



WESTERN STOCK GROWERS' ASSOCIATION *NEWSLETTER*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we have put one more year behind us, there were a few turns in the road as usual. The checkoff conversation was at the top of the list to say the least. I would like to thank all of you that took the time to get informed on the issue and those who voted. Although it was a dismal turnout, I think that we all, as producers, landed in a good place. The plan proposed by ABP and ACFA was insufficient at best but it will lead to more conversation to get the industry funding to where it needs to be, I am sure.

As for the TB file in Alberta, it looks as though the file is nearly complete as the last rounds of follow-up testing are being wrapped up. The one positive development that came from this was that CFIA did get their eyes opened to how the cattle industry works in Western Canada. From that they changed some of their policies and procedures. We will see how this works out as the case in British Columbia goes through its investigation.

As always, property rights and water issues are never too far from reach. We are always keeping on top of these issues.

The province is stumbling through the Surface Water Allocation Directive which I am sure will be of some concern for some or all of your operations in the future. We highly advise every producer to check to make sure they have all the paperwork for their water in order.

Our Environment Minister has slated the largest land-use designation since the Woodland Buffalo Park in Bighorn Country. They are trying to push this one through with little consultation over the holiday season. This one will be carried into the new year to start it off with a bang. A big project like this one trying to be rammed through just before we go into an election is narrow-minded politics at best and does not pass the smell test for sure.

As always, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to contact me or any of the board members to bring issues and concerns forward. We all wish you the best into the new year and please do not hesitate to contact us because membership is what drives us all.

All the best,
Aaron Brower



LARRY DELVER

We recently lost one of our own in the passing of Larry Delver. I suspect that many industry organizations both inside and outside the government will say the same. Larry gave all of his career and much of his free time to the betterment of animal agriculture. The WSGA is grateful to Hilary and Larry's family for sharing him with us, allowing him to provide wise council and guidance to our organization. He will be missed, however his mentorship will live on in the people he touched, in his community, at the boardroom table and with his family.

A wake is planned to share memories and celebrate Larry's life, on March 30th, 2019 from 2 p.m. at the Foothills Centennial Centre, Okotoks, Alberta. Proceeds from bar sales will be donated to the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. To help Hilary with catering plans, please reply to delvertribute@gmail.com by March 15th, 2019.

As an alternative to flowers please donate in Larry's name to the Tom Baker Cancer Centre (www.albertacancer.ca)

ALBERTA BEEF PLEBISCITE

At the request of the Alberta Beef Producers, the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council) conducted a plebiscite from October 19 to November 27, 2018, on the matter of the ABP's service charge model refundability.

The plebiscite asked producers to vote on whether the Alberta Beef Producers should operate on a non-refundable service charge model or on a refundable service charge model.

The official results of the ballot count are as follows:

Number of votes cast = 1874
51.3% votes for refundable
48.5% votes for non-refundable
0.2% of votes were spoiled

The plebiscite regulation allow for provisions for contesting the plebiscite. No contests were raised to the Returning Officer by the date outlined in the regulation (December 11, 2018).



ABIC has new dates - we are moving to March. The program this year is not one to be missed! WSGA holds their AGM as part of this conference every year. This year the AGM will be March 12 at 2:00 pm. Please join us!

We are also hosting a pre-conference workshop the same day. Dr Claire Windeyer and Dr Craig Dorin will be presenting on upcoming trends and knowledge in calf vaccinations and how to apply it on the ground with your herd. This starts at 10:00 am

Plan to spend the day or better yet, register for the whole conference. You won't be disappointed. www.abiconference.ca

BOVINE TB IN BC

A suspected case of Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) was detected during a routine post-mortem examination of a mature beef cow at a processing facility in Alberta and confirmed through testing by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The carcass was condemned and did not enter the food chain. The animal was traced back to a farm in British Columbia. The CFIA, in conjunction with the Province of B.C. launched an immediate epidemiological investigation at the farm of origin and issued movement control restrictions on the impacted animals. The investigation is ongoing. No trade impact is anticipated as a result of this finding. CFIA does not believe this case is related to the case in Alberta discovered in 2016. The strain of TB will be determined by a tissue culture which takes 8-12 weeks.

The CFIA is working with the producers and provinces to take immediate action to control the disease and maintain Canada's bTB-free status. Currently seven premises in Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan (including the index premise) are under movement controls as a result of the trace-out investigation.

In the meantime, producers are encouraged to visit the CFIA website for updates.
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/ter...1330206128556>



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BIGHORN COUNTRY

The government of Alberta has released a proposal for multiple designations in Bighorn Country which include a new Wildland Provincial Park, as well as new, expanded or amended Provincial Parks, Public Recreation Areas and Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ). The government is stating that, for many stakeholders, the proposal means little or no significant change to currently allowable activities which includes existing grazing dispositions on Crown land. It is appreciated that the Government recognizes the importance of grazing and timber harvest in the overall health of the working landscape, but there is very little trust in the government by those who operate within the boundaries of the proposed Bighorn Country to keep this promise. This lack of trust is further fueled by the fact that the government circumvented its own procedure within the Land Use Framework. This proposal was developed ahead of the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan and seemingly against some of the recommendations that came from the NSRP Regional Advisory Committee.

It also appears that new or expanded grazing dispositions would not be considered as a tool for land management within the Bighorn park system even though science has proven the importance of a grazing animal in the health of the grassland ecosystem, and this includes grassland areas within forestry.

WSGA believes that it is not necessary to create new conservation directives (parks) on Crown land to sustain or conserve ecosystem function. Biodiversity and ecosystem function are sustained by appropriate management of lands and are unrelated to conservation designation.

The consultation is open until January 31, 2019. There is more information, access to the online survey and dates for public consultation sessions at <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/bighorn-country>

UPCOMING EVENTS



AGLA AGM

February 8, 2019

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Radisson Red Deer

If you are a grazing leaseholder in Alberta you need to connect with AGLA. Come to the AGM to find out what AGLA can do and is doing for you. Meeting includes open discussion on issues that affect leaseholders. These discussion help guide what issues AGLA focuses on.

For more information call 587-435-4072 or go to the website at www.albertagrazinglease.ca

Foothills Forage and Grazing Association

Texas Agriculture and Sightseeing Tour

Featuring Houston Stock Show - February 17 to March 2, 2019

Join FFGA for two weeks in the beautiful Southern USA. The tour features everything from the Houston Stock Show, a Riverboat Cruise in San Antonio, a private Tram tour of NASA Space Centre, Japanese Tea Gardens, The Texas Cowboy Museum and Fort Worth Herd Demonstrations. We will also enjoy a full day of winery tours & tastings, explore many historic sites, and tour various cattle ranches like King Ranch, JD Hudgins Ranch, American Gray Brahms, and the Fagan Ranch Brangus - Red & Black Brangus.

Call 403-764-2044 for more information and to register.

A promotional banner for the Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) conference. On the left is the AFAC logo, which is a circular seal with "AFAC" at the top and "ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE CONFERENCE" around the bottom. To the right of the logo is the text "PARTNERS IN PROGRESS TOOLS FOR SUCCESS". Below this is the text "REGISTER NOW" in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath that is the date "MARCH 20 & 21, 2019" and the location "OLDS, AB". At the bottom left is the website "WWW.AFAC.AB.CA/2019". The background of the banner is a collage of farm images: a field of tall grass, a group of sheep in a snowy field, a group of white pigs in a field, and a group of brown cows in a field.



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