

Western Stock Growers' Association

Special AGM Edition Newsletter

March 2018



PRESIDENT'S AGM ADDRESS

This year has been a trying one at best. We started out hoping for a good year, then we got into this drought that hammered us all in one way or another. The grass stopped growing, the water holes are dried up and the hay and cereal crops were short. This also led into a fire season that was one of the worst seasons province-wide that I have ever seen. And as you know a true friend and spokesman for our industry, James Hargrave, was lost in the Hilda fire. On top of that, the check off issue has resurfaced again.

At this point, the status of most everything is 'on-going'. The drought brought on conversation centered around the government relief programs and that is still on-going. The fires led to some local meetings with the people directly affected; which led to facilitating consultation with the directly affected people and government. And this also is on-going. We had an idea that would keep the vision and memory of James ongoing, this idea has led to the formation of James Hargrave Legacy Foundation. On the check off conversation we were involved directly in meetings at the initial stages but

not invited back for the stage we are at now. I'm sure there will be lots of discussion on this soon. I would strongly advise you as producers to voice your opinion, as we will inevitably be going to a plebiscite on this.

As always there are lots of new issues that arise to add to our on-going list. One that has presented itself lately is the one on water. I think this may become one of the largest conversations we in this province are going to endeavor

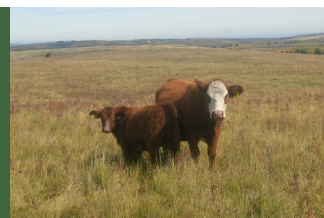
To wrap up the ramble, I am honored to serve as President of Western Stock Growers Association for the 5th consecutive year. And as always don't hesitate to contact myself or any members of the board if you have issues or concerns.

Respectfully,

Aaron Brower

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2018 AGM Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1:

WHEREAS the proposal put forward by Alberta Beef Producers and Alberta Cattle Feeders Association on changing the check-off to non-refundable lacks clarification and detail and
WHEREAS the proposal affects all members of Western Stock Growers' Association
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we seek a clear and detailed position on the proposal from Alberta Beef Producers and Alberta Cattle Feeders Association.

RESOLUTION 2:

WHEREAS Alberta has over 50 years of successful participation in the four-way provincial partnership that established and funded the Western College of Veterinary Medicine; and
WHEREAS over those years, Alberta has consistently registered more veterinarians than it has funded; and
WHEREAS WCV and UCV have different teaching models particularly for clinical experience; and
WHEREAS Alberta's withdrawal from the WCV funding partnership will challenge the viability of the entire WCV program – affecting not just Alberta students by Western Canadian students,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WSGA lobby the Provincial government and official opposition to re-establish funding for at least ten seats annually for Alberta undergraduate students at WCV.

RESOLUTION 3:

WHEREAS recent AEP actions have challenged certain temporary agricultural water licenses and applications and licences pre-existing 2001 Water Act deadline
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED WSGA support Brower Ranching Co Ltd and any other affected water users and
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED WSGA lobby for files from prior to 2001 Water Act deadline be treated as pre-2001 applications, thus retaining traditional agricultural priority and intention.



WSGA Board of Directors

Executive	Zone	Phone	Email
Aaron Brower, President	Zone 2	403-344-2134	brower@xplornet.com
James Jenkins, 1st Vice President	Zone 8	403-813-4490	jjranches2010@hotmail.com
Cam Clark, 2nd Vice President	Zone 4	403-633-0726	crowfootland@xplornet.com
Phil Rowland, Past President		403-652-7288	prowland@xplornet.com
Zone Directors			
Dana Fitzpatrick	Zone 1	403-627-5708	drftiz7@hotmail.com
Richard Williams	Zone 3	403-566-2280	rickbon@netago.ca
Ryan Copithorne	Zone 5	403-932-2966	ryan@cowsincontrol.com
Toivo Miller	Zone 7	306-202-9398	lazycattle@gmail.com
Bill Hanson	Zone 10	780-524-4414	wagranch@iwantwireless.ca
Joe Gardner	Zone 11	250-350-3341	info@douglaslake.com
Directors At Large			
Ronda Reesor	At Large	403-937-2221	rondakr@gmail.com
Valinda Ivanics	At Large	403-666-2140	ivanics@me.com
Neil Ward	At Large	403-512-0518	neilnward@outlook.com
Michael Munton	At Large	403-394-4903	munton@rocketmail.com
Honorary President			
Dr. William Newton		403-553-2149	wnewton9@icloud.com
Honorary Life Director			
J. Roy Clark		403-641-2106	crowfootcreekbranch@gmail.com
Policy Advisor			
Stuart McDowall		403-807-9965	mcdowall.sb@gmail.com

WSGA Board of Directors Constitution Change

At the AGM the membership ratified a motion to amend the WSGA Constitution. A motion to increase the number of Directors-At-Large was tabled for discussion by the membership. The motion was passed at the AGM with the result of 11 Director-At-Large positions on the board.

There are a number of vacancies in the WSGA board of directors. We have spots open in Zone 8 and Zone 9 as well as a number of Director-At-Large vacancies. If you are interested in serving on our board, please contact Lindsye Dunbar, WSGA Manager at 403-250-9121 or office@wsga.ca

Alberta Bovine TB Investigation—Recap

What we know:

- All on farm testing has been wrapped up as of before Christmas. A total of 79 contact and trace-out herds and 71 trace-in herds have been tested through the whole investigation.
- Although we are still waiting on approximately 40 tissue culture tests, which is the definitive test, there are no red flags raised through the histology results on trace-in animals who required enhanced post-mortem.
- All premises tested have been released from quarantine.
- No obvious source of the disease has been uncovered as a result of the investigation. Alberta Environment and Parks is implementing a three-year wildlife surveillance plan.
- A total of approximately 11,500 animals have been destroyed with compensation of \$39 million paid to producers. This includes animals that were ordered destroyed from the infected herd and co-mingled herds and animals that required post-mortem testing.
- The producers whose herds were depopulated and have completed the cleaning and disinfection of their premises have restocked their herds. Those producers have completed the first round of testing to verify that the restocked animals are free from bovine TB. The second (and final) round of testing will take place in the fall of 2018. These herds are not under quarantine.
- Because Canada has a stringent eradication program for bovine TB, there was no disruption on the overall domestic cattle market.
- CFIA will release their final summary report once the tissue culture tests have been completed. This is expected in late spring 2018.

UPCOMING EVENTS

British Columbia Cattlemen's Association 90th AGM- Theme: 'Back to the Future'

May 31—June 2, 2018 Smithers, BC

For more information go to: <http://www.cattlemen.bc.ca>

Alberta Land Institute Land Use Conference—Theme: Land, Water and Society

May 30-31, 2018, Westin Edmonton

For more information go to: www.albertalandsite.ca

Grazing School for Women

June 12 and 13, Two-Hills, AB

For more information go to www.grazingschool4women.com

The Summit: International Symposium on Beef Cattle and UCVm Beef Cattle Conference

June 19-21, 2018, Deerfoot Inn and Casino, Calgary

For more information go to vet.ucalgary.ca/thesummit

15th Annual Southern Alberta Graing School for Women

July 24-25, 2018, Stavely, AB.

For more information contact: Kristi Stebanuk 403-382-4345 kstebanuk@cowsandfish.org

Canadian Beef Industry Conference—Theme: Driving Demand

August 14-16, 2018, London Conference Center, London, ON

For more information go to : <http://canadianbeefindustryconference.com/wordpress>