible for program funding.**
- **Landlords whose only interest is in the land and not raising crops or livestock are not eligible.**

QUICK FACTS ABOUT OFCAF

- **Activities to support the adoption of BMPs, like outreach, education, and training are part of the initiative.**
- **The program will operate from August 4, 2022, to March 31, 2024.**
- **Funding will be allocated for new practices completed between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023.**
- **New applications will be needed to fund practices planned for completion between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024.**
- **As applications are reviewed, some BMPs and eligible expenses may be closed as targeted outcomes are reached.**

For detailed program information, including funding amounts, eligible expenses and application process, or to register for OFCAF info webinar session visit rdar.ca/ofcaf/

Into the woods


(Photo: Kayla Minor)

On Kingsclere Ranch, the balance between forestry and beef production is mutually beneficial for both its business model and the environment.

"The cows have a role to play in the total balance of the equation, and that's a pretty significant role," says Jeff Braisher, who produces high-end timber and raises cattle at Golden, B.C.

Here in the Columbia Valley, Braisher's operation consists of private forestry land and Crown land. In addition to grazing open grasslands, he uses transitory grazing, which takes place in areas where timber has been harvested.

"One of the things that we try to manage for is that combination between tree growth and grass growth," he says.

"Harvesting trees is part of the equation for us because … that's part of our business model, and so after the trees are harvested, that's grazing for the cows after that for a period of time."

With the right management practices, agroforestry can be an important part of maintaining this balance. Agroforestry is "the practice of using trees, shrubs, plants and animals on the same land in an integrated system that benefits all, while potentially providing better economic returns than if the land was used for one purpose alone," according to the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) website.

Forest grazing is one method of agroforestry, where producers increase their grazing capacity by pasturing cattle in naturally forested rangelands. Another form is silvopasture, a system in which livestock grazing is incorporated with timber production.

"The native plant community is best strategically grazed when the trees are younger and the canopy is more open, which allows more light to reach the forest floor," BCRC's resource on agroforestry states. "As the forest matures, the canopy closes, reducing the understory plants, shrubs and browse. Once the canopy cover exceeds 50 per cent, grazing often becomes unfeasible."

It's recommended to graze forested rangelands just once per season, only taking 25 per cent of the total forage production. Trees slow snowmelt, delaying forage growth, so it's best to graze these areas between mid-June and August.

On Braisher's ranch, the stocking rate depends on the area being grazed. "We run on a rotation here, and so the transitory grazing is part of what we're doing in these open fields and these pastures. So we never keep our cows in one location for very long," he says.

"This year, we slowed our rotation right down because of the dry conditions, and that seemed to work okay for us. If we have particularly lush conditions, we can increase the speed of a rotation; the cows tend to do a little better because the grass is at a better stage of growth for them."

In some regions, such as the Maritimes, forested rangelands and woodlots provide ideal winter shelter for cattle and spots for feeding. However in regions such as B.C., cattle are often brought home from forested rangeland in winter.

Grazing in the Boreal Forest

"We'll feed in the open ground and they'll winter in the bush. We use the bush as windbreak; it's a natural shelter for the cattle," says Mark Campbell, who ranches with his wife, Bluesette, his parents and brother.

This cow-calf operation, consisting of between 700 and 750 head, uses holistic management principles. The two principles are to avoid overgrazing and to cover bare ground for optimal health and production. The Campbells have found that an 85-day recovery period is optimal for their land, and this extends to forested areas. They tend not to graze these areas in the spring, as the grass isn't where it needs to be compared to other pastures.

Cattle grazing in a clearing in Kingsclere Ranch's pastures. The cattle will graze both clearings and forested areas on the ranch. photo: Jeff Braisher

"We don't get the grazing days in the forest land that you do in the meadows because the grass production's not there," says Mark. "The same principles apply in that land that apply in any other land. The better job you can do grazing it, the better it will grow as time goes by."

They have about 100 pastures on 4,200 acres and generally move their cattle daily. "They're designed that way so that they can accommodate our entire herd for one day so that we aren't moving more frequently or don't have to if we don't want to," says Bluesette.

While some of their forested pastures are too dense for feeding cattle and won't leave the residual impact they want to improve the land, they have one particular forested pasture that has seen incredible improvement over two decades through the use of holistic management.

"When we moved home, we didn't used to get a day in there — we had less cattle then than we do now, and now we can comfortably put them in. So over 20 years, we probably doubled the carrying capacity on that chunk of ground," says Mark.

Finding equilibrium

To avoid these *(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)
risks, Braisher watches for specific areas where the cattle like to congregate. "They can trample the roots of these trees, and especially if the conditions are wet underneath the forest canopy, and so sometimes it invited disease into the trees," he says. He's found that mature trees can tolerate trampling by cattle a bit more than younger trees, and some species stand up to this better, too.

The age of the trees dictates how forested areas are grazed. While young trees offer the most forage production, care needs to be taken so they aren't damaged at this stage.

"Young, juvenile trees that are somewhere between three feet and 10 feet tall, the cows actually really love those trees. They love to go hang out in those because there's usually a lower canopy in those, and it breaks the wind for them and provides a bit of an environment for them to have some protection," Braisher explains.

"That's really hard on them, and so there's places where, for instance, we would love to be able to feed cattle near a water site in a field where we know that the field would benefit from the nutrients applied, but we'll sometimes shy away from that just because of what the cows can do to the trees in those particular situations."

If fall comes early and is particularly frosty, he's found that the cattle like to bite off the tops of the young trees. "We try to avoid those types of situations in order to facilitate healthy tree growth, but at the same time the landscape without cows can be much more brushy and actually can suppress the evergreen species out of there."

Similarly, grazing forested areas has allowed the Campbells to prevent the encroachment of willows and invasive species that would otherwise choke out their open pastures. "When I was a kid, they used to burn this country every spring. That was how brush control was done, and we haven't done that here since probably the mid-'80s," says Mark. "When we quit doing that, there are places that we used to hay where the willows are now 10 or 15 feet high."

A patchwork of fields, trees and forest activities on Kingsclere Ranch. Most of the areas in this photo are grazing land, with the edge of a fenced hayfield on the far left. photo: Jeff Braisher

Another important benefit of this system is fire suppression, as grazing decreases the amount of fuel on the forest floor. "All that fuel load becomes a major fire hazard, and it becomes almost unstoppable in these kinds of conditions that we've seen in the last number of years here," says Braisher.

"As you get to these areas where the cows have been an integral part of the landscape, the ability to be able to control that fire actually increases."

When determining how to make the most of integrating cattle into forested areas, Braisher recommends narrowing in on what you're managing for. "We're not managing strictly for cows, and nor are we managing entirely for trees in this particular case, and what we're looking for is balance," he says.

"We need to see good forest regeneration, we need to see those plants healthy, those trees healthy and ideally we need to manage for it in a way that the grass is just healthy. Where we noticed things can go sideways a little bit is when you lose that environmental balance," he continues, adding that being single-minded about just one aspect can lead to neither area thriving.

"When you look at the balance, then that's really what contributes to the ultimate profitability of what we're doing," he says.

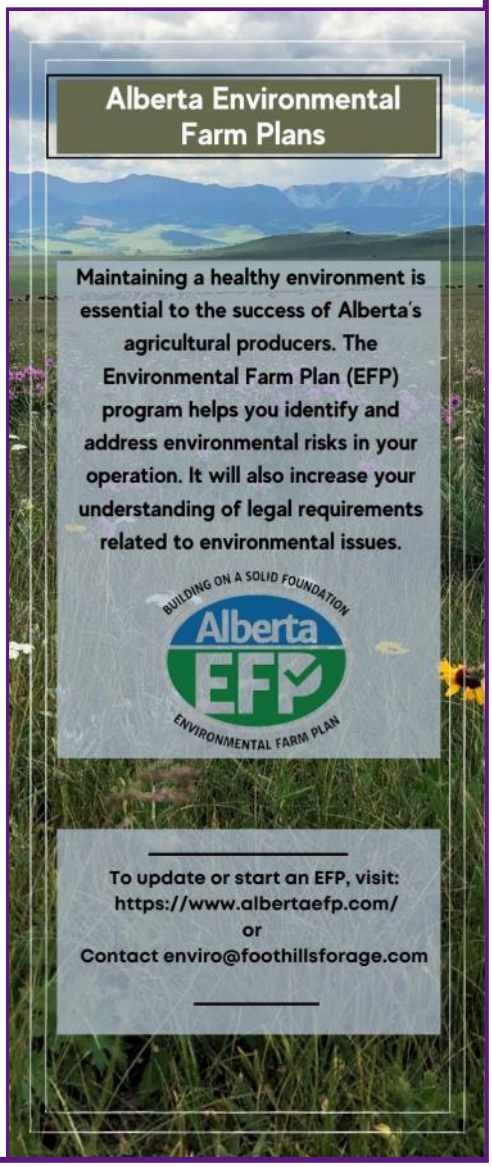
Like Braisher, the Campbells have found balance within their grazing system and holistic management, which encompasses grazing forested areas. This larger system allows them to raise cattle on a landscape where it wouldn't be possible for three families to make a living ranching otherwise.

"We don't want all trees everywhere, and we don't want all open ground everywhere either," says Mark. "A year like … (2021), where we didn't get any rain, our best grass was in the trees."

BCRC tips for forest grazing

- Learn about best management practices for your area and local or provincial regulations for grazing forested rangeland.
- Assess the area in question for available resources before grazing in forested rangeland.
- Graze a small area at first, monitoring the health of the forest as you go.
- Manage grazing based on preferred ranges and groups of cattle better suited to particular areas (yearlings who can travel greater distances versus cow-calf pairs).
- Always have an alternate forage supply source.

Author: Piper Whelan
Original Article: https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/livestock/



Converting Marginal Cropland To Perennials Builds Soil And Profitability


Alfalfa & Sainfoin

When Casey and Lacey Coulter took over the family ranch near Brusett, Montana, in 2010, they followed the production models that had sustained it for decades. "I didn't want to rock the boat; I just wanted to do what they'd been successful doing," says Casey Coulter.

It's why the couple initially grew wheat. But red flags warned that high production costs and yield drags undermined profitability. In 2011, they experimented by planting a mix of pubescent wheatgrass and alfalfa on some of the most marginal land.

"The forage growth was phenomenal," Coulter says.

That led to more changes. Over time, the ranch's 1,500 acres of cropland were converted to mixed-species grasses and legumes. Given the extra forage, they doubled the grazing herd and reduced winter feed costs by lengthening the grazing season. Profitability has returned. Quality of life for the Coulters and their three children has improved. Soil organic matter is better, too.

FROM ANNUAL CROPS TO PERENNIALS

Poor soil health had played a role in driving input costs higher. Though the Coulters had switched to no-till to conserve soil before they converted to grass, erosion from decades of tillage had already lowered levels of soil organic matter to 1% and 2%, requiring increasing applications of fertilizer to sustain yields.

The need to build soil was among the reasons the Coulters considered switching from annual crops to perennials. They were emboldened by their early success with a crops-to-grass conversion in 2011. Also factoring into the decision was their experience grazing cover crops, which suggested that a full-scale switch to grazing perennials could be more profitable than growing grain.

"We had received an NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program contract providing cost sharing for us to grow season-long cover crops in the fallow year of our wheat/fallow rotation," Coulter says. "The contract allowed us to graze the cover crops late in the summer. We found we could make more money grazing cover crops than by growing wheat. We decided that if we converted all the land to perennials, we could cut out a lot of machinery costs and expenses for inputs and labor."

In the years since, the Coulters have converted cropland to a wide range of perennials by a variety of seeding methods at diverse times of the year.

"We've planted perennials in every month except December, January, and February," Coulter says. "The best forage response we've had was seeding a field after a weed flush in April. We burned down the weeds with herbicide and planted perennials right behind the spraying operation. The forage took off and outcompeted subsequent weed growth."

They have had success seeding grass mixes with a hoe drill planting into wheat stubble or chemical fallow. But they've had their best success with a John Deere 1590 no-till drill.

Perennial species in the plantings include legumes along with tame grasses in some fields and native grasses in others. Tame-grass species include meadow brome, orchard grass, timothy, pubescent wheatgrass, intermediate wheatgrass, and tall fescue. Seed costs for tame-grass mixes have run $45 an acre.

Native-grass species include western wheatgrass, big bluestem, green needlegrass, Sandberg bluegrass, and blue bunch wheatgrass, as well as native forbs like prairie coneflower and native flax. Seed costs for the native-grass mixes have come to $60 an acre.

ALFALFA, SAINFOIN IN THE MIX

While the Coulters want grasses to be the dominant species in the fields, all plantings do include alfalfa. "We planted a lot of the alfalfa at a rate of a half a pound per acre, but if we were doing more plantings, I would decrease the seeding rate to a quarter of a pound per acre," Coulter says. "When we got a good catch at the higher seeding rate, it looked like we had planted

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
the field to solid alfalfa." Planting alfalfa at a reduced rate gives grasses a better chance to compete.

The Coulters have also included sainfoin in some plantings. Sainfoin is a non-bloat-causing legume that can be used for both haying and grazing. It is adapted to the Coulters' average annual precipitation of just 15 inches. They have also found it will grow in companionship with alfalfa.

"It's not as durable as alfalfa, but livestock really like it," Coulter says. "Because it's a short-lived perennial, we delay grazing it every couple of years until after it has set seed. It tends to reseed itself after that."

Through the years, the diversity of species in the plantings has increased. "We've learned that the more species we have in the mixes, the better off we are," he says. "Our goal is to graze 365 days of the year, and we try to build a feed budget for winter grazing that lets us do that if the ground doesn't get iced over or if the snow doesn't get too deep.

"By having a diverse mix of plants of varying heights, we can fill every layer of the plant canopy," he says. "We try to build as big a solar panel as possible with plants, and that creates a lot of feed availability in the growing and dormant seasons. Since we quit haying in 2016, we now graze all our grasslands, including former hay ground. We decided we were removing too much carbon from the system through haying. We now buy the hay we need when weather prevents grazing."

GRAZING PATTERNS

The Coulters graze the new perennial plantings at the end of a full growing season. "If we plant in April, we'll graze a newly seeded field after the first killing frost," Coulter says. "With a fall-seeded planting, we'll wait to graze until the next fall. After that, we treat the plantings like any other pasture."

Weeds have grown along with the grasses and legumes in the first growing season, but the forage perennials will outcompete weeds in later growing seasons, Coulter says.

The tame-grass plantings have produced more forage per acre than the native-species plantings, and the Coulters will stock these fields at a higher density than the fields of native species. However, they have found that tame-grass plantings are less palatable than native species when left ungrazed over the summer in order to provide forage for winter grazing. "The tame grasses get woody and unpalatable when left to mature," Coulter says. "We try to graze tame plantings at least once early in the growing season so the regrowth is more palatable in the dormant season."

The couple has also discovered the tame species are more vulnerable to grasshopper damage than are the native species.

They received cost sharing for seed, fencing, and water developments through a Natural Resources Conservation Services Environmental Quality Incentives Program grant and wildlife organizations.

Converting all their cropland to perennials has let the Coulters double their grazing herd. "We used to run 250 cow-calf pairs," he says. "Now we're able to run 300 pairs in addition to grazing 300 to 500 yearlings." They buy stocker cattle in years when they have sufficient forage for the extra yearlings.

Beyond doubling grazing capacity, the switch to perennials has boosted soil health. "One of our fields tested 2.3% in organic matter in 2011," Coulter says. "After we seeded it to tame grasses and legumes, it had increased to 3.7% organic matter by 2017." Recognizing the Coulters' work in improving soil health, the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts named them Soil Health Champions.

All told, the benefits of converting from crops to grass have given the Coulters a life aligned with their goals.

"We operate by the three Ps – people, planet, and profit," Coulter says. "We want to be stewards of what has been charged to us. We want a profitable business and good quality of life for the land and for the people who live and work on it. All those things have happened since we converted our cropland into grassland."

Author: Raylene Nickel
Original Article: https://www.agriculture.com/crops/conservation/converting-marginal-cropland-to-perennials-builds-soil-and-profitability

ALBERTA LANDOWNER PROGRAMS

When landowners and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) work together, it's a win-win.
DUC's landowner programs help you achieve economic and environmental sustainability for your farm and can be an integral part of your long-term land management plan.

Hay/Graze Tender Program

Sound grazing management of pasture land keeps forage stands healthy and vigorous. It helps with weed control and serves as productive waterfowl habitat. To support local producers, DUC makes land available for haying and/or grazing with annual tenders. Tenders for properties are posted at **ducks.ca/resources/landowners** in February/March.

Wetland Restoration Lease Program

Under this program, DUC pays landowners current fair market value to restore previously drained wetland areas under a 10-year lease. The restored area remains under the management of the landowner and can be hayed or grazed but not drained, altered or tilled during the term of the agreement. Landowners receive compensation from DUC for this restriction which could be used by farmers to support new land purchases. The lease program is a very good fit for cattle producers who have drained wetlands on grazing lands.

Forage Program

The DUC forage program provides cash-back incentives on Proven® Seed forage varieties paid at full retail price when producers convert cultivated land to hay or pasture land. In Alberta, producers receive a rebate of $100 per 50lb bag of forage seed which helps reduce input costs. This program is best suited for producers in the parkland and prairie regions. It also results in better habitat for waterfowl and wildlife.

Revolving Land Conservation Program

The Revolving Land Conservation Program (RLCP) provides an opportunity for farmers to have greater impact on the land to support conservation. Through this program, DUC purchases land, restores its wetlands and grasslands and then makes it available to buyers on the real estate market with a conservation easement on the title. Proceeds from RLCP land sales go back into DUC programs to fund more conservation work. RLCP is an ideal fit for cattlemen in areas that have potential for high waterfowl nesting.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement (CE) allows for compatible agricultural land use such as haying and grazing on a property. Because a CE supports the growth of native plants and protects the land's natural features, perennial cover is maintained and can serve as a sustainable source of forage. A CE is a voluntary legal agreement. Under the CE terms, landowners commit to conserving the land's natural integrity by limiting development such as breaking, cultivating and alternative land use. The land covered by the CE is protected in perpetuity.

1-866-479-3825
du_edmonton@ducks.ca
Ducks Unlimited Canada-Alberta

Learn more at ag.ducks.ca

JANUARY 2022

What works — or at least helps — in reducing livestock predation?

Photo: Kayla Minor

There are a lot of ways to reduce losses to predators, but what works best and which ones are a good investment?

That's what a multi-year pilot project in Manitoba is trying to determine.

Among the items being studied are:

special penning, with seven strings of electric wire and predator-resistant gates.

game cameras that give producers a better idea of what wildlife is passing through and that send photos to a smartphone.

GPS collars to track cattle movements in the pasture and GPS ear tags that track livestock and send an alert when rate of movement implies animals are being chased.

There are also deadstock composting pens, meant to remove temptation for predators, and veterinary assessments, based on the idea that healthy animals are less attractive to predators.

As in Alberta, predation is a major issue in Manitoba. From 2015-19, the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation reported 1,417 to 1,619 cattle and 322 to 502 sheep taken annually by predators including wolves, bears or coyotes. Those numbers do not include cases where a carcass could not be found or when producers could not make an insurance claim.

The pilot project seeks to gauge the scope of predation — a sticking point for years in the livestock sector — and test potential mitigation strategies used in other regions.

"We're exiting the setup phase and we're starting to enter the evaluation phase," said Ray Bittner, lead of the predation pilot project being spearheaded by Manitoba Beef Producers.

"So, producers who received some of these things will start commenting back to us. What worked? What didn't work? What could be done to make it work better?"

One of the methods being tested is fladry wire, which is single-wire electric fence with streamers every 18 inches. The fencing is meant to deter canine predators (coyotes, wolves and foxes) and while not well suited for full-season protection, it can be used at vulnerable times such as calving season.

Fladry wire has been used to good effect in predation-heavy areas in the U.S., said Janine Wilmot, a provincial wildlife conflict biologist and member of the Livestock and Predation Working Group.

"It takes advantage of the wolves' innate fear of novel situations and novel things on the landscape," said Wilmot. "These flags flapping in the wind at these regularly spaced intervals, it's just not something they're used to encountering."

The electrical component adds yet an extra layer of deterrent, but predators do get used to seeing those flapping flags so it is best used during strategic windows, she said.

One of the sites in the pilot is a community pasture near Ethelbert in the northwest corner of the province's agricultural zone.

The pasture is no stranger to predators, mostly timber wolves and the occasional black bear, said manager Warren Jacobson. There can be as many as 35 to 40 kills in a grazing season, he said.

"You get bad years and better years. There's always predation."

Select cattle will be fitted with GPS collars under the predation pilot and the pasture now features a deadstock composting pen, said Jacobson, adding he has employed game cameras on the property for years.

"I think the collars would be a good idea because we have so much brush pasture," he said. "It might help to see where the cattle are travelling or how quickly they're being pushed from one end of the field to the other."

The composting pen was not arduous to set up, he added, noting that getting deadstock to the pen will be the larger issue, given the rough landscape.

Not all installations at all test sites have been done, partly because there is a lot to consider.

"We've gone through some really productive discussions trying to understand all the complexities and nuances of the issue," Wilmot said of the working group.

"It's not a very straightforward issue. And it's been a problem for centuries. It's not a problem that we're probably going to solve in the foreseeable future."

But some of the technology may also give farmers a better chance of a payout for a loss.

GPS alerts in particular improve the odds of finding a carcass, said Wilmot, noting the provincial insurer requires a carcass and sufficient evidence that an animal was killed to process a payout under its wildlife damage compensation program.

"One thing I liked about them being able to track the movement of the livestock is that (the farmers) do receive an alert that indicates that they're running for some unknown reason or whatever the case may be," Wilmot said.

Adjusters require enough carcass to establish that an animal was attacked and was alive at the time of the attack, such as signs of a struggle. Producers can expect 90 per cent of an animal's value in those cases.

Where cases are more dubious, such as if a carcass is too eaten to establish life at the time of attack, that coverage drops to 45 per cent of an animal's value. Skeletons in the field, or lack of a carcass, lead to no payout.

Author: Alexis Stockford

Original Article: https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/livestock/what-works-or-at-least-helps-in-reducing-livestock-predation/

WESTERN CANADA CONFERENCE ON SOIL HEALTH & GRAZING

WESTERN CANADA
Conference on Soil Health

Western Canadian Grazing Conference

Presented by 10 Alberta Forage & Research Associations

FEATURING

Greg Judy, Dr. Bobbi Helgason, Dr. Dave Sauchyn, Dr. Ed Bork, Dr.Kris Nichols, Jay Fuhrer, Dr. Tim McAllister, Dr. Yamily Zavala, Dr. Monika Gorzelak, Daryl Chubb, Kim Cornish, Stuart Chutter, Dr. Yvonne Lawley, Kristine Tapley, Producer Panelists and More

BANQUET & KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

James Rebanks, an English sheep farmer and award-winning author from the UK.

Early Bird Pricing until October 31, 2022

Producer	$475.00
Farm Unit (2 people)	$900.00
Producer One Day	$250.00
Student	$375.00
Student One Day	$175.00
Banquet Ticket	$60.00

Tickets do not include Banquet Ticket which MUST be purchased separately

SOIL & GRAZING: BIOLOGY NOT GEOLOGY

DECEMBER 13, 14 & 15, 2022

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON WEST EDMONTON
16615 109 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4K8

REGISTRATION & DETAILS VISIT:
https://www.absoilgrazing.com/registration

FFGA is excited to start working on the Living Laboratories Initiative this fall.

On July 14th, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced the creation of nine new living labs across Canada. As farmers and Canadians face the brunt of the impacts of climate change, these new living labs will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the climate resiliency of our nation's food systems.

FFGA is excited to partner on the Alberta Living Lab initiative led by Kimberly Cornish with Food Water Wellness and our 8 sister associations across the province. Living Labs will start this fall with 100 producers implementing on-farm initiatives to increase production, soil health, and to reduce green house gas emissions.

With an investment of $54 million under the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – Living Labs program, this first wave of new collaborative projects will take root in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador. It also marks the first Indigenous-led living lab by the Mistawasis Nêhiyawak and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan.

Each living lab will focus on identifying innovative technologies and on-farm management practices that can be adopted by farmers nationwide to tackle climate change. The solutions developed will also help protect biodiversity on farms, improve water and soil quality, and, through the efficient management of resources, strengthen farmers' bottom lines.

Building on the success of the previous Living Laboratories Initiative introduced in 2018, this next generation of living labs uses the same collaborative approach to agricultural innovation. They bring together farmers, scientists and other stakeholders to co-develop, test and monitor new practices and technologies in a real-life context, breaking down barriers between research and practice on the farm. Where the previous initiative tackled a wide range of environmental issues, the new ACS-Living Labs program focuses on reducing greenhouse gases and sequestering carbon.

The way we use and manage the millions of acres of farmland across Canada will play a key role in addressing climate change and feeding the world. By encouraging and supporting collaboration within the sector, the Government of Canada is committed to growing the nation's food systems in a green and sustainable way, boosting our economic recovery, and enhancing our significant contribution to the world's food supply.

Prescribed Fire in the Grassland Environment course is now live on the University of Saskatchewan website and is available for anyone and everyone to take.

The course page can be found here: https://continuing.usask.ca/professional-development/prescribed-fire.php#CourseInformation

The course is online, self-paced and should take about 15-hours to complete. Registration is $150.

The material provides participants with the understanding of basic principles for planning, conducting, and assessing a prescribed fire, with a specific focus on grassland ecosystems.

Board of Directors

Staff

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

Environment & Communications Coordinator:
Kayla Minor
enviro@foothillsforage.com
Cell: (403) 700-7406

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

RDAR Results Driven Agriculture Research

FFGA is a proud member of AFIN Alberta Forage Industry Network, ARECA, CRSB