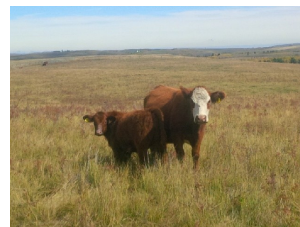
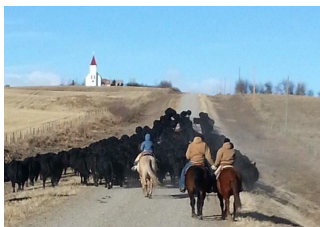


Western Stock Growers' Association

Newsletter

August 2018



WSGA Summer General Meeting—July 27 & 28

This year's Annual Summer Meeting was held at Diamond F Ranching at Cremona July 27 and 28. In a change-up from previous meetings, the first day of the meeting was the tour. We started the day at the hay processing plant at Cremona, followed it with a tour at a dairy operation that uses robots to milk and finished at Fallen Timber Meadery which included a tour and sampling.

"We saw a few different sides of agriculture today, which was a great mix. We can get pretty entrenched in our own industry, sometimes it is a good exercise to poke our heads out look around once in a while and see what we can learn from others," says WSGA manager Lindsye Dunbar.

The second day of the gathering was the open meeting. "The meeting on the 28th was a recap of the WSGA activities and a forum for discussion of upcoming issues and initiatives. We were definitely not at a loss for things to discuss," says WSGA Presi-

dent Aaron Brower. Highlights of the discussion centered around the status of the CFIA bovine tuberculosis investigation, the traditional agricultural water use challenge by the Alberta government, continued discussion on Bill 6 and the OHS rules and regulations, an update from the James Hargrave Legacy Foundation, the proposed CFIA traceability regulation changes, an update on the proposal to modernize the Crown land rental rates and assignment fees for grazing leases and the on-going debate on checkoff becoming non-refundable through a plebiscite scheduled for the fall.

The afternoon featured a workshop by Merle and Annessa Good on planning for succession. "The presentation by Merle and his daughter is one of the best I have ever seen. There were a lot of 'ah-ha' moments going through the crowd," says Dunbar. "Producers should be tapping into Merle or someone like Merle to help with their succession planning. And it takes years to plan and implement so



Thank-you to Dave, Cheri and Justin Foat for their amazing hospitality

Recreation access on lands

As hunting season is just around the corner, land-owners and leaseholders are looking forward to calls for access. Recreational access specifically on Crown lands under agricultural disposition have been a contentious issue for some time. It's important to know the responsibilities the recreational user accepts when they ask for access.

Recreational users are required to contact the leaseholder prior to gaining access and are required to give the following information:

- Type of recreational activity proposed
- Time and location the activity will occur on the land
- Number of people in the group
- Names of the recreational contact person and method of contact
- Other related information that is requested, such as the names of all recreational users and license plate numbers of vehicles used to transport people to the land.

Recreational users also must always:

- Pack out all litter
- Park vehicles so the approach to the land is clear
- Refrain from lighting fires without consent
- Leave gates in the same state in which they were found
- Not cause any damage to the lease land or the property of the leaseholder

Leaseholders can impose conditions for access on their leaseland. Examples of these include but are not limited to no vehicle access or a time window for vehicle access, texting or calling the leaseholder when entering and leaving, detailing where to park, no access if cattle are present. A maximum number of people can be established for the lease but it needs to be set out in a recreational management plan. All conditions must be reviewed by a Government of Alberta staff member to ensure conditions are consistent with what is allowed under the legislation.

Under the regulations, the leaseholder may deny access or apply conditions to access when:

- Access would be anything other than foot access, including bicycles, horses or other animal or motor vehicles
- Access would be in a fenced pasture where livestock are present or on cultivated land on which crop is growing or has not been harvested
- Access to all or part of the agricultural disposition land has been prohibited due to a fire ban as determined by either the provincial or municipal authority.
- Recreational use involves hunting at a location that is unreasonably close to a fenced pasture where livestock are present
- The proposed use is camping
- The proposed use would be contrary to a recreational management plan (if one is in place for the land)

Proposed Twin Rivers Heritage Rangeland Natural Area reclassification and expansion

Government has opened up public consultation on the Twin Rivers reclassification and expansion. The government is gathering input to determine support for the reclassification of Twin River from a Natural Area to a Heritage Rangeland and gathering feedback on a proposed expansion to include 3,173 hectares (7,840 acres) of adjacent grasslands. The government expanded the consultation until September 30, 2018. The survey is short—two questions—please go to www.albertaparks.ca and look for the public consultations link at the very bottom of the page.

Bovine TB Surveillance in Wildlife in Alberta 2017

In October 2016 bovine tuberculosis (bTB) was detected in a beef cow from southeastern Alberta. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) initiated an immediate investigation and also requested that the province consider looking for bTB in wildlife. Alberta Environment and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Branch, expanded their ongoing passive bTB surveillance of hunter-harvested deer, elk and moose but did not find any evidence of the disease in Alberta in 2016.

There are two types of surveillance initiated in the 2017/2018 hunting season; passive surveillance and active surveillance. Passive surveillance piggy-backs on the current system for surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). A visual check for bTB lesions in the lymph nodes is performed in the heads submitted by hunters for the Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program. Active surveillance involves samples collected following a protocol developed in conjunction with CFIA that meets international standards and submitted for lab analysis at a CFIA lab.

The active surveillance program is designed to build on ongoing disease monitoring efforts and focus on hunter-harvested elk at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield. The goal is to test enough samples to demonstrate 95 percent confidence in disease freedom at the 1 percent level. With guidance from CFIA, the province determined this requires testing 369 elk heads over three years (2017-2019). The tar-

get each year is about 120 elk from CFB Suffield.

800 hunters were licenced to hunt elk in CFB Suffield in 2017/18. Additional Indigenous hunters attended the hunt. All individual who hunted at CFB Suffield were briefed about bTB. Hunters who have concerns associated with harvested animals are asked to contact the Wildlife Disease Unit. In such cases, any situation suggestive of possible bTB infection is addressed with the hunter and, if appropriate, samples provided for lab evaluation. No diagnostic cases from the Wildlife Disease Unit had lesions that met criteria for being suggestive of bTB infection.

Passive Surveillance Results

In 2017/2018, 3472 mule deer, 2517 white-tailed deer, 229 elk and 204 moose from Alberta were tested for CWD province-wide. No visible bTB lesions were detected in any lymph nodes. Specific to CFB Suffield: 351 elk were harvested, of which 144 heads were tested for CWD. No lesions suggestive of bTB were reported by hunters or seen by CWD staff.

Active Surveillance Results

Appropriate samples from 138 elk harvested in CFB Suffield in 2017/2018 were provided to CFIA for bTB testing. As of August 1, 2018 all testing is complete and all elk were negative for bTB.



BEEF TALKS

NEW DATES: MARCH 12-14 2019

Red Deer Sheraton Hotel and Conference Centre

Go to www.abiconference.ca for more information and to register!

UPCOMING EVENTS



The event will be a combination of business meetings and conference style sessions, including:

- Results from the CRSB's Consumer Research Project
- Unveiling of the CRSB's *Certified Sustainable Beef Framework* logo and claims
- Presentations on a series of exciting projects from across Canada that align with CRSB's Sustainability Strategy
- An update on the work of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops

The event will include a diverse tour partnering with the International Beef Alliance (IBA) on September 19, which will provide attendees an opportunity to connect and network not only with CRSB members across the value chain, but also beef producers from Canada, United States, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, Brazil and Paraguay.



Foundation Forage: Built from the Ground Up

A line-up of top speakers who will talk, teach and share their expertise with you during their presentations on Nov. 14 and 15 – the core of the conference. Speakers will set the stage for you to plan, seed, feed, graze, harvest and evaluate your valuable forage and grassland. We'll look at carbon capturing and data management, current protocols and how to meet future developments.

On Tuesday, Nov. 13, conference attendees have the opportunity to hit the road for hands-on learning with the CFGA

Pre-Conference Tour. We'll take you to visit nearby leaders in the forage and grassland sector of Alberta and hear how they are finding success.

Go to www.canadianfga.ca/conference for more information.

Water & Agriculture Conference

November 22, 2018

Managing environmental risks, how agriculture and wetlands can coexist, understanding what the Alberta Wetland Policy means to you, projects for grazing sensitive areas and much more!

Go to www.foothillsforage.com for more information.

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