

# Western Stock Growers' Association

## December 2015 Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 5



### President's Message

Well it's hard to believe that we are at the end of another year, and it's been an eventful one at that! We started the year with a dysfunctional government and now we are full circle with the NDP getting voted into our province with a majority vote and not knowing how to run government.

There are many issues in front of us at the moment. Bill 6 and Bill 202, which will come back in the spring session, that we need to watch for as they tried to blind side us with this one. The Land Use Framework is also being implemented throughout the province with still no defined direction with this open ended plan.

On the Bill 6 end we tried to have direct consultation with government however, we got no response so we went in a different direction to work together with other agriculture industry groups to have a united voice from the industry. All though we all know this government is Very Green and Naive, at some point the training wheels need to come off and all Mrs. Notley's "listening"....needs to be heard!

This year was also very trying. Due to the drastic swing in the weather patterns, most of the province was in severe drought conditions. Feed stock was limited and unfortunately had many adverse effects on many operations. From having no hay production, to cutting grain crops for feed, as well as limiting the amount of cattle that are kept. On a good note, there was some moisture later on in the season for winter crops, leaving a good reserve for the grass to get started in the spring.

So from my place to yours I hope the New Year brings good moisture, and ample amounts of feed! Hope to see you all at the AGM in Red Deer and don't hesitate to contact me or any of the board with questions or concerns you have.

Merry Christmas,

Aaron Brower



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## **Bill 6**

The day Bill 6 (the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act) was introduced to the legislative assembly marks a tsunami-sized response across the province by the agriculture industry.

The ironic part is, the industry as a whole was basically prepared for some version of Occupational Health and Safety inclusion coming down the pipe. Had the roll-out been properly addressed, the backlash wouldn't have been so bad. As the only province with an OHS exemption still in place, rumblings on changes to the regulations date back six years.

Preceded by cursory consultations with a small fraction of industry representatives as recently as October 2015, the resulting Bill 6 did not reflect the discussions or suggestions put forth by these few groups. Further to that, there was never any discussion, as far as we are told, on including changes to the Employment Standards Code and Labour Relations Code.

To further aggravate the situation, the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act passed third reading on December 10, a mere twenty three days after the first reading. For a government to push through an omnibus bill that affects four different bodies of legislation and regulation in less than a month is shocking and disturbing. Especially since it was met with such opposition from the public and in the assembly.

When Minister Sigurdson was questioned in Lethbridge on why she wouldn't withdraw the Bill, she responded by saying she knew the assembled were not going to trust her or listen to her or hear her. That is an extreme-

ly unfortunate situation but one which the agriculture industry is coming to understand as government continued to ignore the message to take the time for effective consultation – including regulatory and implementation details – before passing any legislation. The Premier's assertion that the Bill will pass in this session was further indication that at least some in government are not listening or not hearing either.

WSGA was present at all Town Hall meetings and had considerable dialogue with government throughout this time. We sent a letter to Premier Notley, the Agriculture and Forestry Minister and the Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour Minister requesting a delay on Bill 6 pending effective consultation on the regulations and the legislation. Twelve industry groups signed the letter. Our request was not acknowledged in terms of delaying the passing of the Bill but we remain hopeful that our request for consultation meetings will be granted. Your WSGA board is preparing for those meetings as we look forward to the new year. We continue to look for and foster initiatives that will unite the agriculture industry in Alberta in response to Bill 6.

WSGA would also further remind our membership that the online survey on the farm and ranch workplace legislation changes is open until January 3. Go to <http://work.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch-get-involved.html> to access the survey. There is also an email address and a phone number listed to field questions and accept even more feedback.

## **WSGA Annual General Meeting**

**2:00–5:00pm**

**February 17, 2016**

**Sheraton Hotel Red Deer**

## **CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS**

**If you have a resolution to bring forward at the AGM, please send it in to Lindsye at the office.**

**Email: [office@wsga.ca](mailto:office@wsga.ca) or Phone: 403-250-9121**



**FEBRUARY 17 – 19, 2016**  
**SHERATON HOTEL | RED DEER**

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**  
 Schedule subject to change

**February 17th, 2016**

9am – 4pm	Recruitment & Retention Workshop
2pm – 4pm	Riding the Market Roller-coaster: Do you have what it takes?
2pm – 4pm	Equipment Safety on Your Operation
2pm – 4pm	Low Stress Cattle Handling
6:00pm	Western Saloon Reception & Dinner

**February 18th, 2016**

8:30am	Welcome
8:45am	Beef Producers in the Innovation Age: Practical Strategies for Success
9:45am	13 Ways to Kill your Beef Industry
10:30am	Coffee
11:15am	Investing In Prevention While Preparing for the Inevitable
12:00pm	Meat Industry Trends
12:45	Lunch & Career Fair
2:15pm	Losing Balance, Regaining Control: Alberta's Economy in 2016
3:00pm	Domestic & Global Market Update
5:30pm	Dennis Hull
6:15pm	Taste of Alberta & Live Auction

**February 19th, 2016**

9:00am	Weather Forecast
9:45am	Coffee and Career Fair
10:30am	Nutritional Advice – Is there a Solution to the Confusion?
11:30am	KNOW MEAT



Celebrate Alberta's Other Natural Resource

— & BEEF! & —

The 2016 Alberta Beef industry Conference will present valuable information and perspectives that will help foster innovation, improve profitability, prepare for the unknown, and grow a forward thinking beef industry, while meeting the needs of the consumer.

This year's speakers include:

**Dr. Joe Schwarcz | Director of Science and Society**  
 McGill University

**Dr. Brian Evans | Deputy Director General**  
 World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

**Gary Haley | CEO**  
 Vantage Foods Inc

**Rob Saik | CEO**  
 Agri-Trend Group of Companies

**Todd Hirsh | Chief Economist**  
 ATB Financial

**Jim Bottomley**  
 Entrepreneur, Futurist, Consultant

**Doug Griffiths | President**  
 Acme Career Connections Program

**Art Douglas**  
 Creighton University

**Brian Perillat | Manager & Senior Analyst**  
 Canfax

**Jerry Bouma | Senior Partner & Founder**  
 Toma & Bouma Management Consultants

Register online at:

[www.abiconference.ca](http://www.abiconference.ca)

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL**

**SHERATON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE**  
 3310 – 50 AVENUE | RED DEER, ALBERTA  
 TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS: 1-800-662-7197

**BLACK KNIGHT INN**  
 2929 – 50 AVENUE | RED DEER, ALBERTA  
 TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS: 1-800-661-8798

**SANDMAN HOTEL**  
 2818 GNETZ AVE | RED DEER, ALBERTA  
 TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS: 1-800-726-3626

**RED DEER LODGE**  
 4311 – 49TH AVENUE | RED DEER, ALBERTA  
 TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS: 1-800-661-1657



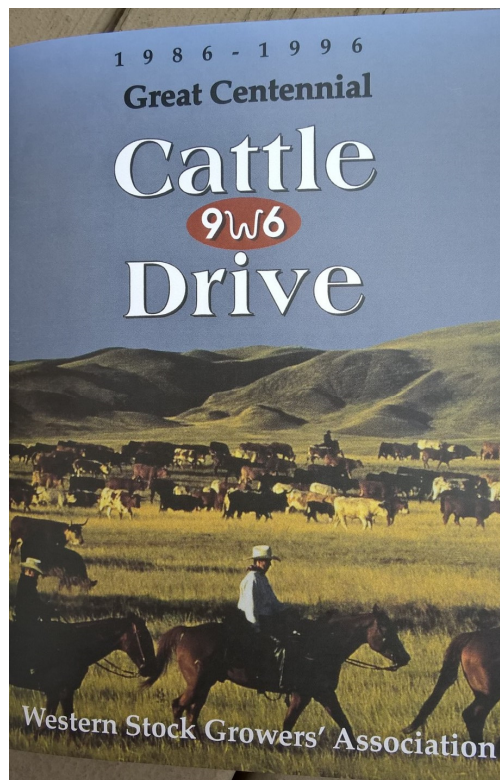
## WSGA Commemorates 20th Anniversary of Great Centennial Cattle Drive

In 1996, over 1300 riders, 103 wagons and 2000 head of cattle gathered to celebrate the Centennial of the Western Stock Growers' Association. The Great Centennial Cattle Drive journeyed across one of the last pieces of unbroken prairie in North America

2016 marks the twenty year anniversary of the WSGA Great Centennial Cattle Drive. To commemorate this anniversary, the WSGA is offering DVDs telling the story of the cattle drive for only \$15.00 each. This video, never before offered on DVD, captures the memorable moments, spectacular vistas, wildlife and adventure. The journey of this mobile town will be remembered for years to come.

There are still copies of the coffee table book of the Centennial Cattle Drive in hard cover and soft cover available as well. The soft covers sells for \$21.00 and the hard cover for \$70.00.

Contact the office for books or DVDs. 403-250-9121



## Upcoming Events

WSGA Annual General Meeting • 2:00—5:00 February 17, 2016 • Red Deer Sheraton Hotel

Alberta Beef Industry Conference • February 17—19, 2016 • Red Deer Sheraton Hotel

Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference • February 16—18, 2016 • Saskatoon Inn • Saskatoon, SK • Go to <http://pesc.ca/> for more info and registration

AFAC Livestock Care Conference • March 22 & 23, 2016 • Pomeroy Inn and Suites • Olds, AB  
Go to <http://afac.ab.ca/conferences/2016-conference> for more info and to register

Land Use 2016 • May 4-5, 2016 • The Westin Edmonton • Western Canada's forum on land use research, planning and policy • Go to [AlbertaLandInstitute.ca/LandUse](http://AlbertaLandInstitute.ca/LandUse) for more info and registration

Land Use 2016 will explore the theme of Regional Planning—how it influences the provision of ecosystem services, the use of agricultural land, and governance.

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