



Western Stock Growers' Association

Special AGM Edition Newsletter

March 2019



PRESIDENT'S AGM ADDRESS

Another year has passed and we are looking on to the next one. This past year was busy once again. We are now fully into the implementation of the Bill 6 Labor Laws and they have proven to be cumbersome at best. The check-off conversation culminated into a plebiscite this fall. I think we landed in a good place for now and maybe with a little more collaboration with all the industry partners, there could be a different arrangement for all producers to benefit. More recently, we have also been involved in the Big-horn Country Proposal conversation. This has been a very rushed and hushed project by government to make a larger multiple designation parks area. I am of the opinion that there needs to be a lot more direct conversation with the landowners that are going to be directly affected than there has been. This will be the largest park designation in our province's history and it is being pushed through too fast to be any good for all parties involved.

We would like to welcome and thank Travis Reesor and Callum Sears for stepping up to be WSGA directors. I am sure that they will both

bring insight and direction to our board and organization. We would also like to thank Toivo Miller for his service on the board.

At this time I would like to ask you all to take the time to get more involved in our industry. Gone are the days we can just put our heads down and feed our cows. We need a strong voice and that comes with having more people involved. We have an open door policy—join us at one of our meetings.

As always don't hesitate to contact me or anyone on the board to bring your issues to the forefront. We don't have a successful organization without your involvement.

Respectfully,

Aaron Brower

2019 AGM Resolutions

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS the Bighorn Country Proposal goes around the land use framework process and
WHEREAS given the timing and the apparent or perceived lack of respect for appropriate planning, co-operation and communication to the citizens of Alberta

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we encourage the Alberta Government to respect the North Saskatchewan Regional Planning process in regards to the Bighorn Country Proposal

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS the United Conservative Party of Alberta has continued to promise to repeal Bill 6 if they are elected and

WHEREAS the costs to the producer of fully implementing Bill 6 are significant in both money and time, especially for smaller farms and ranches

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, if United Conservative Party of Alberta is elected, the Western Stock Growers' Association lobby the Alberta Government to repeal Bill 6 as soon as possible

RESOLUTION #3

WHEREAS the Endangered Species Conservation Committee recommended listing wood and plains bison as threatened and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada Recovery Strategy for Wood Bison identifies tuberculosis and brucellosis as threats and recommends to "contain and prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from wood bison local populations with diseases to disease-free local populations cattle and ranched bison, and evaluate current disease management options"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Western Stock Growers' Association holds liable the Government of Canada for any disease escape from the bison population and encourage the Government of Canada to move forward immediately with this strategy, and offer to collaborate in the design and delivery of the same.

RESOLUTION #4

WHEREAS Alberta has over fifty 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, Albertan has consistently registered more veterinarians than it has funded; and

WHEREAS WCVM and UCVM have different teaching models particularly for clinical experience; and
WHEREAS Alberta's withdrawal from the WCVM funding partnership will challenge the viability of the entire WCVM program – affecting not just Alberta students but 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 WCVM.



WSGA Board of Directors

Executive	Zone	Phone	Email
Aaron Brower, President	Zone 2	403-647-4505	brower@xplornet.com
James Jenkins, 1st Vice President	At Large	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
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
Callum Sears	At Large	403-603-0172	callum.sears@icloud.com
Travis Reesor	At Large	403-548-8948	travisreesor@hotmail.com
Honorary President			
Dr. William Newton		403-553-2149	wnewton9@icloud.com
Honorary Life Director			
J. Roy Clark		403-641-2106	crowfootcreekbranch@gmail.com

Serving on the Board Serves Your Ranching Business

The WSGA board of directors is populated by people who are passionate about the industry and want to help the industry succeed and grow. These are the kind of people you want to build your network with.

In an industry that is getting progressively global, more tech-savvy and less populated, building a network within the industry is vital to success. The outside-of-meeting discussion and opportunity to

make contacts throughout all levels of the industry while serving on the board should be capitalized on to improve your ranching business.

WSGA has several director-at-large positions up for grabs as well as Zone 6, Zone 7, Zone 8 and Zone 9 vacancies. Join the board now!

For more information, contact a WSGA director or the office at 403-250-9121 or office@wsga.ca.

UPDATE: Bovine TB Investigation in BC

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's investigation now has one herd each in B.C. and Saskatchewan and four herds in Alberta under movement controls, along with the infected herd in B.C. Twenty-seven other herds put under movement controls since the start of the investigation in November, including 15 herds in Alberta and 12 in B.C., have since been released.

The investigation started after lab tests on Nov. 9 confirmed bovine TB in an animal traced to a farm in B.C.'s southern Interior. Since then, three other animals on the farm have tested positive.

Culture testing of tissue samples collected from the four infected animals has been completed, showing all four were infected with the same strain of bovine TB. CFIA noted the strain of bovine TB in this case is "distinct from any cases

previously detected in Canadian wildlife or domestic livestock." That includes past cases of bovine TB in Alberta or British Columbia or anywhere else in Canada. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has also confirmed the strain in this case "has not been previously identified by its laboratory service."

Tracing movements of animals into and out of the infected herd during the past five years is still ongoing, CFIA said. "These efforts are in place to identify and eliminate the source of the disease and to prevent any potential spread of the disease."

No source of disease was found in the 2016 TB case in Alberta after CFIA trace in and trace out investigation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

British Columbia Cattlemen's Association 91st AGM- Theme: 'Ranching Strong: Managing for Profitability in the Cow/Calf Operation'

May 23-25, 2019 Williams Lake, BC

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

Grazing School for Women

June 12 and 13, Two-Hills, AB

For more information go to www.grazingschool4women.com

15th Annual Southern Alberta Graing School for Women

July 24-25, 2018, Stavelly, 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>

Western Stock Growers' Association

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

PH: 403-250-9121
E: office@wsge.ca