



*Innovation, education and regenerative agriculture*

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**GRASSROOTS NEWS & VIEWS**

**April 2023**

## Treasurer's Note — Justin Blades

*Howdy folks,*

Coming into April we are just beginning to calve here on the Rocking P, while many others are well under way. Last month FFGA had their AGM. As the current Treasurer I would like to say that FFGA is in a good spot financially. First off, I would like to give a big welcome to new director Angela Kumlin and director Ben Campbell who is returning after a few years away from the board. Also let's not forget the three returning directors Daniel Doerksen our President, Darryl Chub our Vice-President and Tanis Cross. Emily Lowe had decided not to put her name in for re-election after the recent birth of their first child, I guess she has a good excuse! Nevertheless her contributions to the board don't go unappreciated; thank you, Emily. I would also like to thank Morrie Goetjen for his numerous years of service on the board.

Morrie and I were reminiscing about the status of Foothills Forage when we met at a board meeting at a little service station in Nanton around 2007. As I remember, Doug Wray, Brian Laycraft, Mike Monner and I were returning directors with a large board turnover. Morrie, Sean LaBrie, Alex Robertson, Rod Vergouwen and Graeme Finn were all new. We voted Graeme in as our new President, he was the most ambitious member with a bit of a chip on his shoulders, and big ideas on how to turn the association around. There were some heated conversations and some hard decisions to make. We were, at that time, in the red. After a few months of meetings, we decided that Grey Wooded Forage Association was well respected and that we should strive to be more like them. At this time, we decided to step out and hire a manager. After the process of interviews, it became clear that Laura (LaBrash) Gibney was the clear choice to take FFGA to a better place. This ambitious young lady, just graduated from

the University of Saskatchewan, seemed excited to take on the challenge of steering this organization towards the renowned association we have today with three employees and in a strong financial position.

This is my last director's note in the newsletter as I am serving my sixth year of this term on the board and will have to step off next march. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who make FFGA such a great organization. I have enjoyed my time on the board and the opportunities it has provided me. I have met so many knowledgeable people that I have learned from and still network with in my day-to-day business. The FFGA board has always been loaded with innovative, out of the box thinkers, many of whom I met because of my time on the board and now they have become my friends. As a board member I feel I have received more than I have given. I hope maybe this will encourage more young enthusiastic people to join the FFGA board. I have asked Dave Sammons to step into the Treasurer's position upon my departure. He is much more capable of the task than I was, and feel he will do a great job!

I am proud of the forage industry and the great environmental services it provides our general public; from water infiltration and storage to great protein from the beef produced on it. We should always strive to be great stewards of the land in a profitable regenerative manner. This is not always easy, but I am optimistic that there are good times ahead for the forage industry. Cattle numbers are down, kill weights are coming down, calf prices are up, and it is going to rain a little this year.

*Justin*

*(Photo: Justin Blades at Rocking P Ranch)*



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# INTRODUCING FFGA'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE

### CHAIRMAN

Daniel Doerksen  
Gem

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

Daryl Chubb  
Irricana

### TREASURER

Justin Blades  
Nanton

## NEW DIRECTORS

Angela Kumlin  
Jumping Pound

Ben Campbell  
Millarville

We would like to thank Morrie Goetjen and Emily Lowe for their time, and work on the FFGA Board



*On the Cover: Calving Season Photo: Kayla Minor*

Thank you for your support!



# Cover crops offer cost savings



Photo: FFGA

Cover crops can do more than reduce soil erosion and provide ground cover. They can also be an economical solution for prevented planting acres and a valuable forage source.

While farmers can receive prevented planting payment subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency if their first insured crop fails and a second crop is not planted, they are also eligible for subsidies if their second crop is a cover crop that is not harvested for seed or grain. Additionally, there is no penalty if these cover crops are grazed.

In a recent article from University of Nebraska Extension, Connor Biehler and Ben Beckman, extension educators, and Mary Drewnoski, extension beef systems specialist, note that planting cover crops is one way to recuperate drought-stressed fields. Moreover, grazing cover crops is a more cost-effective way to feed livestock than mechanically harvesting forage, especially considering the current high fuel prices.

Brassicas, small grains, and warm-season grasses are all viable options for cover crops. The extension specialists explain when to plant them and how to harvest them, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each.

**Brassicas.** Turnips, rapeseed, and kale are all a part of the brassica family. These crops have high levels of crude protein and digestible carbohydrates and can be grazed in the fall if they are planted between late July and early August. With that said, brassicas are low in fiber and must not make up more than 50% of a cover crop mixture, based on the full seeding rate.

“Cattle should have access to another fiber source to avoid consequences such as digestive upsets and acute respiratory distress. Interseeding brassicas with summer annuals helps ensure adequate fiber consumption, mitigating these issues,” the beef specialists assert.

**Cereal grains.** Wait until mid- to late August to seed small grains to ensure good quality for fall grazing. If planting is delayed into September, seed a winter hardy species like barley or rye to be utilized for spring grazing instead.

**Warm-season grasses.** Plant sorghum-sudangrass, forage sorghum, and teff by the middle of July to early August. Sorghum-sudangrass can produce up to 4 tons per acre by mid-September, making it a suitable hay crop. However, sorghum species tend to have thick stems, so crimping forage during mowing will accelerate drying.

“Planting a stand on the higher end of recommended seeding rates also helps keep stem circumference down,” the specialists add. “To maximize quality and quantity of hay production, these forages should be mowed during the boot stage. Due to difficulty of drying these species later in the summer, another option would be to produce silage.”

Sudangrasses are better for grazing than making hay. “While they do lack tonnage relative to their hybrid counterparts, their smaller stem will regrow after initial grazing, resulting in equivalent or greater yields when grazed,” the authors explain. “Another desirable feature of sudangrass is the lowered risk of prussic acid poisoning than sorghum-sudangrass.”

Despite a lower risk, prussic acid can still concentrate in young sudangrass growth. Wait to graze livestock until forage is 18 inches tall, and consider implementing a strip grazing approach. This practice inhibits animals from consuming new plant shoots that are high in prussic acid after a grazing event.

“Prussic acid may also be a risk

later in the fall from fields experiencing a frost,” the extension specialists caution. “One surefire way to avoid prussic acid issues altogether is to utilize millet species instead.”

Author: Amber Friedrichsen

Original Article: [https://](https://www.hayandforage.com/article-4022-Cover-crops-offer-cost-savings.html)

[www.hayandforage.com/article-4022-Cover-crops-offer-cost-savings.html](https://www.hayandforage.com/article-4022-Cover-crops-offer-cost-savings.html)

**PODCAST CORNER** 

What is FFGA listening to?

Monthly Podcast recommendations given by FFGA Directors

**PODCAST CHANNEL**  
**WORKING COWS**

**TITLE**  
**THE GRAZING PRINCIPLES -WITH DALLAS MOUNT**



**SCAN ME**

**LINK**  
<https://workingcows.net/ep-179-dallas-mount-the-grazing-principles/>

# Managing heifers during and after calving



Photo: FFGA

## Supervising your heifers during calving

Heifers should be observed at least twice daily, more often if practical. Assistance can then be given early if needed.

To be born alive, the calf must be delivered within approximately four hours after the appearance of the water bag. Early assistance can avoid deaths, calving paralysis and uterine prolapse in heifers.

Heifers should be kept close to cattle yards during calving, so that early assistance may be given if needed. The labour required for supervision can be kept to a minimum if the heifers are joined to calve over a short period (6 to 8 weeks). Keeping the heifers in a small paddock close to the house during calving can also reduce the time required for frequent observation.

Calving difficulty can be induced by disturbance. Hence, frequent checking must disturb the heifers as little as possible. Reasonably quiet cattle may be inspected by slowly riding through the mob on a horse. Binoculars are an option for excitable cattle.

## Giving assistance to heifers during birth

The calf should normally be born within two hours of the appearance of the water bag. If the calf is not born within three hours of the appearance of the water bag, the heifer should be examined. If there is any doubt about the time of the appearance of the water bag, an examination should be carried out immediately.

The decision to give assistance should be based firstly on the position of the calf.

If a hind leg is visible or if only one fore-leg is presented, or if there is any other evidence of malpresentation of the calf, assistance should be given immediately. The calf's chance of survival is greater if assistance is given early.

If the position of the calf appears normal, with the head resting on the front legs, then the condition of the heifer should be considered.

A heifer that has ceased straining and appears weak or exhausted should be assisted immediately. If the heifer is straining vigorously, and the birth appears to be progressing normally, the heifer should be left alone for approximately one hour. If there has been no real progress after the hour has elapsed, assistance may be required.

## Calling in the vet

A vet should be called if:

a heifer is found to have difficulty calving the birth appears to be breech the heifer's condition has become weak.

A vet may be required to correct a difficult calving and to prescribe and administer any veterinary drugs required to assist with calf and heifer survival during and after calving.

## Post difficult birth

After a difficult birth, young cows in particular often desert their calves. It is wise to keep the cow and calf confined in a small area after assistance has been given.

They can then be watched and should not be allowed back with the main herd until the cow has accepted the calf and will allow it to suck. Sometimes it may be necessary to hold the cow in a crush or race and force her to allow the calf to drink for the first few days.

## Management after calving

Once they have calved successfully young cows are required to produce a good supply of milk and become pregnant again soon after. To achieve this they must be well fed from calving until the end of mating.

## Milk production

The main factor determining how well calves grow is the amount of milk their mothers produce. This in turn depends on such things as the age and breed of the cow, but it is also influenced by feeding management.

Young cows produce less milk than mature cows. Consequently the growth rate of calves from two year-old or three-year-old cows is normally 10 to 15% less than that of calves from cows aged five or six.

Nevertheless, young cows can produce good calves if they are well fed after calving. Feed intake before calving has a relatively small influence on milk yield, but after calving the effect is enormous. Once they start to produce milk, cows of any age need at least twice as much food energy as they did before calving. If they don't get this they will lose weight and their milk production will be depressed.

## Fertility of cows after calving

Cows must be well fed after calving. Although maximum fertility requires cows to be gaining weight from calving to the end of mating, it is likely that cows calving in autumn will lose weight from calving to joining, despite being fed. However, adequate fertility will be obtained if cows are calved in condition score 3, to join at condition score 2.5. It is therefore important to ensure that cows calve in good enough condition to allow for weight loss and yet still ensure adequate condition for joining.

After they calve, cows have only about 80 days in which to become pregnant if they are to calve again within 12 months. Whether they achieve this level of fertility depends on how soon after calving they come on heat again. This is largely determined by the breed of cow, the amount of milk produced, age, and feeding management before and after calving.

Milk production places cows of any age under much greater stress than pregnancy or any other body function. High milk-producing breeds and strains of cattle take longer to start cycling again after calving than lower milk producers.

Mature cows usually take about 60 days to come on heat again after calving; young cows may take 90 days or more. The reason is that young cows, particularly those calving at two years of age, are in a very delicate nutritional situation after calving. They require nutrients not only for milk production, but also for their own body growth and development. In contrast to this, the mature cow can, to

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some extent at least, 'milk off her own back'.

Nutritional management both before and after calving has a great impact on cow fertility. Cows that are not well-fed during pregnancy take longer to start cycling again after calving than cows that are well fed. Ideally cows should calve in medium body condition, preferably in condition score 2.5 to 3.0.

**Feeding young cows after calving**

For good fertility and milk production, first calvers in particular must be well fed after calving.

Simply providing an abundance of good quality pasture may be adequate in

some years. Some producers draft off freshly calved young cows each week, and drift them into a better paddock. In an autumn-calving herd, for example, this could be an 'autumn-saved' paddock.

In most districts of Victoria, however, young cows calving in autumn usually require a high-quality supplement after calving. Early or mid-season cut clover hay, early cut oaten hay and lucerne hay are suitable, but hay of lower quality is of little use. If good quality hay is not available, cereal grains or pellets may have to be fed.

Feeding should begin immediately after calving because cattle may take a while to adjust to the ration .

**Worm control**

Young cows calving in autumn are particularly vulnerable to severe worm infestations. The stress of calving may precipitate the release of large numbers of 'inhibited' worm larvae from the walls of the gut. If needed, an effective drench should be given before calving.

Author: Agriculture Victoria

Original Article: [https://](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/beef/breeding/managing-heifers-during-and-after-calving)

[agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/beef/breeding/managing-heifers-during-and-after-calving](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/beef/breeding/managing-heifers-during-and-after-calving)

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# Meet the 2023 Bursary Recipients

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## MORGAN ROBERTSON



My name is Morgan Robertson and I grew up on a mixed operation just East of Longview. Growing up I was involved in the Longview 4H Beef Club and learned many lifelong skills from it. In addition, I also learned the importance of agriculture and more specifically the beef industry. With a passion for agriculture, I knew I wanted to gain more knowledge and attend post-secondary. I am currently attending Olds College and I am finishing up my Agricultural Management Diploma. I plan on continuing my education at the University of Saskatchewan in the Animal Science program. I have grown up in this incredible industry and have enjoyed every minute and I am excited to continue learning more.

I have a strong appreciation for the beef side of agriculture and even started my own business of raising and selling Belted Galloways. The forage side of agriculture is also important to me and a few of the classes I have taken in Olds have helped further my knowledge in this area.

I would like to thank the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association for this bursary that allows me to further my education in post-secondary.

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My name is Aaron Van Steekelenburg and I'm from a dairy farm near Millicent Alberta. We milk 65 purebred Holsteins and five years ago have started my own purebred Red Angus herd as a side project. Currently I go to school at the University of Saskatchewan and I'm in my 4th and final year of my Animal Science Degree. My future plans are to go abroad and learn how to make cheese and other milk products with the goal of having my own business selling milk and beef products directly off the farm.

I've always had a passion for agriculture, especially in cattle production. Branching away from my dairy experience, I wanted to learn more about beef production and last summer had the opportunity to work at the Mattheis Research Ranch under Marcel Busz. From working there, I was able to gain more experience managing cow/calf pairs and gained a greater appreciation for managing rangeland. Not only did I get to meet industry members but was able to experience unique events like some of the FFGA's field tours. I would like to give a big thanks to the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association for helping me forward my education and I am excited to be a member now!

## AARON VAN STEEKELENBURG



# Build Drought-Resistant Soil Via “Boom-Bust Grazing”



Wibaux, Montana, rancher Ray Banister was 28 when he began leasing the family ranch from his stepfather in 1970. Though he'd been working on the outfit since he was 9 years old, he still had a lot to learn about pulling the operation through the droughts that repeatedly returned to the region.

Grass for the cow herd was often in short supply and hay hard to find. Then he stumbled across the chance to lease grazing land that had been rested for a year.

The robust response of the range to the rest transformed Banister's ideas about grazing and set him on the course of evolving his signature boom-bust grazing system involving relatively short, severe grazing periods followed by yearlong rests. Over the years, the grazing system helped Banister build drought-resistant soil while earning a slew of conservation awards in the process.

## STUDY REVEALS BENEFITS

A soil assessment study conducted on Banister's ranch in 2017 by Montana Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local and area staff confirmed the extent to which his boom-bust grazing has built soil health and achieved production stability. The study compared soil health and water infiltration on a sloping site in one of Banister's pastures with the soil health and infiltration of a neighboring pasture where annual, season-long grazing had been practiced. The grazing site on Banister's land had been rested the previous year.

“We wanted to see how the management of soil affects the amount of

rainfall we can capture,” says Katrina Johnson, NRCS district conservationist at Wibaux.

The study revealed that management can indeed make or break water infiltration and storage below ground, where it provides long-standing moisture for plants. “We found the water-holding capacity of the soil in the boom-bust system was much greater than the soil in the continuously grazed pasture,” Johnson says.

The district staff installed soil-moisture sensors at 1-, 2-, and 3-foot depths in each location. On the season-long side of the fence, the soil moisture dried out at the 1-foot level by June 13. On the boom-bust side, the sensor at the 1-foot level continued to have moisture and was completely resaturated with a rainfall on July 3. That particular rain event failed to recharge the 1-foot sensor on the season-long grazing site, suggesting the rainfall ran off rather than infiltrated the soil.

“After the July 3 rain event, on Ray's side of the fence, the soil was even saturated down to the 3-foot level,” Johnson says.

Infiltration tests on Banister's pastureland show that the first inch of rain is absorbed in 14 seconds. “The second inch is absorbed in 28 seconds,” he says. There's no runoff.”

The building over time of a porous structure in the silty clay soil is responsible for the rapid water-infiltration rate. “The soil has well-formed soil aggregates, giving it that healthy texture resembling cottage cheese,” Johnson says. “Our resistance test showed more compaction on the season-long grazing site.”

The porous soil structure in the boom-bust grazing regimen is linked to “the build-up of litter and thatch on the soil surface,” Johnson says, as well as to the rest the plants receive, which allows them to strengthen their roots.

“With the plant health and diversity in the boom-bust system, there's a

massive amount of roots that go deep into the soil profile,” she says. “In the continuous-grazing system, the plants were more shallow-rooted and less robust; the plants were not as healthy. It's important to have healthy roots because the roots put sugar exudates into the soil, and those sugars are food for the soil biology.”

That the soil life gets plenty of food from plant roots in the boom-bust grazing was borne out by the results of a Haney soil health analysis. The biological activity measured in the soil in the boom-bust system was more than twice the activity in the continuously grazed rangeland.

An added benefit to the soil life in the boom-bust system compared with the season-long system are the lower soil temperatures resulting from the shelter provided by surface litter and plant canopy. The summer soil temperature in the boom-bust system was 52.2°F., as compared with 65.8°F. in the soil of the season-long grazing. The surface temperature in the boom-bust land was 84.1°F. as compared with 98.4°F. in the season-long acres. Excessive heat at the surface can kill soil biology.

The forage production measured by the NRCS staff showed the benefits of the boom-bust system. It yielded a total annual production of 3,290 pounds per acre compared with 1,945 pounds in the season-long system. When standing plant material from the rested year was included in the total, the boom-bust system yielded 5,092 pounds per acre, while the season-long system yielded 2,092 pounds. This previous year's plant material is part of the herd's diet in a pasture's grazing year. (See “Boom-Bust Grazing.”)

## BOOM-BUST GRAZING

Ray Banister's boom-bust grazing season begins in late May, following an April-May calving season. He turns 180 head of Hereford-based cows with calves out to graze a quarter section of range for about 20 days

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before moving to the next quarter-section pasture.

“All the plants in the pasture will be grazed to the ground,” he says. By that he means even the unpalatable plants such as sagebrush.

“Cows have to be trained to eat old, dried grass from the previous year along with the plants they don’t normally like,” Banister says. “They have to be diet modified in order to work in this system.”

In the early days of grazing cows on unpalatable forages, weaning weights suffered, falling to an average of 350 pounds. “But last year the bulls and steers averaged 650 pounds in January,” he says.

Each grazed pasture is rested for a full year except for a light grazing during the dormant season.

Banister’s hay-feeding season typically runs from the first of January to the first of April, depending on winter conditions. He supplements cows for a month before calving with 3 to 4 pounds per head daily of a ground mixture of corn, peas, and safflower.

This annual volume of forage production gives Banister the ability to stock pastures at a rate higher than his county’s conventional stocking rate. “The average carrying capacity in this area is 28 acres per cow-calf pair,” he says. “I’m running one cow-calf pair for every 17 acres.”

Drought resilience is a hallmark of the system. “Even though we were in an extraordinary drought all summer long in 2021, the production in the pastures was normal,” Banister says. “The hay production was a little less, but I was able to harvest enough to

make it through the winter.”

Like the pastures, Banister rests hayfields every other year, except for a light dormant-season grazing period.

In sum, in Banister’s system, soil moisture and rest conspire to create drought-resistant conditions.

“How Ray has managed over time allows the soil to capture moisture,” Johnson says. “He is able to capture every raindrop he gets, and the moisture becomes plant available. Then he provides an opportunity for plants to fully recover from grazing. His system is living proof you really can protect yourself from drought.”

Author: Raylene Nickel

Original Article: [https://](https://www.agriculture.com/livestock/cattle/build-drought-resistant-soil-via-boombust-grazing)

[www.agriculture.com/livestock/cattle/build-drought-resistant-soil-via-boombust-grazing](https://www.agriculture.com/livestock/cattle/build-drought-resistant-soil-via-boombust-grazing)

# SAVE THE DATE



## GREG JUDY GRAZING SCHOOLS

June 26, 2023  
Rumsey, AB

June 28, 2023  
Jumping Pound, AB

Guest Speaker  
Greg Judy



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# Alberta Forage Industry Strategic Plan

Prepared by: Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN)  
and Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)

The Alberta forage industry is facing significant challenges with an overall decline in forage production and consumption in the province, accompanied by a decline in the amount of land used for agricultural purposes. This is especially alarming for the forage industry, as many perennial forage stands are being converted to annual cash crops which will have lasting effects on the health of the entire farming community in Alberta.

**Alberta's agriculture sector understands that the diverse ~ \$3 billion dollar provincial forage industry needs a well-thought-out plan to gain the attention it deserves.**

Historically, Alberta's forage sector has been a major supporting partner of the ruminant livestock industry (including beef, equine, sheep, buffalo etc) and has helped to protect, and improve the health of, our soils.

**However, the contribution of forages has never been fully appreciated or recognized.**

The development of the **Alberta Forage Industry Strategic Plan**, led by Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN) with help from Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) and financial assistance from Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR), is an attempt to organize the industry in order to halt this decline and initiate a process of improvement for the large and diverse forage sector.

**The Alberta Forage Industry Strategic Plan is the first phase of a 3-phase forage strategic framework:**

**Phase 1:**

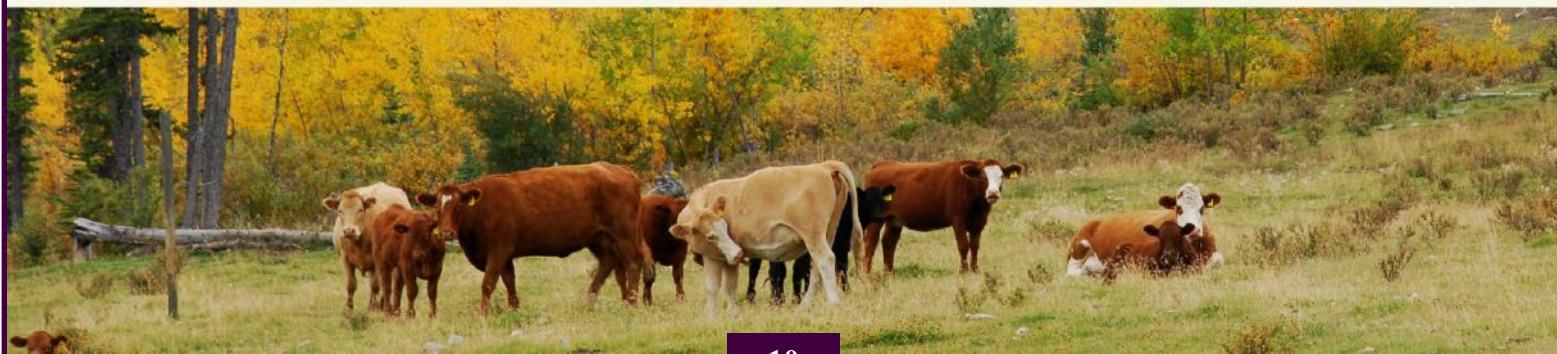
- Development of a long-term, big picture strategy framework supported by forage industry stakeholders.

**Phase 2:**

- Expand, in greater detail, each of the priorities of the 6 major pillars over the next 6 months.
- Secure new project funding to continue work on the identified priorities, and plan how each will be addressed.
- Phase 2 will also include a detailed articulation of the research, development and extension required in the early years to catalyze a robust advancement, and capture the economic and environmental value of forages.
- This phase is expected to put into context and reflect the long-term Strategy Framework, and develop a toolkit for advancing the forage industry.

**Phase 3:**

- Development of a funding proposal to put a Forage Centre of Excellence staff component in place to manage a number of the identified priorities.
- Hiring appropriate personnel will be our #1 job, as without people we are limited in what can be accomplished now and in the coming years.
- Phase 3 will also include specific research areas which need to be identified to support implementation of the strategy.





## Who are the beneficiaries of the Alberta Forage Industry Strategic Plan?

The five beneficiaries explicitly named by this strategy are as follows:

1. A farm or ranch business that grows forages
2. A business or research organization that provides forage technology and intellectual property
3. A business that consumes or uses forages
4. A business or organization that provides advice and services
5. A business that exports forage for international markets

The outcomes for each beneficiary represent a predetermined target that has been tentatively agreed upon by AFIN with input from various stakeholders in the forage industry.

## The Six Pillars

During the initial discussions, stakeholders identified six major industry-based pillars of the Alberta Forage Industry Strategic Plan. The six pillars are:

<b>Forage Demand</b>	<b>Market Access</b>
<b>Competitiveness</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Productivity</b>	<b>Connectivity</b>

These pillars identify focus on areas and objectives that contribute to the overarching goals of the Alberta Forage Industry Strategic Plan. Certain focus areas will be represented by existing national organizations, while other areas will have multiple industry stakeholders working together to collectively achieve the identified outcomes.

## Outlining the Issues and Challenges

The document has outlined a number of important issues and their mitigation strategies in tabular form. Most of these issues stem from the fact that there is no full-time staff to carry out the functions necessary to deal with the identified issues that have negatively impacted the industry. This stems from a lack of funding for forage-related work in the province, leading to a scarcity of trained personnel and necessary infrastructure.

Significant progress in the areas identified as issues can be made by long-term funding for a province-wide coordinating body such as the **Forage Crop Centre of Excellence (FCCE)** with appropriately trained personnel and supportive infrastructure. At present, the forage industry does not have the capacity to do this alone and needs support from the Provincial Government, RDAR, BCRC, and ABP to start the process. It is expected that when the real value of forages (including their value in providing permanent soil cover; contributing to soil biodiversity and function, increased soil organic matter and carbon sequestration resulting in improved soil health) is recognized, investment from the private sector will grow and help bring the importance of forages to the forefront. At present, the forage sector is heavily reliant on government and the not-for-profit sector for research and extension. It is expected that with successful implementation of the forage strategy a significant increase in private investment will result in the identified areas.

As with any effective plan, the Alberta Forage Strategy is expected to evolve and grow over time in response to industry feedback and new data. Stakeholders, researchers, and those interested in assisting with the further development of this strategy can contact AFIN at [albertaforages.ca](http://albertaforages.ca) for more information.



# Save the Date

July 26 & 27, 2023

## Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women

Longview Alberta



 @Grazing Schools For Women

Details and Registration Coming Soon!

### Alberta 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.



To update or start an EFP, visit:  
<https://www.albertaefp.com>

or

Contact Sonja at: [enviro@foothillsforage.com](mailto:enviro@foothillsforage.com)  
(403) 612-7204

**Don't leave it until last minute! Contact Sonja today!**



**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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FFGA is a proud member of



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