

Western Stock Growers' Association

July 2015 Newsletter

July 2015 Volume 4, Issue 3



WSGA meets with new ag minister

With the results of the spring election, the WSGA has been busy rebuilding relationships with our new provincial government representatives.

We requested and were granted an early meeting with our new Agriculture Minister, the Honourable Oneil Carlier. WSGA executive and one WSGA governor along with manager Lindsye Dunbar travelled up to Edmonton on June 8 to meet with the new minister.

The conversation was not overly specific, we were able to touch on general concerns with land use and property rights. We requested he consider moving the Rangeland Management Branch back into the Agriculture ministry; a move that makes even more sense now that Forestry is again part of Agriculture. At the very least, he agreed that the Environment and Parks Ministry and the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry need to work very closely together.

We were also able to bring up concerns with the need to address rural revitalization and barriers to succession.

Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, Minister Carlier cannot join us at our summer meeting but we look forward to working closely with him in the years to come.



From L to R: Ryan Copithorne, Bill Newton, Aaron Brower, Lindsye Dunbar, Phil Rowland and James Hargrave

In this issue...

- WSGA Summer Meeting
- Summer field days and events
- Upcoming events





Mark your calendars!

WHAT: WSGA Summer Meeting

WHEN: August 11 and 12, 2015

WHERE: Okotoks, AB

Register through the WSGA office at 403-250-9121
or email office@wsga.ca





Leader Tours by

North Dakota Soil Health Tour

Featuring Brown's Ranch & Menoken Farm

August 16 - 20, 2015



Join us in the International Year of Soils for a private tour of Gabe Brown's unique operation and the Menoken Farm!

Tour topics will include soil health, multi-species cover crops, carbon sequestration, creating a healthy ecosystem, and eliminating the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides

NEW PRICE

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Price (Land Only)
Based on 30 passengers
\$726 CAD/person (twin rate)
\$962 CAD/person (single rate)

Price includes tours, coach bus, hotels, and most meals

Tour departs from Regina, SK. Attendees are responsible for their own travel to and from Regina

Deposit of \$250.00 per person required by
July 17
Remainder of final payment due July 24

For full itinerary and to register, please contact:
Lawrence Rowley or Sawyer Asmundson at
(403) 270-7044 or sawyer@leadertours.ca
Cassie Kirkpatrick at (403) 652-4900 or
cassie@foothillsforage.com







Field days of summer...

Internationally renowned groundcover and soils ecologist Dr Christine Jones is coming to Alberta and Saskatchewan for a number of field days titled Building Soil—Creating Land over the summer

Dr. Jones works with landowners to implement regenerative land management practices that enhance biodiversity, maximize photosynthesis, increase soil biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, improve water holding capacity and infiltration, increase productivity and create new topsoil.

The dates and locations are:

- July 23 Olds, AB

To register contact Fiona McCarthy 403-335-3311 ext 143 or fmccarthy@mvcounty.com

- July 24 Oyen
- July 28 Rycroft
- July 29 Manning
- July 31 Morinville
- August 4 Bonnyville
- August 5 Castor

To register for any of these six days contact ARE-CA at 780-612-9712 or soils@areca.ab.ca

- August 7 Swift Current, SK

To register contact Trevor Lennox at 306-778-8294 or trevor.lennox@gov.ab.ca

- August 8 Arcola, SK

To register Contact Neil and Barbara Dennis at 306-739-2896 or sunnybrae@rfnw.com

For further information on Christine, go to her website: www.amazingcarbon.com



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Press

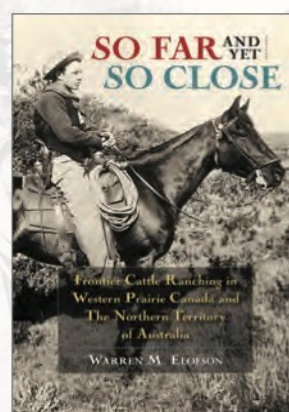
Glenbow

University of Calgary Press
and Glenbow
invite you and a guest to the launch of

SO FAR AND YET SO CLOSE:

Frontier Cattle Ranching in
Western Prairie Canada and the
Northern Territory of Australia

by Warren M. Elofson



Monday, August 24, 2015
2:00 - 4:00 pm

GLENBOW

Hugh A. Dempsey Reading Room, 6th Floor,
130 9th Avenue SE, Calgary

Please RSVP by August 10 to
ucpress@ucalgary.ca or 403-220-3979

www.uofcpress.com



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des Arts
du Canada

The Western Canadian Cow Calf Survey

The aggregate results of the Western Canadian Cow Calf Survey are now available on the Western Canadian Beef Development Centre website.

Go to <http://www.wbdc.sk.ca/> to check it out.



Neil sold 200 calves while saddling his horse.

AGRICLEAR LETS YOU BUY AND SELL YOUR CATTLE WITH ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

As a livestock producer today, you need every advantage to succeed. Now you can operate more profitably and efficiently 24/7 with the AgriClear online platform. AgriClear enables you to market your cattle to anyone with payment assurance, market-based pricing and no listing fee. In other words, **AgriClear is Cattle Marketing on Your Terms.**

Learn more and register for free at Livestock.AgriClear.com



Auditor general report sparks review of grazing lease system

Auditor general Merwan Saher's report released on July 6 again brings up the long contentious issue of surface rights compensation paid by the energy industry to grazing leaseholders. "This is a complex issue and the lack of understanding of neither the instrument nor the operations is the real culprit here," says Larry Sears, chairman of the Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association.

The report was recently highlighted in major daily newspapers across the province. "This is a call to action for grazing leaseholders to set the record straight," says Sears. "Because of the errors in the report, we are faced with a situation where we need to educate. For example, the auditor general tries to extrapolate compensation figures for all grazing leases based on a lease with intensive oil and gas activity. That amounts to more than a quantum leap in logic and, moreover, it is patently incorrect because less than half of all leases have any activity whatsoever and very few have the intensity of the example they are trying to use."

Leaseholders are compensated as set out by the Surface Rights Act for damages, inconvenience and loss of use imparted on them by industrial

activity. The dollars and 'sense' is negotiated between the energy company and the leaseholder. "Ensuring the leaseholder is compensated for these things makes sure that the leaseholder will remain the day-to-day steward of the land," says Sears. "Having these on-the-ground managers has allowed the property to be protected through generations instead of being mined and abused."

The grazing lease system is not unlike the leases used by oil and gas, forestry or mineral exploration companies. Government, as the owner, does receive compensation and royalties from the energy companies as well.

The Calgary Herald quotes Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips saying that the New Democrat government accepted the auditor general's recommendation that department bureaucrats need to thoroughly review a program that was begun in the late 1880s, before Alberta was even a province. "It is our hope the review is based on actual fact, not mistruths and wildly extrapolated figures," says Sears. "In the meantime, Alberta's grazing leaseholders will work on spreading the truth."

Our goal is to work with you to determine the most profitable options for your marketable livestock, allowing you to **focus on producing the best product.**

© LEE GUNDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY



**Contact me for a no obligation
look at the program**

RYAN COPITHORNE PHONE: 403-669-3451

WWW.COWSINCONTROL.COM

Upcoming Events

Holistic Management International Western Canadian Field Days

- ♦ Planned Grazing Using High Stock Density to Improve Profit • July 28, 2015 • Lucends Ranch • Ponoka, AB

There are more dates later in the summer for locations in Manitoba. For more information on the Western Canadian Field Days and to register, go to <http://holisticmanagement.org/training-programs/open-gate-on-farm-learning-series/>

Grazing School for Women

July 22 and 23 • Dinosaur Provincial Park

TOPICS INCLUDE: Grazing Practices, Range Health, Plant & Weed ID, U of A Research Ranch, Riparian Health, Riparian Grazing, Ranching Women, Aquatic Invasives, Integrated Pest Management, Animal Welfare: Jennifer Woods

For more information or to register contact:

Amanda Halawell: ahalawell@cowsandfish.org Phone (403) 451-1182

Fax (403) 274-0007 www.southernalbertagsw.blogspot.ca

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health

December 8th, 9th & 10th • Radisson Edmonton South

Planning for this conference is well underway with several speakers already confirmed; Gabe Brown, Dr. Yamily Zavala, Dr. Harold van Es, Dr. Jill Clapperton, Peter Donovan, Jay Fuhrer, Dr. Allen Williams, and Neil Dennis.

Advertise with the WSGA

We now offer advertising space in our newsletters. Advertising in the WSGA newsletter offers three avenues of exposure: 1) WSGA E-Newsletter distributed to WSGA members and industry stakeholders 2) hard copy newsletter distribution to WSGA members 3) electronic versions of the hard copy newsletter are posted to the website and widely available. The website, www.wsga.ca, receives an average of 1000 visits per month. Analytics show the newsletter as consistently one of the top downloaded files on the site.

To purchase advertising space or for more information, contact Lindsye at the office: 403-250-9121, office@wsga.ca

Western Stock Growers' Association

Box 179
#14 — 900 Village Lane
Okotoks, AB. T1S 1Z6

Phone: 403-250-9121
Email: office@wsga.ca