

# Western Stock Growers' Association

## AGM Edition Newsletter

March 2020

### **PRESIDENT'S AGM MESSAGE**



Another year has passed and, as always, it has been a busy one. We are still fully engaged at the Alberta Grazing Disposition Holders Operational Committee. We have accomplished many things there including the modernized rental rate and as-

signment fee agreement and are now tackling recreational access issues among other things. This has been a very constructive group of industry partners to collaborate with and I am sure that there will be a lot more to come from this group in the future.

I am encouraged to see the forward movement on the Grasslands Conservation Marketplace Pilot. As long as I have been around WSGA, this has been a goal. This initiative is finally getting the attention and credibility that it deserves and I am confident what comes out the other side will be beneficial to the beef industry.

We have also been involved in some conversations on surface rights compensation. As you may be aware, the GoA is restructuring the Alberta Energy Regulator as well as instituting some changes at the Surface Rights Board. We have been engaged in this and will keep you all up to date as things progress.

As it seems to be that this new government likes to do town hall style engagement, we have taken advantage of the opportunity to address the Fair Deal Panel and participate in consultations on the Farm Freedom and Safety Act, rural crime, and farmer-led research. I would encourage all our membership to also attend these as they arise. They are definitely worth your time.

As you are all aware this is my final President's Report. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for granting me the privilege of being the President of the WSGA over the past seven years. I could not have done it without all of you and the support of great directors and governors on our boards. This is truly an organization run by beef producers for beef producers. The things that we have accomplished together in the last few years is astounding to say the least. But as a membership organization it takes all of you to make it successful.

One of our long-time board members, Stuart McDowall, has stepped back from the board this year. He served many years as the WSGA policy advisor. We highly valued his input and are grateful for his service. We wish him all the best in the years to come. So with that I would like to welcome three new directors: Duane Hale, Brendyn Elliot and Chancey Guichon. The new executive to carry us forward are Dana Fitzpatrick (2<sup>nd</sup> vice president), Ronda Reesor (1<sup>st</sup> vice president), and Callum Sears as president.

At this time, I would like to ask you all to take the time to get more involved in our industry. We don't have a successful organization without your involvement.

Respectfully,

Aaron Brower, President

## **WSGA 2020 RESOLUTIONS**

The resolutions at the AGM are what guides the efforts of the WSGA board from year to year. This is how the membership guides the actions of the organization. The following resolutions were passed by the membership at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

### **RESOLUTION 2020-01**

WHEREAS ranchers, as custodians of the land, manage landscapes in a manner that works with nature and improve the production and quality of the forages; and

WHEREAS this landscape provides a safe and nutrient dense environment for wildlife, thus attracting an abundance of many species of ungulates; and

WHEREAS the current compensation programs are out dated, financially inadequate and discourage sustainable management and development;

THEREFORE be it resolved that WSGA lobby Provincial and Federal governments to rectify their current wildlife programs and wildlife compensation.

### **RESOLUTIONS 2020-02**

WHEREAS Alberta has over fifty years of successful participation in the four-way provincial partnership that established and funded Western College of Veterinary Medicine; and

WHEREAS over those years, Alberta 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 10 seats annually for Alberta undergraduate students at WCVM.

## **COVID-19 RESOURCES AND INFO**

As all organizations implement their own COVID-19 response plans during this unprecedented time, Western Stock Growers' Association continues to function. Since WSGA moved to a virtual office system some years ago, not much has changed for office operation. Lindsye and Laurie are there to answer your calls and emails and keep things running as before. Over the coming weeks, as we collectively work on WSGA priorities and projects, we will take advantage of technology and use a variety of digital platforms and online tools to facilitate our meetings and communications. Although we have suspended face-to-face meetings, we continue to stay in touch with our stakeholders and government contacts through technology and web conferencing. Until we can physically gather again, if you have questions or want to connect at anytime, please reach out to us at [office@wsga.ca](mailto:office@wsga.ca) or 403-250-9121.

The CCA website ([www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca)) has some good information for cattle producers and we are supporting them in keeping the cattle industry functional during these times. Should any issues arise, exporters and importers are asked to contact CCA so they can be addressed immediately. Direct comments to: [feedback@cattle.ca](mailto:feedback@cattle.ca)

There have been no trade interruptions for all classes of live cattle between Canada and the U.S. All stakeholders continue to work to ensure that live cattle and beef trade continues uninterrupted between the two countries.

## **YOUR 2020 WSGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Executive	Zone	Phone	Email
Callum Sears, President	At Large	403-603-0172	president@wsga.ca
Ronda Reesor, 1st Vice President	At Large	403-937-2221	rondakr8@gmail.com
Dana Fitzpatrick, 2nd Vice President	Zone 1	403-627-5708	drfitz@gmail.com
Aaron Brower, Past President	Zone 2	403-647-4505	brower@xplornet.com
Zone Directors			
Richard Williams	Zone 3	403-566-2280	rickbon@netago.ca
Ryan Copithorne	Zone 5	403-932-2966	ryan@cowsincontrol.com
Duane Hale	Zone 4	403-641-4520	dlhale@telus.net
Brendyn Elliot	Zone 7	250-449-5071	3ecattle@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
Chancey Guichon	At Large	403-901-9713	chancey.guichon@hotmail.com
Travis Reesor	At Large	403-548-8948	travisreesor@hotmail.com
Honorary President			
Mabel Hamilton		403-224-2355	belvinangus@xplornet.com
Honorary Life Director			
J. Roy Clark		403-641-2106	crowfootcreekbranch@gmail.com

## **WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

### **Why should you or someone you know serve on the WSGA board?**

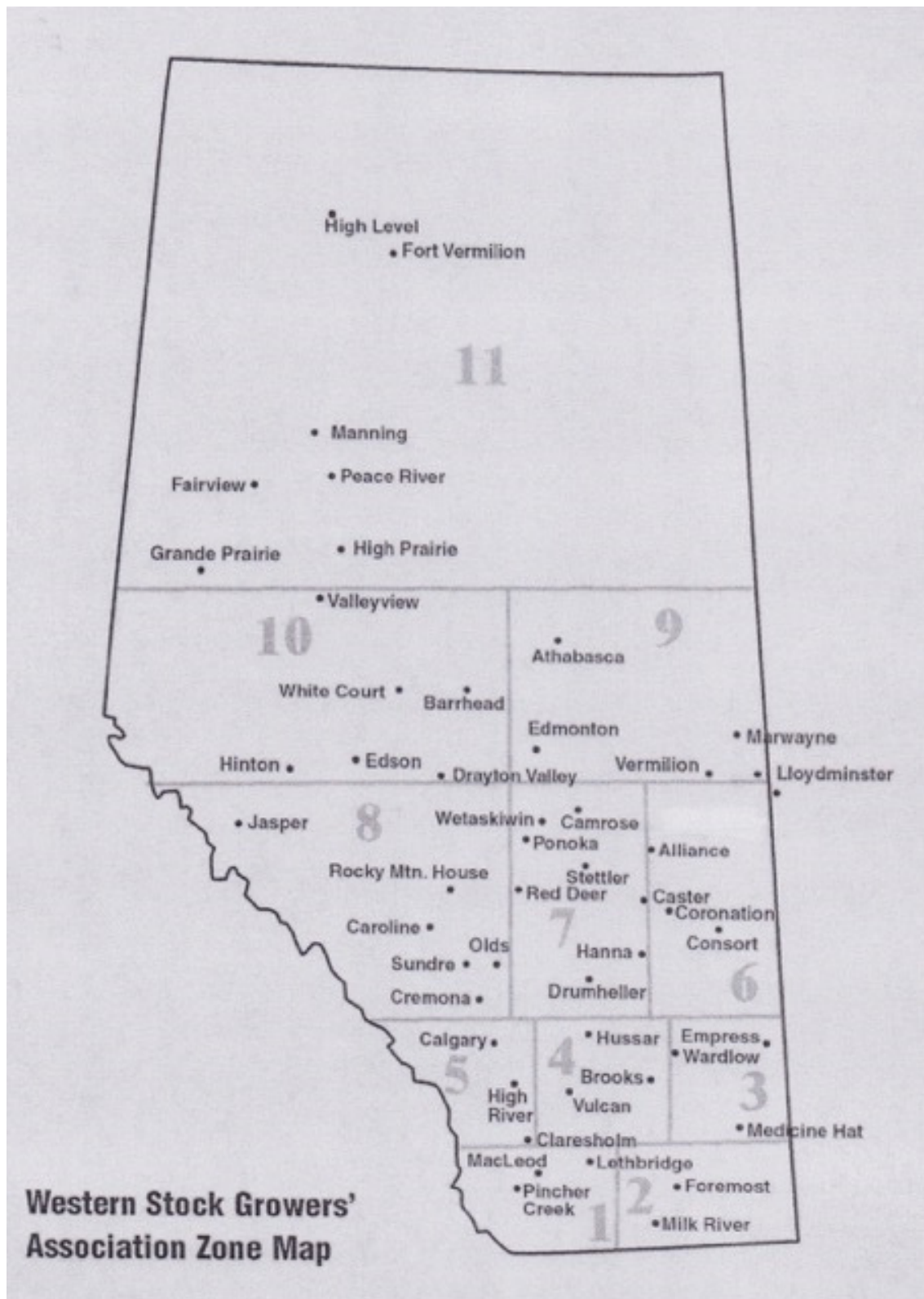
The WSGA board of directors is populated by people who are passionate about the industry and want to help the industry succeed and grow. These are the kind of people you want to increase your business and personal network with.

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 three director-at-large positions up for grabs as well as Zone 6, 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.

*"Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame, but greatness, because greatness is determined by service." — Martin Luther King Jr.*



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