

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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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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CONTENTS



01 - 08

Messages

- Chairman's Report
- Manager's Report
- Environmental & Communication Coordinator's Report
- ARECA Executive Director's Report

09- 14

In-Person Events

- If You Can't Beat it, Eat it
- Ladies Livestock Lessons
- Ranching Opportunities
- International Ag Tour - Costa Rica
- Rural Roots Ag Days
- Environmental Farm Plan Workshop
- Grazing Workshop with Jim Gerrish
- 2020 Annual General Meeting
- Riparian Range & Pasture Walk
- Grazing Management for Soil Health
- Perennial Pasture Rejuvenation

15-25

Virtual/Online Events

- Getting Your Grazing Season Started on the Right Foot
- Agricultural Taxes 101
- Hay/Pasture Rejuvenation Webinar
- Paddock Design 101: Planned Grazing Fundamentals
- Electric Fencing Tips & Troubleshooting
- Planning Your Forage Year Using A Systems Approach
- Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women & Alberta Range Stewardship Course Virtual School
- Soil Building Secrets (Soil Health Webinar Series)
- Adaptive Grazing - What is it & How To Implement (Soil Health Webinar Series)
- Lowering Inputs Costs & Rejuvenating Soil (Soil Health Webinar Series)
- Maximizing Your Fencing
- Marginal Lands and Hidden Opportunities

26-29

Projects

- Soil Health Benchmarking Project
- Carbon Pasture Project
- Rancher Researcher Enhancing Technology Adoption Project
- Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Carbon Protocol Project

30-35

Environment, Bursary & Partner/Sponsors

- Environmental Farm Plan
- Canadian Agricultural Partnership
- Foothills Forage & Grazing Association 2021 Bursary Recipients- Jourdyn Sammons & Katie Hart
- Municipal Partners & Sponsors



MESSAGES

Chairman's Report

Alex Robertson

Page 1 & 2



Manager's Report

Laura Gibney

Page 3 & 4



Environment & Communications

Coordinator's Report

Sonja Bloom

Page 5 - 7



ARECA Executive Director's Report

Alan Hall

Page 8 & 9

2020 was a very interesting year, to say the least. We have all had to adapt to the new norm. Many of us actually enjoy our reclusive lifestyles and through the busy spring months of last year, life didn't really seem any different. However, there were some events and get togethers that we just won't ever get the chance to enjoy. There were cancelled graduations, postponed weddings, cancelled forage tours, and many more.

My term at the helm of FFGA has been the shortest in the history of this 49-year-old organization, lasting only a few months (due to the postponement of the AGM, not because I'm being kicked off). Next year is the 50th anniversary of FFGA which makes it the longest running of the applied research organizations in Alberta. We have many people to thank for the great success of FFGA over the last many years. Primarily it is the great group of folks that continue to volunteer their time to sit on the board and support the many endeavors and opportunities offered by the Association, and this success would not be at all possible without a big thank you to the employees that keep everything on track. Without their commitment, it simply wouldn't be what it is today.

It hasn't been always easy. I remember at one of the first board meetings I attended 13 years ago, it was made clear that unless something changed, the directors could be held personally responsible to each cover \$5,000 of the Association's debt load that was held at that time. With hard work by the various board members and employees over the years, we have gotten to a financially responsible position where we can withstand some lean times. A position that has always concerned all of us is the percentage of our yearly revenue that comes from government sources. As governments change hands and grants are added or removed, it makes us feel vulnerable to fluctuations, so we have worked hard over the last many years to generate income elsewhere. This past year we have gotten it down to being 58% of our revenue. One of our constant quests is to keep reducing that dependency and we are always open to new ideas.

With that in mind, the board has decided to increase the cost of an annual membership to \$50.00. I looked back as far as I could in my Dad's records from his time as a member and on the board, and it seems that the membership fee was always \$30.00, and had never seen a change. This small increase will help recover some of the basic costs of running the program.

This year we also have four directors stepping down and one is up for re-election. I would like to thank Mike Roberts for his three years as a Director. Mike brought an interesting perspective to the meetings as he is the first Director I know of who has the experience of personally answering to a board in his role as Manager of the Waldron Ranch. Thanks also goes out to Ben Campbell and Steve Yule for their six years of service on the Board. I am also required to step down after a second six-year term on the board. Justin Blades just finished his first three-year term and I would like to thank him for holding the Secretary-Treasurer position for the last year. He is up for re-election at our AGM this year. So please consider joining the virtual AGM on March 23, 2021 and

tune in to hear Nuffield Scholar Ryan Boyd speak that day. I believe in this industry we have to be committed to life-long learning. As has been stated by many directors before, we always glean more information than we individually provide, and I believe this truly is what has made FFGA so successful for the last 49 years. Let's hope we can keep going for many more.

It has also been a great challenge to provide information and educational opportunities to our members when we have not been able to meet in person, either at community halls or on field days, over much of the last year. We have had a few in person events but, just like the rest of society, we have had to master the online meeting format and the office has become competent in presenting webinars. Watch for a soon to be released podcast featuring Mike Roberts. This will be a great session as he discusses the grazing and watering practices at the Waldron, and what has made the biggest successes there. So, tune in - you won't be disappointed.

That's it from me for now. I'd like to say how much I've enjoyed and appreciated my involvement with the FFGA over my past term as a Director, and I wish everyone great success in the years to come. Enjoy spring, happy calving, get grazing, get vaccinated, and stay healthy.

Alex Robertson
Chairman
Foothills Forage & Grazing Association



Greetings FFGA Members & Supporters;

Like many, I am glad to have closed the door on the 2020 year; what a wild ride! However, looking back 2020 wasn't all bad. Like many people I spent more time with my family, enjoying more time with my husband and our 3- and 6-year-old daughters; we spent time gardening, bike riding, riding horses, playing board games and exploring our favorite local hidden gems like Sandy McNabb, Blue Rock Wildlands, Kananaskis Lakes, Mesa Butte and more.

While it was a challenging year for FFGA due to the pandemic and a major shift in how we deliver extension events, as I look back it also was a successful year in many ways, and we made the best of it. Despite the health measures we still held 14 in-person events in 2020 with an attendance of 564 people. It helped that we started off the year with several great events before the pandemic hit. Once things locked down in March due to COVID-19 we did a bit of re-evaluating and decided to give the online thing a whirl. I have to admit I wasn't very optimistic that we would get much interest in webinars, so I was pleasantly surprised by the registration numbers and live turn out. Based on this success we unrolled 16 webinars, mostly in the spring, fall and winter when we couldn't be together in person, with over 2,216 people tuning in. While we look forward to being together again in-person this field season, webinars are a new tool we will keep handy as they enable us to bring in global speakers as well as reach a much larger geographical area as well as connecting with a broader demographic of producers and industry. We have also had requests for podcasts as they are a bit easier to enjoy from the cab of a tractor or on the road, so we look forward to venturing into that medium moving forward.

We continued work on the Alberta Soil Health Benchmark Project by collecting another 24 soil samples in cooperation with 8 producers in 2020. We are excited to announce that funding has now been approved to extend this project out to 2024, giving us a greater opportunity to include more producers and re-sample sites 3 years into the project to monitor for changes based on management practices implemented by the landowners. These samples are analyzed for chemical, physical and biological components. We are one of 11 associations partnering on this project to map Alberta's soils; cultivated land, tame pasture, native range and annual crops.

As Alberta faces huge debt and an ever-changing political landscape, Agriculture in the public sector has been affected. Over the past few years, the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry division has been reduced and with it many of the experts and resources we have all relied upon. We are monitoring this new landscape and adapting along with it. We are excited to be a part of the Agriculture Research & Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)'s project that now has 2 forage and livestock and 2 agronomy experts contracted to help fill the gap the closing of the Ag Info Centre has created. Now more than ever we value our partnerships with ARECA and the Alberta Forage Industry Network, (AFIN). AFIN has created Farming the Web to house the marketplace previously hosted by Ropin the Web and we are optimistic ARECA's application to take on much of the Ropin the Web content will be successful so this information will not be lost.

The formation of the Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) association has allowed for the continuation of agriculture funding in Alberta. As an association arms reach from government, they now hold much of the traditional Alberta Agriculture budget. Through this we have secured another two years of Research and Extension funding. This along with additional Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) grants, and support from municipal and corporate partners allow us to move into 2021 and 2022 with fiscal stability during this challenging time. The changes in revenue streams have required additional work as we balance several different grants and acclimatize to new application, reporting, formatting and administration processes.

We continue to deliver innovative, regenerative, and pertinent agriculture in a formation to our members through workshops, conferences, field days, webinars, our newsletter *Grassroots News & Views* and social media platforms. Sonja Bloom, our Environmental & Communications Coordinator, has been invaluable this past year as she navigated the transition to the online world with apparent ease during the pandemic. She is a great asset to FFGA, and I continue to value her work ethic, knowledge and especially this year her positive outlook in adapting to unexpected changes. As always, I very much enjoy working with the innovative and passionate producers through the FFGA membership and board. With four new directors joining the FFGA Board in 2020 I commend you for your dedication during this trying year of virtual meetings and the effort you put in to keep this association moving forward. Thank you to all of our members and partners for staying connected through this trying year and I very much look forward to re-connecting with you all in person when we can.

Stay connected for another great year,

Laura Gibney
Manager
Foothills Forage and Grazing Association



Greetings FFGA Members & Supporters.

It is hard to believe that I am writing this report trying to summarize 2020. To say it was a year unlike any other would be understating it a bit. Like everyone else, COVID-19 changed many things in my life including working with FFGA. In mid March I started working from home and on reduced hours. This suited my personal life well, as an avid outdoorsman I was able to dedicate more time to camping, paddling, hiking & scrambling and I managed to 'bag' my highest summit yet; Mt. Temple in Lake Louise. On top of all the hiking I was able to spend more time exploring Alberta with my husband and pup Echo. While I'm not sad to close the door on 2020, I have learned to appreciate the little 'gifts' the year brought me.

Luckily before COVID-19 shut down the world, I was able to join the International Agriculture & Sightseeing tour in Costa Rica with Leader Tours and 34 local ranchers. Costa Rica has been a dream destination of mine and it did NOT disappoint. One of my favorite parts of the International Ag & Sightseeing Tours FFGA offers is the uniqueness of the tours. It's not often that you get a chance to travel and immerse yourself into the rural culture of the place you're visiting. Costa Rica was no different. This tour is highlighted on page 12 of the 2020 Annual Report but some of my personal highlights included the La Paz Waterfall Gardens, the Irazu volcano, chocolate tasting for breakfast, visiting all the different farms & seeing such a diverse agricultural industry, horseback riding for the first time in over 20 years and the abundance of photography opportunities, (see the end of my report for some of my favorite shots). This was my second time as Tour Leader for our trips. I had a few more hiccups on this trip than I had with Texas but with a little flexibility, a dash of ingenuity and an understanding and fantastic group of travelers we all had an excellent trip with many new stories to share with our friends and families.

Another big change for me and FFGA this past year centered around offering extension events to our members. Education, Innovation and Regenerative Agriculture is FFGA's "tagline" and we pride ourselves in our ability to bring informative events to our members and ranchers across southern Alberta. With public health restrictions we were not able to offer these in-person events for a good portion of the year. This left us with a problem to solve; how do we continue to offer these learning opportunities in a remote setting? The answer was virtually via webinars and videos. Before the pandemic FFGA was not set up to offer events virtually, we were the new kids on the block so to speak. Luckily, I am a bit of a tech wiz and can navigate the online world with ease. After a few days of researching and lots of trial and errors we figure out how to host webinars and was able to offer 16 online events throughout the year, (check out the Manager's Report and pages 16-18 in the Annual Report for more details). We did experience some technical difficulties, the worst of which happened during Dr. Allen William's presentation on Adaptive Grazing when he was unable to sign into the Zoom meeting. The most frustrating part of technical difficulties is that you can do everything right and still everything goes wrong.

Communications was tricky for FFGA this past year, however, with a strong social media following we were still able to provide timely articles, videos, events and all things

communication to our members and the broader community. Our Facebook account currently has 2,269 followers and our Twitter has 1,280 followers. I'll admit, Twitter is my weakness as I really don't understand the platform that well but I'm learning, and I hope that you see value in our posts. Our newsletter, *Grassroots News & Views*, continues to be a popular resource among our members and supporters. We had 2 months where the newsletter was only produced electronically as our office was closed and staff were working from home. Our website sees roughly 400 views every month on average with our new "recorded webinars" tab being the most common visited page. Most of our webinars were recorded are available for viewing at <https://www.foothillsforage.com/recordedwebinars>. (for a quick list of recorded webinars visit pages 15-17 in the 2020 Annual Report and look for "-R" at the end of the webinar title).

FFGA's Environmental Program was strong in 2020. Before the pandemic hit, I was able to host an EFP workshop in Rocky View County with them and the MD of Bighorn. We had 8 producers attend and 2 were able to finish their EFP and Action Plan at the event. I am working the other 6 to help them finish. I also managed to host a workshop in Cardston County late November (again, just before public health restrictions) and worked with 5 producers on their plans. Again, I had 2 producers finish and am working with the other 3 to help them complete their plans. In 2020 I worked on 38 EFP's with producers and approved 21, sent 1 back with requests for revisions and have 16 that are still being worked on. These numbers a little lower than normal but I believe that "virtual fatigue" is likely part of the reason for this. This fall I started mentoring a junior EFP Technician and am really enjoying the process. My junior Tech is very eager and knowledgeable, and I know that once his training is complete that he will be an excellent resource for anyone lucky enough to work with him.

In terms of producer funding through the Canadian Agricultural Program (CAP), 2020 was a bit of a confusing year. In February Alberta Agriculture announced a new Efficient Grain Dryer program. The purpose of this program was to share costs with producers on the purchase of grain dryer components that made grain dryers more energy efficient to operate. One of the requirements for this program was a completed EFP. I worked with 3 producers who sole reasoning for completing their EFP was to apply for this program. Another new program that was launched around the same time was the Alberta Beekeeper Stock Replacement program which aimed to provide support to Alberta beekeepers to help address the impact of COVID-19 on their beekeeping operations. Both programs are now closed and not accepting applications. In the summer CAP opened the Agriculture Training Support program to provide support to the agricultural & horticultural businesses to help address the impact of COVID-19 by offsetting the costs of training & ensuring safety protocols are in place for new employees hired from the available domestic labour pool. This program is still accepting applications and more details can be found at <https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/TRAINING>. Sadly, in December the Environmental Stewardship & Climate Change Producer program closed for applications. This program was one of the most popular and also required a completed EFP in order to receive funds. I've checked with the Alberta Government regarding if this program will open again and was told to stay tuned, so I will stay tuned and update FFGA members as I

learn more. There is currently only 1 program accepting applications from producers; Agriculture Training Support. For more information, click on the link above or search for Canadian Agricultural Partnership Alberta, scroll to the "Programs that apply to me" section and select "I am a Primary Producer-Farmer-Rancher".

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their insight and guidance this past year, especially our new directors who had the extra struggle of learning the ropes with everything changing quickly. Also, thank you to our fearless leader Laura who managed to navigate FFGA through a very challenging year with ease; your experience, passion and dedication to FFGA is so appreciated. Here's to hoping that the 2021 year will see a return to our "old normal" here at FFGA and that we will have lots of opportunities to see one another at events. I'm wishing you all the best in the upcoming growing season.

Sonja Bloom
Environmental & Communications Coordinator
Foothills Forage and Grazing Association



Greetings Foothills Forage & Grazing Association members and supporters;

My compliments to Foothills Forage and Grazing Association for your excellent efforts and services to your members and others during these unusual times. It is a privilege to be associated with and be able to support you in the excellent work you do. Having a top-notch Board and high performing people like Laura and Sonja can make it seem easy. A lot of careful thinking and hard work goes in behind the scenes by these people that continues to result in benefits and good value to the ranchers and farmers you serve.

These past couple of years have been challenging for Associations like yours, both in terms of financial uncertainty and having to operate in different ways as we battle COVID. I suspect some of the new approaches like webinars will continue to be a key part of your services after COVID is in our rear-view mirror.

Historically, Associations have had annual core funding support from the Alberta Government. However, with the tight budget times of the past few years, maintaining this core financial support has had its ups and downs. Full kudos to Minister Dreeshen for his strong support in making sure this core funding continued uninterrupted in 2020 and to Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), the new farmer led agriculture research and extension funding not for profit company that has been set up, for their taking on this commitment for 2021 and 2022. We very much look forward to a strong relationship with RDAR over the coming years.

Further RDAR has made it clear to forage and applied research associations around the province, that they see these groups as key in provision of local and regional extension efforts important to ranchers and farmers. Hence RDAR has provided stable core funding support to all associations for this year and next year and has clearly indicated their willingness to work with Associations with an eye to improving financing long term.

These discussions are already underway and I am convinced that there is a great opportunity here for FFGA and other Associations to secure longer term stable core funding from RDAR that will enable growth and expansion of your capacity to expand existing or take on new services important to your members and others in the communities you serve.

Having this secure core funding base very much strengthens an Association's ability to attract other funding and investment. A strong organization with excellent leadership and people, being financially stable, being strong in forming partnerships with others, and having a superb track record of bringing value to ranchers and farmers does generate interest in others to get involved.

Foothills has been a very valuable partner in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program. Benefits of these EFPs have helped individual ranches/farms fine tune some of their production and ecosystem practices leading to productivity gains while sustaining and improving our soil, water and ecosystem base. They have also been helpful in assisting individual ranchers and farmers in accessing some of the specific grants available from the provincial government. Thirdly, there is an emerging market benefit, early days yet, in helping producers access specific supply chains as EFP is a certified tool for sustainable sourcing. Here at ARECA, we really need and appreciate working with groups like FFGA in this effort.

In the past year, our journey took us into the reclamation of orphan wells efforts that are underway. In our discussions with Orphan Well Association, we ended up helping them reach out to individual landowners around the province in improving landowner awareness and understanding of how the orphan well reclamation efforts work. FFGA has been a key partner in this effort as part of an overall approach with Associations and Commissions. These groups have a direct pipeline to individual farmers and ranchers who may be affected – an excellent way to get important information into producers hands. These efforts are continuing over the coming year.

There are other things being done, but let me wrap up where I began with a heartfelt compliment and thank you to FFGA for the excellent work you do, and for being a great group to support and work with. We look forward to a continued strong relationship as we move ahead.

Alan Hall
Executive Director
Agricultural Research & Extension Council of Alberta



EVENTS

In-Person Events

- If You Can't Beat It, Eat It
- Ladies Livestock Lessons
- International Ag Tour - Costa Rica
- Rural Roots Ag Days
- Ranching Opportunities
- Grazing Workshop feat. Jim Gerrish
- Annual General Meeting
- Riparian & Range Pasture Walk
- Grazing Management for Soil Health
- Perennial Pasture Rejuvenation
- Environmental Farm Plan



Online Events/Webinars

- Getting Your Grazing Season Started on the Right Foot
- Agricultural Taxes 101
- Hay/Pasture Rejuvenation
- Paddock Design 101: Planned Grazing Fundamentals
- Electric Fencing Tips and Troubleshooting
- Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women & the Range Stewardship Course Virtual School
- Soil Building Secrets (Soil Health Webinar Series)
- Adaptive Grazing - What is it & How to Implement (Soil Health Webinar Series)
- Lowering Input Costs & Rejuvenating Soil (Soil Health Webinar Series)
- Maximizing Your Fencing
- Planning Your Forage Year Using a Systems Approach
- Marginal Lands and Hidden Opportunities

Webinars can be viewed on FFGA's website at www.foothillsforage.com/recordedwebinars





If You Can't Beat it, Eat it - Fort Macleod, January 9

On January 9, 2020 FFGA was joined by 82 farmers, ranchers and industry members for a workshop on alternative invasive plant management. Kathy Voth gave us tips, tricks and pointers in training cattle to eat weedy species white Cat Urbigkit and Billie Skelton talked about using guarding dogs to protect livestock. Rob Finck and Mike Roberts gave first hand accounts in using sheep & goats to eat/control weedy species and Jay Honeyman, Human-Wildlife Conflict Biologist with the Alberta Government, talked about regulations around using dogs & sheep/goat grazing on public lands. Partners included: Waterton Biosphere Reserve, Lethbridge County, SALTS, MD Ranchland, MD Willow Creek, MD Pincher Creek, Cardston County, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Environment & Parks, the Town of Fort Macleod and FFGA.



Ladies Livestock Lessons - Airdrie, January 18

On January 18, 2020 the Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership was joined by 67 ranching ladies for the annual Ladies Livestock Lessons. This popular annual event was designed for women involved in or interested in the profession of managing livestock. It was developed with the goals of encouraging and educating women in the business and to facilitate the opportunity to expand their professional network. In 2020 participants learned about; Breaking Barriers in Ag: Mental Health on the Ranch, Animal Health: Preventative Medicine & Pain Management, Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence: Culinary Demonstration & Tasting, Ranching Ladies Producer Panel: Highlighting Stewardship & Best Management Practices in Agriculture, Species at Risk & Grazing Management, Livestock Nutrition & Alternative Feeds, Online Agriculture Tools & Apps and Grazing Basics for Success. The Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership includes: Mountain View County, Red Deer County, Kneehill County, Clearwater County, MD Bighorn, Wheatland County, Rocky View County, Olds College, Cows and Fish, FFGA and Grey Wooded Forage Association.



International Agriculture & Sightseeing Tour - Costa Rica, February 3 - 16

On February 3rd FFGA and Leader Tours were joined by 35 travelers for a 2 week Agricultural & Sightseeing tour in Costa Rica. This Central American tropical country has strong agricultural roots and a deep love for their natural environment. The primary agricultural industry is quite diversified boasting enterprises in; coffee, bananas, dairy & beef cattle, short cycle crops, rice, sugar cane, horse breeding and forest plantations. Our tour started in capital city San Jose and ended in the Pacific Ocean area of Playa Flamingo. We experienced temperature fluctuations between 21C (in the rainforest & cloud forest areas surrounding the San Jose area), and 38C (on the pacific ocean coast in the Playa Flamingo area where it was relatively more dry and arid). Costa Rica is a stunning country with rich biodiversity, an incredible number of volcanoes (67 with 6 being active and 61 dormant), coastlines on the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea and some of the steepest pastures with rotational grazing I've ever seen.

Our agricultural stops included; a Tropical Agricultural Research Centre, sustainable tropical dairy farm, beef operations including a tropical feedlot and rotational grazing in mountainous terrain, the best chocolate factory tasting and tour, sugar cane plantations and processing plant, Starbucks Coffee Plantation tour, a very lively and engaging pineapple tour and the Brasilito Rodeo to take in the local bull riding which was wild and unpredictable.

Our sightseeing tour took us to some of the very best sights around the San Jose and Playa Flamingo areas. We took in the Iruzu Volcano, La Paz Waterfall gardens and sanctuary, the Hacienda El Viejo Wetlands river cruise where we watched alligators, iguana's and other lizards lazing in the sun, enjoyed ripping through the jungle canopy by zipline, tame the raging Sarapiqui river in a white water raft and enjoyed the peaceful tranquility of floating the tamer parts of the Sarapiqui river by raft, enjoy sunset on a catamaran in the Pacific Ocean, as well as enjoyed the shopping in local markets and larger urban centers.

Luckily we landed home on February 16th, a mere 4 weeks before the Canadian Borders closed due to COVID-19. We're not sure when our next opportunity to host another International Tour will be but are hopeful that we can offer a safe tour closer to home, beautiful British Columbia in 2021. Stay tuned for more details!





Rural Roots Ag Days - Fort Macleod, February 11

On January 11th, 2020 FFGA was joined by 21 ranchers, farmers and industry members at the Rural Roots Ag Days. Rural Roots Canada is a media company that aims to provide timely information & entertainment that is easy-to-access for farmers, while they are in the field, corrals or pastures, ([Click here for Rural Roots Website](#)).

Rural Roots Ag Days in Fort Macleod, AB focused on practical strategies to grow your bottom line. Roddy Campbell gave a presentation on Advancing Ag - Futures Leaders Program ([Click here for Advancing Ag Website](#)) which pairs industry leaders with young farmers and agriculture professionals to impart their knowledge and experience and facilitate key potential learning and training opportunities. Mike Witkowicz with AgExchange presented on Knowing what you grow: Knowing the quality of your inventory. Melissa Moggy with Alberta Farm Animal Care gave tips on Preparing for calving season & mental health. Mickenzie Plemel-Stronks & Emily Lowe with Ducks Unlimited gave a showing of Guardians of the Grasslands Film & a presentation. The keynote address came from renowned grazer Jim Gerrish who discussed grazing management. Partners for this event include: Rural Roots Canada, MD Willow Creek, MD Pincher Creek, MD Ranchland, Cardston County and FFGA.



Ranching Opportunities - Olds, February 13

On February 13, 2020 The Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership was joined by 158 ranchers, farmers, students and industry members for the annual Ranching Opportunities. Ranching Opportunities is a conference designed for producers involved in or interested in the profession of managing livestock. It was developed with the goal of promoting environmentally and economically sustainable livestock production. This years event saw presentations on: Getting the most of your pasture & Economics of Grazing with Jim Gerrish, Managing cattle using drones with Marcus Webber, Low stress cattle handling with Dylan Biggs, large animal emergency response with Dr. Rebecca Husted, Measuring and mapping Soil Carbon with Kim Cornish, and Using water as a tool for pasture management - producer panel. The Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership includes: Mountain View County, Red Deer County, Kneehill County, Clearwater County, MD Bighorn, Wheatland County, Rocky View County, Olds College, Cows and Fish, FFGA and Grey Wooded Forage Association.



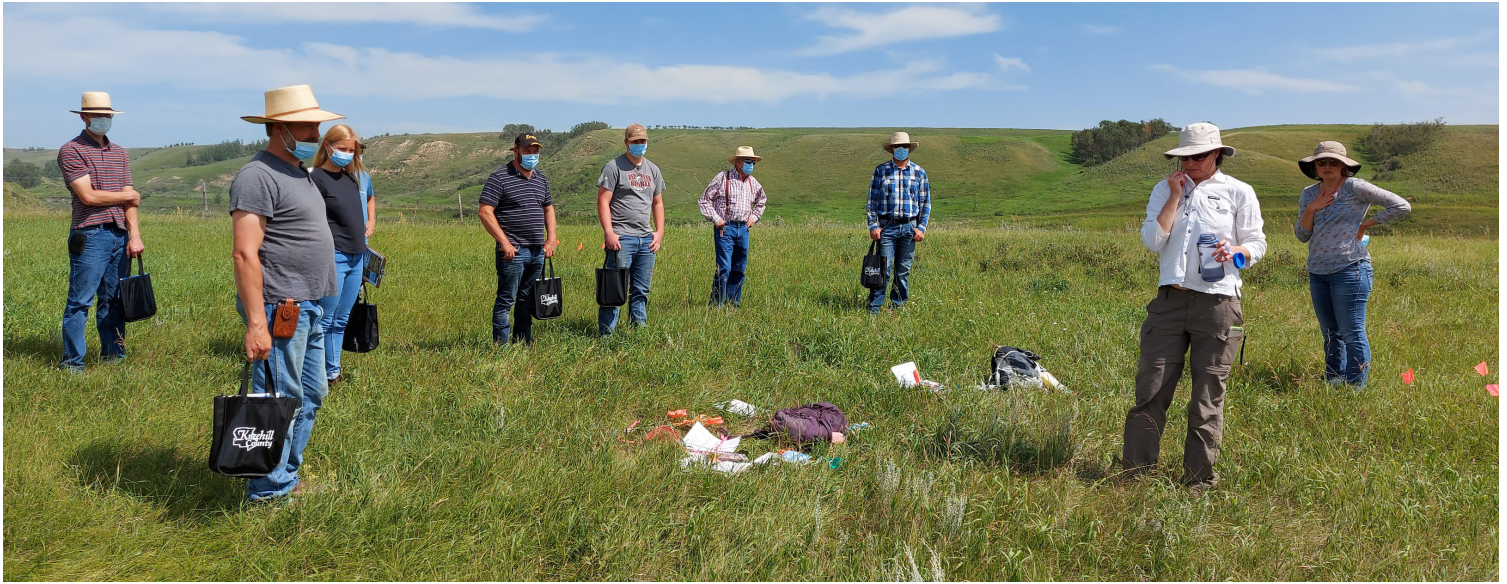
Grazing Workshop with Jim Gerrish - Strathmore, February 14

On February 14, 2020 FFGA and Wheatland County were joined by 45 ranchers & farmers for a full day Intensive Grazing Workshop in Strathmore, AB with Jim Gerrish. Jim presented on Understanding stocking rate, carrying capacity and stock density, What really matters in grazing management, and gave an in-depth look into the Dollars and ¢ sense of grazing. Jim has been a popular speaker for many years and it's clear that there is still much excitement from the community to continue offering workshops with Jim.



Annual General Meeting - High River, July 29

You may have noticed that FFGA's Annual General Meeting was held much later than usual. It is written in our bylaws that our AGM must take place by March 31st in each year. However, with all aspects of our 'normal lives', the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting public health orders made holding our AGM on time impossible. Once Alberta "flattened the curve" and restrictions were loosened in the summer we were able to host our AGM. 25 members joined the Board of Directors and Staff for the business meeting and election of directors which saw Chairman Andy Hart, & Directors Tamara Garstin, Sean LaBrie, and Morrie Goetjen fulfill two, 3 year terms and subsequently have to step down. Successful candidates; Emily Lowe, Tanis Cross, Daniel Doerksen and Daryl Chubb joined the board. Outgoing Director Tamara Garstin remained on the board as a non-voting member and FFGA's ARECA Representative.



Riparian & Range Pasture Walk - Linden, August 6

On August 6th, 2020 FFGA, along with Cows & Fish and Kneehill County, were joined by 10 farmers & ranchers for a pasture walk in the Linden area. Cows & Fish provided participants with the skills to perform Range and Riparian pasture assessments including; native and non-native plant identification, alternative watering, fencing for riparian pasture management and grazing management. Participants took home copies of the Rangeland Health Assessment for Grassland, Forest and the Tame Pastures book, and were given a quick course on how to use them to assess their own pasture health. Partners for this event included: Cows & Fish, Kneehill County and FFGA.



Grazing Management for Soil Health- Waldron Ranch, August 19

On August 19, 2020 28 farmers, ranchers and industry members joined FFGA and the MD of Willow Creek at the Waldron Ranch Grazing Coop for a field day on Grazing Management for Soil Health. Evidence has shown that grazing management, when done right, has a regenerative effect on soil biology and improves soil health. Ranch Manager Mike Roberts discussed how certain regenerative practices have improved the health of the Waldron and gave presentations on; grazing management including cell grazing on native rangelands, soil quality & soil carbon, (presented by Kimberly Cornish), forage production, as well as fencing and watering systems. Neil Thorsteinson with Range Ward gave a demonstration on the Razer Grazer system and discussed the benefits of these units on ranches. Partners for this event include: Range Ward, MD of Willow Creek and FFGA.



Perennial Pasture Rejuvenation - Madden, September 9

Perennial Pasture Rejuvenation - Claresholm, September 29

FFGA was joined by Graeme Finn, Grant Lastiwka and Jim Symes for the Perennial Pasture Rejuvenation workshops in Madden on September 9th and Claresholm on September 29th. At both events Grant Lastiwka & Graeme Finn gave presentations on; preparing the seed bed, species selection, financial considerations, direct seeding into sod, spring seeding, frost seeding, establishment, weed control and grazing management. In Madden Graeme Finn walked participants through a pasture and gave tips on rejuvenating some pastures on his ranch. In Claresholm Jim Symes did the same and discussed his strategies for incorporating annual crops into his rejuvenation strategy. A great resource for producers on pasture rejuvenation comes from the Manitoba Forage Council and is called [Sod Seeding - seeding forages into existing stands using minimal tillage](#). Partners for these events include; MD Big Horn, Rocky View County, FCC, Union Forage, MD Willow Creek, MD Ranchlands, Vulcan County, FFGA, AFSC and NEOGEN



Environmental Farm Plan Workshops - Rocky View County on January 14 and Cardston County on November 18

Environmental Farm Plan workshops are designed to give producers a chance to work with an EFP Technician one on one. They are popular and most municipalities work with FFGA to host a workshop every few years (some yearly). On January 14th, FFGA EFP Technician Sonja Bloom was joined by Rocky View County & MD Bighorn and 8 producers. On November 18th, Sonja was joined by Cardston County and 6 producers. These workshops were offered free of charge. For more information on the Environmental Farm Plan program refer to page 30.



Webinars & Virtual Events

Getting Your Grazing Season Started on the Right Foot - April 22 - R

FFGA partnered with Gold Sponsor MaiaGrazing to present "Getting Your Grazing Season Started on the Right Foot" with Jim Gerrish. Jim discussed; how to evaluate your pasture for when you're ready to graze, how to vary pasture rotation annually, grazing days and recovery time, and stocking rate. Colin Feilen with MaiaGrazing gave a quick overview of their grazing software and discussed how to develop a grazing plan. This webinar was the first virtual event that FFGA participated in so it was a nice surprise to see 190 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 85 attend live.



Agricultural Taxes 101 - May 14

FFGA partnered with Webinar Sponsor FBC to present "Agricultural Taxes 101". FBC discussed; top 12 tax tips you need to know for your agricultural business, CRA changes that may affect your business, understanding what business deductions you should be claiming and how to maximize them. This webinar saw 52 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 25 attend live.



Hay/Pasture Rejuvenation - May 20 - R

FFGA partnered with Gold Sponsor Union Forage to present "Hay/Pasture Rejuvenation Webinar". Grant Lastiwka discussed; Rejuvenation strategies, things to consider, species selection, goal setting and achievement, and the deep dive into mixed species cropping and pasture stitching. This webinar was quite popular and saw 120 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 60 attend live.

*If you wish to view recordings of the webinars with the 'R' after the date
visit <https://www.foothillsforage.com/recordedwebinars>*

Paddock Design 101: Planned Grazing Fundamentals - May 27 - R

Due to popular demand, FFGA again partnered with Gold Sponsor MaiaGrazing to bring Jim Gerrish back to talk about "Paddock Design 101: Planned Grazing Fundamentals". Jim gave an in-depth look into; how to design a planned grazing system, making a smart evaluation of your existing resources, key role of stock water development, enriching grazing data with defined units of record, and how to leverage MaiaGrazing to support paddock design. This webinar was extremely popular and saw 702 farmers, ranchers and industry members (including producers from Europe and Australia) sign up and 275 attend live.



Electric Fencing Tips and Troubleshooting - June 3 - R

FFGA again partnered with Gold Sponsor DATAMARS to discuss "Electric Fencing Tips and Tricks". Jason Williams gave a overview presentation on Electric Fencing - how to and delved deeper into common issues and tips on how to prevent or correct these issues. Topics included; understanding grounding, construction tips, and training livestock. This webinar saw 61 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 16 attend live.



Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women & the Range Stewardship Course Virtual School - July 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30

With COVID-19 public health restrictions, the popular annual Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women was not able to host a live school in 2020. The Range Stewardship Course found themselves in the same situation and with a similar mandates, the groups joined together to offer a joint virtual range school July 16, 21, 23, 28, & 30. This school was offered via 1.5 hour Zoom presentations spread over 5 days. Topics included; Grazing Principles and Practices, Riparian Health and Riparian Health Assessments, Range Health Assessments, stories from local Ranching Women where ranching women share their operations, their struggles and success and provide advice to participants, and Mental Health in Agriculture from the DoMore Ag Foundation.

This virtual school was quite popular and saw an average of 300 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up for each session and an average of 130 attend live. You can watch these presentations by [Clicking Here](#) (or search YouTube for Cows and Fish). Partners for this school include; MD Willow Creek, MULTIsar, Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum, Starland County, Special Areas, Cows and Fish, FFGA, Alberta Conservation Association, County of Warner, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Chinook Applied Research Association, Southern Alberta Land Trust, and Alberta Beef Producers.



Soil Building Secrets (Soil Health Webinar Series) - August 4 - R

FFGA, Lakeland Agriculture Research Association and North Peace Applied Research Association partnered to bring elements of the postponed Soil Health Academy to producers virtually with a series of Soil Health webinars. The first presentation came from Ray Archuleta called "Soil Building Secrets". During the hour long presentation Ray focused on what he called an Ecologic Framework for Healing the Soil where he focused on the 6 principals of soil health and how land management fits. This webinar saw 295 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 128 attend live. Partners for this event include FFGA Gold Sponsor Alberta Beef Magazine.

Adaptive Grazing - What is it & How to Implement (Soil Health Webinar Series) - August 20 - R

The second presentation in the Soil Health series came from Dr. Allen Williams called "Adaptive Grazing - What is it & How to Implement". We had serious technical difficulties during our original date of August 18th and Dr. Williams was unable to connect to the meeting. We rescheduled for August 20 which was a success. During the hour long presentation Dr. Williams delved into adaptive grazing principles that anyone can implement on their operation, no matter the location, size, climate and challenges. This webinar saw 316 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 65 attend live.



Lowering Input Costs & Rejuvenating Soil (Soil Health Webinar Series)- September 1 - R

The final presentation in the Soil Health series came from Gabe Brown and was called "Lowering Input Costs & Rejuvenating Soil". Gabe talked about his personal story and how he discovered regenerative agriculture which is the key principle in how he lowered his inputs and increased the health of his soils, thus seeing incredible gains in his productivity and profitability. This webinar saw 232 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 117 attend live. Partners for this event include FFGA Gold Sponsor Gemstone Cattle Co.



Maximizing Your Fencing - November 19 - R

FFGA partnered with Gold Sponsor DATAMARS to discuss "Maximizing Your Fencing". Jason Williams gave a overview presentation on common winter fencing issues and solutions. Topics included; understanding grounding, insulation tips, and training livestock. This webinar saw 38 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 18 attend live.



Planning Your Forage Year Using a Systems Approach - November 25 - R


FFGA partnered with Gold Sponsor Union Forage to discuss "Planning Your Forage Year Using a Systems Approach". Grant Lastiwka and Graeme Finn presented on; Long season green - maximizing your growing season, living roots and their benefits, reflections/thoughts on; annuals, biennials, perennials. Grants focus was on planning your forage year using a holistic approach that fit your individual operation. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to forage planning, you must consider all aspects of your operation. This webinar saw 62 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 29 attend live.



Marginal Lands and Hidden Opportunities - December 10 - R

FFGA partnered with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), Mountain View County, Wheatland County, Red Deer County, and Rocky View County to present the Marginal Lands and Hidden Opportunities webinar. Mick Plemel-Stonks with DUC talked about saline areas and provided some strategies to manage these areas. Sarah Nixdorff with SNS Herefords talked about her experience with the Wetland Restoration Project on her operation. Christine Campbell with ALUS Canada gave a quick presentation on who ALUS is and their funding program. For more information ([Click Here](#)) or search alus.ca This webinar saw 125 farmers, ranchers and industry members sign up and 41 attend live.

PROJECTS



Alberta Soil Health Benchmarking Study

Page 21-23



Carbon Pasture Project

Page 24



Rancher Researcher Enhancing Technology Adoption Project

Page 25 & 26



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Carbon Protocol Project

Page 27 & 28

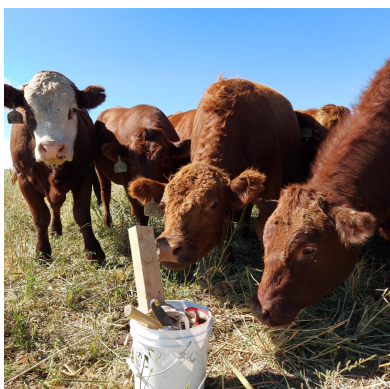
Soil Health Benchmark Study

This project is supported by the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) Environmental Stewardship Program.

Background

The Alberta Soil Health Benchmark Project is designed to promote a better understanding of soil health and develop a provincial data base of physical, biological and chemical soil parameters, all of which contribute to an over-all measure of soil health. The project will also measure the impact of various farmers' management practices on soil characteristics.

Chemical components of soil have been intensively evaluated by commercial soil testing labs in Canada, used primarily for chemical fertility recommendations. The role of soil biology, however, is not well understood and physical characteristics have not been monitored in detail. Evaluation of biological soil characteristics has only become available during the past few years in laboratories in the United States and more recently eastern Canada. Existing biological tests have not been calibrated and monitored specifically for Alberta soils. CARA's Soil Health Lab, under the direction of Dr. Yamily Zavala, provides a unique service in evaluating soil health constraint indicators. A biological and physical baseline developed within the province will provide a framework which can help define strategies for managing and improving the productive capacity, and sustainability, of our soils. Understanding and managing for a diverse micro-biological functional group underground may contribute to an overall healthier soil by improving soil aggregation, soil water infiltration and storage as well as improved carbon sequestration. The improved aggregation stability will also contribute to enhanced carbon sequestration levels in the soil. Healthy soils produce healthy plants resulting in a higher quality food product. Understanding soil health will give Alberta producers a valuable tool for use in making strategic management decisions on their farms and ranches. Sustainable productivity of a soil is a function of physical, chemical and biological soil functions.



Participating Organizations

- Battle River Research Group (BRRG)
- Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA)
- Farming Smarter (FS)
- Foothills Forage and Grazing Association (FFGA)
- Gateway Research Organization (GRO)
- Grey Wooded Forage Association (GWFA)
- Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)
- MacKenzie Applied Research Association (MARA)
- North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA)
- West Central Forage Association (WCFA)

Progress to Date

Staff from all participating organizations have visited fields and pastures across their region to do on-site evaluations of compaction and infiltration and to collect samples for lab assessments. 1297 samples have been processed to date (606 in 2019 and 691 in 2020). These samples were collected by the 11 partnering associations on 713 fields belonging to 331 farmers and/or ranchers. Reports for each field have been shared with the associations and their cooperating producers. Dr. Yamily Zavala has met with several of the farmers through webinars to discuss the reports.

Data from the sites is being compiled into a large data base. Management practices farmers are using at each of the sites will be monitored during the next few years. Sites will be revisited to determine the impact of management during the 2019-2022 period.

	2019			2020			Total		
	Farmers	Fields	Total Samples	Farmers	Fields	Total Samples	Farmers	Fields	Total Samples
BRRG	1	1	1	16	22	38	17	23	39
CARA	23	47	56	21	43	185	44	90	241
FS	14	31	38	21	35	57	35	66	95
FFGA	13	54	82	7	24	36	20	78	118
GRO		23	34	8	17	28	8	40	62
GWFA	10	19	26	19	32	34	29	51	60
LARA	8	20	38	0	0	0	8	20	38
MARA	0	0	0	22	27	94	22	27	94
NPARA	17	38	48	10	23	27	27	61	75
PCBFA	18	78	155	24	26	68	42	104	223
WCFA	9	15	20	28	44	72	37	59	92
Other	25	58	108	17	36	52	42	94	160
Total	138	384	606	193	329	691	331	713	1297

Methodology

- Association staff were trained in CARA's Soil Health Sampling Protocol and collection of site information by Dr. Yamily Zavala
- Each association received a Soil Health Sampling Kit which included the tools for site evaluations (compaction and infiltration measurements) as well as soil collection
- Additional supplies have been provided as required.

- GPS coordinates were recorded for each site
- Site history is being documented
- Parameters that have been analyzed:
 - Physical (on-site):
 - compaction (penetrometer on site)
 - infiltration
 - Physical (on-site or at CARA Lab):
 - wet aggregation stability (Cornell University protocol)
 - bulk density (by weight/volume measurement)
 - texture (Bouyoucos hydrometer method)
 - Biological (CARA Lab Food Soil Web protocol except as noted)
 - active carbon (Cornell University protocol)
 - C:N ratio, TC, TOC (U of A)
 - soil microbial respiration (Cornell University protocol)
 - active & total bacteria
 - active & total fungi
 - nematode functional groups
 - protozoa functional groups
 - Chemical (commercial labs)
 - complete fertility assessment, including macro and micro nutrients, organic matter, pH, EC, etc.
- All information is being entered into a data base
- Information related to specific sites is being shared with the cooperating producers by association staff
- Management activities will be documented and linked to changes in soil health indicators

Environmental Significance

Development of a benchmark data base is very important in order to better understand soil health limitations and apply appropriate management strategies. Improvements in soil health can result in higher production potential and will strengthen the resiliency of the farm's systems to cope with issues related to climate change.

Target Audience

Farmers and ranchers from across Alberta will receive information on specific soils within their operations which they can use to help guide their management decisions. Because soils and the associated management systems can be very site specific, the information will have much more value than generalizations often promoted at agronomic events.

A broader audience will receive information on Soil Health Benchmarks at regional or provincial extension events. Participants at these events would include a broad representation of local producers. Information on the project has also been shared in several farm industry publications.

Dianne Westerlund

Chinook Applied Research Association - Manager

Carbon Pasture Project

(Carbon Sequestration of Alberta Rangelands Project)

This project is supported by the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program.

Good rangeland management can enhance soil carbon sequestration and reduce the likelihood of the release of greenhouse gases. These management practices impose a significant impact on rangeland by altering water and nutrient cycles through defoliation and trampling. However, Ecological processes regulating carbon sequestration in rangeland ecosystem is still not well understood, largely due to the difficulty in connecting site condition with management practice. It is impossible to understand carbon storage without a baseline quantification of rangeland carbon sequestration, and a more complete understanding of the relationship between land management and soil carbon.

ARECA has been working closely with their member associations to complete the Carbon Sequestration of Alberta Rangelands project. By working with the member associations and producers, ARECA has been able to obtain information on soil and site conditions, historical management practices and carbon information on the rangeland. ARECA was able to sample 47 different pasture sites throughout Alberta and work with landowners creating awareness and education on carbon sequestration in their pastures.

Two extension videos were created to further educate and create awareness to all producers throughout the province. The videos are an introduction to soil carbon and a producer's perspective on soil carbon with various management practices to enhance soil health. Both videos can be found on the ARECA website homepage, <https://www.areca.ca/>.

Devon Lloyd

Environmental Farm Plan Manager - ARECA



Rancher Researcher Enhancing Technology Adoption Project

This project is supported by the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) Adapting Innovative Solutions in Agriculture Program.

Background

The Rancher Researcher Enhancing Technology Adoption Project aims to address why the process between development of new technologies/innovations by the research community and the adoption and utilization of the technologies by ranchers is often very slow and why some technologies are never adopted at the ranch level.

The uptake of new technologies has typically been slow within ranching operations. There are many reasons why this happens, including (but not limited to), a lack of awareness of specific innovations, lack of the knowledge of how and what impact the practice change may have or perhaps a lack of financial and/or manpower resources to put the tools to use. Despite the data related to productivity and profitability, adoption of innovative decision-making tools by ranchers has historically been slow.

The Rancher Researcher Enhancing Technology Adoption Project is an expansion of a Rancher/Researcher Pilot project started in 2017 and wrapped up in 2019 which monitored the adoption of 3 innovations by 8 ranchers in south central Alberta. Several targeted areas were evaluated, including soil, forage, and economic parameters, for assessment of the impact the innovations made to individual ranch operations. The ranchers were given with the opportunity to consult with scientists to further their understanding of the new technologies. The Rancher/Researcher Pilot project demonstrated that an enhanced understanding of the overall ranch

operation can improve positive impacts an innovation will have. Ranch participants acknowledged the importance of collecting and utilizing production and financial data when making decisions on management change.

The Rancher Researcher Enhancing Technology Adoption Project will build on the experience from the pilot and aims to improve adoption of various technologies on ranches by;

- A detailed interview with the ranchers to help determine the technology most relevant to their operation.
- Facilitate networking with topic specialist.
- Each ranch will provide financial investment into the technology.

Ranchers from both the pilot and expansion projects will support technology adoption in their local agricultural communities by providing testimonials and mentorship related to their experience in the project.

FFGA is one of 9 applied research and forage associations participating in this project. Through the detailed initial interview, 2 FFGA producers have identified areas of their operation that can benefit from technology adoption. They are now adopting that technology via cost sharing through this project. Both producers are adopting technologies related to soil health and DNA parentage sire verification.

Extension (ie, sharing the knowledge gained from the project with the larger agricultural community) is a large component of this project. With the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person events were a struggle in 2020 and will likely continue to be in 2021. As such, the various applied research and forage associations are working together to develop a series of videos that will highlight a few of these producers and their experience during the technology adoption process. FFGA is excited to take the lead on this video project. Stay tuned to our social channels and newsletter this summer/fall as we announce the release of these videos.



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Carbon Protocol Project

This project is supported by the Federal Government through the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Program (AGGP).

The Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGA) has received funding from the Canadian Federal Government through the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Program (AGGP) to develop and pilot a carbon reduction protocol built for High Performance Forage Management Systems in Canada. The Canadian Forage and Grasslands sector is the single largest land use component of Canadian agriculture covering over 70-million acres of cropland. Roughly 36-million acres are devoted to native rangeland, with the remaining 34-million acres dedicated to the production of annual and perennial tame forages, including 675,000 acres of corn silage.

While it is well known that forages create valuable carbon sinks, to date no approved carbon sequestration quantification protocol has been approved for Canadian conditions. This creates two distinct challenges. 1. The full value of the Ecological Goods and Services provided by the grasslands sector to Canadian society cannot be quantified, and; 2. The economic value of contributions made by individual landowners to increase soil carbon storage through the adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs) and/or the use of new, high performance forage genetics cannot be quantified, thus no carbon offset credit value can be assigned to improvements at the farm level. Without an approved protocol to quantify carbon sequestration, the significant contribution of the Canadian forage and grasslands sector to combat climate change will continue to be under-valued. Additionally, addressing these issues will support agri-food supply chain sustainability initiatives to instill public confidence in the management practices of Canadian farmers.

The proposed project has two key phases:

The first phase will be to develop an approved GHG quantification protocol for the Canadian forage sector, that will be flexible enough to incorporate all climate zones in Canada, where forages can be reasonably produced. This will expand and complement the existing work by Canadian researchers related to BMPs, forage and soil sequestration potential, both at the university and AAFC levels.

The second component of the project will be to field test the approved protocol with forage producers across Canada. This pilot is intended to gauge the sector wide opportunity for enhancing carbon sequestration, and creating carbon offset credits for Canadian Grassland managers. This phase similarly to previously pilots of annual crop, nitrogen use, dairy and beef protocols, will field testing the protocol and identify any outstanding gaps and challenges in protocol implantation, and test the ability and willingness of primary producers to maintain the necessary records management systems to allow for farm scale GHG quantification.

Throughout the entire project, CFGA will also incorporate a sector wide communications strategy to ensure that all stakeholders and forage producers are kept up-to-date of project activities. It is CFGA's intention to highlight this and its other activities yearly at regional and national meetings and through its provincial forage associations.

Project Activities

1. Development of a carbon sequestration protocol for semi-arid and temperate zones of Canada.
2. Compilation of a BMP Manual for Canadian forage producers, researchers and extension experts to directly supports farmer's implementation of the protocol.
3. Pilot the developed Quantification Protocol and hold extension workshops (field crop tours) across the country.

Activity 1. Development of a carbon sequestration protocol for Canadian forage and grassland systems

Start Date: February 1, 2017

End Date: March 31, 2019

Deliverables

- Development of the carbon sequestration protocol and underlying quantification methodology for forage and grassland systems in semi-arid and temperate Canadian climates.

Activity 2. Analysis and synthesis of forage and grassland management BMPs into farmer manual

Start Date: February 1, 2017

End Date: March 31, 2019

Deliverables

- Development of a farmer and agronomist focused BMP manual of high performance management systems
- Use of certified seed for highly digestible forage species and varieties
- Intensive rotational grazing systems
- Intensive forage harvesting systems
- Forage stand establishment, fertility and management for high performance yields
- Advanced crop production systems for perennial and annual forages (no-till cropping, crop covers)

Activity 3. Pilot phase of protocol and supporting BMPs

Start Date: April 1, 2019

End Date: March 31, 2021

Deliverables

- Series of knowledge transfer workshops and crop tours over 2 growing seasons
 - 5 demonstration sites located at various academic and/or applied sites. *In 2020 FFGA hosted the Grazing Management for Soil Health event on the Waldron Ranch as part of this project.*
- Measurement and analysis of the economic and environmental impacts of pilot farm activities.

ENVIRONMENT, BURSARY & PARTNERS

Environmental Programming

Page 30



2021 Bursary Recipients

Page 31



FFGA Sponsors & Municipal Partners

Page 32 & 33



Environmental Programming

Environmental Farm Plan



Maintaining a healthy environment is essential to the success of Alberta's agricultural producers. The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program helps you identify and address environmental risks in your operation. It will also increase your understanding of legal requirements related to environmental issues. Protecting water, air and soil quality is key to the sustainable production of crops and livestock and to leaving a healthy and productive farm for the next generation. An EFP will

identify what you are already doing well and pinpoint where improvements can be made. By addressing these risks you increase operational efficiency while reducing farm costs, which results in increased profit for you.

FFGA has a trained EFP technician on staff, (Sonja Bloom) to help producers navigate their workbook and implement their action plans. Whether you prefer to work one-on-one, virtually, or in a group workshop setting, our technician is ready to help you with your EFP.

Okay, sounds great, how do I begin??

Visit <https://www.albertaefp.com/> and click register. While your there, be sure to check out the FAQ's and review the EFP Process tab to learn about the process and gain tips to help you navigate the workbook with ease. Once your technician has contacted you, your ready to go. We strongly recommend working with your technician on the first 2 chapters to ensure that you set your farm up in the most efficient and effective manner.



Canadian Agricultural Partnership



The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial investment in the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector that began in April 2018, and is the successor of the 2013-18 Growing Forward 2 partnership. In Alberta, the Canadian

Agricultural Partnership represents a federal - provincial investment of \$406 million in strategic programs and initiatives for the agricultural sector. In consultation with stakeholders, programs were developed under five themes: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Products, Market Growth and Diversification; Science and Research; Risk Management; and Public Trust.

The roll-out of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program suite in Alberta began in April 2018. There is currently one program accepting applications from farmers & ranchers; Agricultural Training Support. For more information visit <https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/>

2021 Bursary Recipients

Jourdyn Sammons



I am a fourth-year student at the University of Saskatchewan working on my Bachelor of Science Agriculture majoring in Animal Sciences and minoring in Rangeland Resources. When not studying you can find me involved in athletics and extracurriculars. I am a member of the University of Saskatchewan Range Team, in which I act as the student liaison for the Prairie Parkland Chapter of the Society for Range Management. One of my highlights from being on the Range Team has been competing internationally in range management and plant identification exams, and also networking with fellow students

and professionals. Ultimately, my goals are to continue learning about forage production and how it impacts the environment, so that I can be both an environmental steward and also a successful beef producer. Professionally, my goals are to either pursue a career in range management/conservation or production animal veterinary medicine.

I want to thank the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association for this bursary which allows me to further pursue my educational ambitions so that I can work towards these goals.



Katie Hart

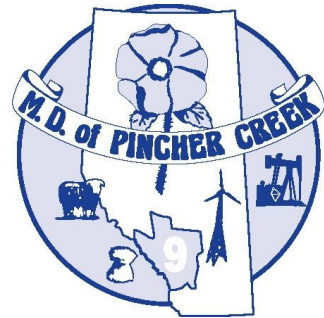


My name is Katie Hart. I grew up on my family's cow-calf operation west of Claresholm AB where I was heavily involved in the local 4H Beef Club and High School sports. Currently, I am in the third year of my Bachelor of Agriculture degree at the University of Saskatchewan majoring in Environmental Science and minoring in Soil Science. Upon graduating I hope to work in the agriculture and/or natural resource fields with focus on soil remediation and regeneration in both sectors. I feel very fortunate to have grown up in Southern Alberta within the industry that I did. I have always had a passion

for the Ag industry; however, it was just in these recent years where I gained an interest in soil health and was able to recognize it's importance. Watching and assisting my dad in improving our soil and pasture productivity at home was very rewarding, which is what led me to my current degree.

I want to thank the FFGA for assisting me in continuing my post-secondary education and allowing me to pursue my passion within the agriculture and natural resource sectors!

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