



The latest news and updates from Western Stock Growers' Association

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**Western Stock Growers'
Association**

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WSGA AGM Slotted for Summer Meeting

August 11-12, 2021

We cannot wait to see you in person

Clay and Avril Chattaway, of the Bar S Ranch, will be hosting the WSGA 2021 Summer and Annual General Meeting.

The AGM will be from 9 AM to 12 PM on August 11, 2021. The meeting agenda will cover what the association has been working on and things that are coming in the future. It is an exciting time for Western Stock Growers' so we would love to see you at the meeting.



After lunch will be an open meeting with industry updates and our fabulous guest speaker, Danielle Smith.

Day 2 will be all about the ranch. Clay and Avril will be taking us on a tour of the Bar S Ranch which has been in operation since 1886.



Important Information

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021

TIME: 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

PLACE: BAR S RANCH
NANTON, AB

If you will be attending either or both the AGM and Summer Meeting, please go to www.wsga.ca and complete the online registration form, phone 403-250-9121 or email admin@wsga.ca.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Please send resolutions to be presented at the AGM to the WSGA office:

Email: admin@wsga.ca

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

Phone: 403-250-9121

Registration deadline for Summer Meeting is August 2, 2021. Payment can be made by cash or cheque the day of the event or in advance by e-transfer to admin@wsga.ca or by cheque to the WSGA office.

WSGA Champions Pilot to Market Ecosystem Services

In Alberta, as demand for diverse land use expands, so do the challenges to conserve grasslands. Changes in grassland land use often come at the expense of native prairie. And despite the environmental benefits grasslands provide, existing incentives for maintaining native grasslands are limited and have variable attractiveness to ranchers. The Western Stock Growers' Association (WSGA) recognizes these challenges and, with support from EcoServices Network, is working towards developing a viable, voluntary market-based solution that will help conserve these valuable ecosystems and provide incentives to ranchers for the land management decisions they make to sustain and regenerate them.

"We have championed the creation of a grassland conservation exchange as means to recognize and capture the current non-market value of managing healthy grassland ecosystems. There is a need for pragmatic, flexible and voluntary market returns for ecosystem services benefits," says WSGA governor and chair of the pilot advisory committee Bill Newton. "We are just over halfway through piloting the market framework and exchange and are excited about the progress."

Pressures to convert grasslands for real estate development or transition into higher value crop production are very real. Continuing to provide grassland ecosystem services for free is no longer a viable long-term option.

The reality is there are significant costs associated with land ownership," explains Bill, "acquisition costs, ongoing costs, opportunity costs. Our land management decisions must incorporate profitability if we want to continue to be landowners and ranchers."

Market returns for commodities in the absence of market returns for ecosystem service benefits inevitably drive land use decisions away from the production of ecosystem services benefits.

In the project's simplest form, grassland ecosystem services are produced by ranchers, verified and calculated in an index, collected in a registry and sold to buyers via an exchange. The functioning of the exchange is a bit more complex, so along with their partners, WSGA has identified the key elements needed for an ecosystem services exchange to function.

The framework of a grasslands conservation exchange contains a viable market for the "product" that is defined by an index of ecosystem services, backed by valid science, metrics and verification processes, using a database registry to keep track of the product, and that incorporates an economic exchange to accommodate the transactions. Overall, the exchange will give both buyers and sellers transparency and confidence in the transactions to build long term stability for the market.

To learn more about the grasslands conservation market pilot, join us at our summer AGM and tour August 11 and 12. Email: admin@wsga.ca to register.

Learn more about EcoServices Network at ecoservicesnetwork.ca.



TOPICS OF INTEREST

CATTLE RUSTLING

125 years ago, one of the reasons the Western Stock Growers' Association was originally formed was because of cattle rustling, offering a \$1,000 reward for helping to catch rustlers. When the west was young, getting caught was usually the last thing cattle rustlers experienced on this earth since punishment was usually fatal.

Today, the punishment for cattle theft ranges from a fine or probation to a jail sentence and the WSGA reward has been raised to \$50,000. Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in rural property crime, including cattle theft, especially as people have come on harder times.

It is imperative to report all suspected stolen livestock to the RCMP and Livestock Identification Services (LIS), and check for any signs of physical evidence including tire tracks, footprints, and video surveillance. Inquiries with neighbours is also a good idea as someone else may have witnessed suspicious persons or vehicles in the area during the time of the suspected theft.

If you suspect your livestock are missing, report this to your local LIS livestock inspector who will input the missing livestock into the LIS database. All missing and/or stolen livestock are entered into the LIS database which alerts inspectors should the missing or stolen livestock enter an inspection site.

Reporting is also important because the data from these reports is used to make funding decisions including whether or not to keep the RCMP livestock investigators, which is a crucial piece of the beef industry in Alberta. These dedicated livestock investigator services are provided through funding from LIS as part of an MOU with the RCMP.

While there are only two enhanced livestock investigator positions to cover the whole province, they liaise with other members of the RCMP and police agencies in other provinces and internationally.

So while you may think reporting suspected theft would be in vain because the likelihood of getting your cattle back is low, reporting provides important data on the prevalence of these sorts of crimes and helps dictate the allocation of resources.

There are other things we can do to develop a proactive approach to help prevent any more cattle losses including paying better attention to unfamiliar vehicles, marking down license plates, padlocking field gates and placement of trail cams (although these often get vandalized). If someone requests permission to hunt or recreate on your land – get their personal information. In addition, if you have oil activity, get to know these workers and ask them to contact you if they see any suspicious activity.

Besides due diligence and sound police work to get a conviction, the producer needs to have a good set of records to prove, without a shadow of a doubt, that they own the cattle. Without a brand it is difficult for producers to convince the courts of ownership beyond a reasonable doubt.

Western Stock Growers' Association has a cattle rustling fund that will award up to \$50,000 that leads to the apprehension and conviction of any person or persons stealing or rustling stock from WSGA members.

Thank you to Cpl. Lindsey Anderson, RCMP Livestock Investigator, for her contribution to this article.

Make sure we get what you send us!

Years ago WSGA made the decision to move from a bricks and mortar office to a virtual office which was a smart budgetary move and also created the necessity to change where we picked up the mail. WSGA rents a mailbox from UPS so our address contains both a box number and a street address in Okotoks. Both are required on our correspondence in order to get to us. We have had some mail go astray, some by fault of the post office, and the owner of the post office box has asked we send a note out for clarification. Our address, in its entirety is Box 179, #14 -900 Village Lane, Okotoks, AB T1S 1Z6.

Alberta Energy Regulator Denies Grassy Mountain Coal Project

The panel submitted its report to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change. In its report, the panel sets out its rationale, conclusions and recommendations for the Government of Canada.

The report includes the panel's decisions in its capacity as the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) for the provincial applications.

The panel concluded that the project is likely to result in:

- significant adverse environmental effects on surface water quality, westslope cutthroat trout and its habitat, whitebark pine, rough fescue grasslands, and vegetation species and community biodiversity; and
- significant adverse effects on physical and cultural heritage of some First Nations.

In its capacity as the AER, the panel determined that the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality and westslope cutthroat trout and its habitat outweigh the positive economic impacts of the project and the project is not in the public interest.

The panel has denied Benga's applications under the Coal Conservation Act and related applications under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Water Act, and Public Lands Act.

The panel's report, which includes an executive summary, is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, reference number 80101, and on the Alberta Energy Regulator website.

Full Report: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/139408?culture=en-CA>

July 17, 2021 News Release: *Joint Review Panel for Grassy Mountain Coal Project Concludes its Review*(iaac-aeic.gc.ca)



Something For You!

REFER A NEW MEMBER AND RECEIVE 20% OFF YOUR NEXT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Its easy... Email admin@wsga.ca with the referral information and we will take care of the rest.

WSGA IN A NUTSHELL

- Established in 1896, WSGA is the longest running agricultural organization in Alberta.
- WSGA has a long history of policy and advocacy involvement, with a particular focus on land use and property rights.
- Voluntary membership makes us accountable to our membership and ensures that we can advocate independently for Alberta livestock producers.

Upcoming Events



FOOTHILLS FORAGE AND GRAZING ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:
GRAZING MANAGEMENT TOUR

We're back and excited to bring you our first Summer Grazing Tour of 2021!

Agenda:

- Jim Bauer - Grazing Management
- Jason Williams - Electric fencing
- Jerry Baerg - Tour host & grazing strategies (inc. watering systems)
- Graydon Garner - Ducks Unlimited Funding Programs
- Producer Panel - Grazing Annuals (including commodity crop grazing strategies, swath grazing & more)

Details:

- July 14th, 2021
- Meet at Ribboncreek Ranch (see Eventbrite for Directions) & Swalwell Community Hall
- Cost - \$20.00/FFGA Member, \$25.00/Non-member + GST (includes lunch)
- Registration - 8:50am in the field, the day will end around 3:00pm

We will spend the morning outside touring Ribboncreek Ranch and the afternoon will be spent in the Hall. Dress for the weather.

REGISTER BEFORE JULY 9TH AT: [HTTPS://GRAZINGMANAGEMENT.EVENTBRITE.CA](https://grazingmanagement.eventbrite.ca)
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP REGISTERING CALL 403.700.7406



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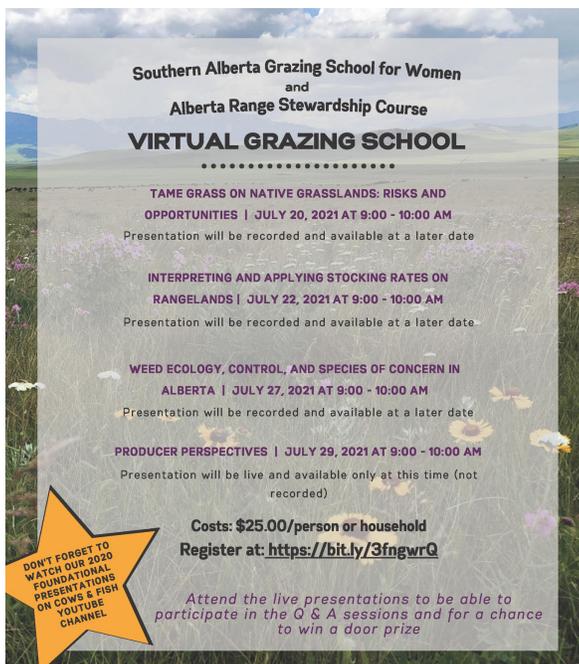
LOCALLY **NATIONALLY** **LOCALLY**

GLOBALLY NATIONALLY LOCALLY

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE AUG 31-SEPT 2 PRESENTING PARTNERS 

CBIC 2021 – A Whole New World – Globally, Nationally, Locally
Presented by McDonald's Canada
AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
Cost: \$80+gst

Register Now: www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com

Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women and Alberta Range Stewardship Course
VIRTUAL GRAZING SCHOOL

TAME GRASS ON NATIVE GRASSLANDS: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES | JULY 20, 2021 AT 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Presentation will be recorded and available at a later date

INTERPRETING AND APPLYING STOCKING RATES ON RANGELANDS | JULY 22, 2021 AT 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Presentation will be recorded and available at a later date.

WEED ECOLOGY, CONTROL, AND SPECIES OF CONCERN IN ALBERTA | JULY 27, 2021 AT 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Presentation will be recorded and available at a later date

PRODUCER PERSPECTIVES | JULY 29, 2021 AT 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Presentation will be live and available only at this time (not recorded)

Costs: \$25.00/person or household
Register at: <https://bit.ly/3fngwrQ>

Attend the live presentations to be able to participate in the Q & A sessions and for a chance to win a door prize

DON'T FORGET TO WATCH OUR 2020 FOUNDATIONAL PRESENTATIONS ON COWS & PISH ON YOUTUBE CHANNEL




Bar S Ranch

SEE YOU AT THE RANCH
AUGUST 11-12, 2021

REGISTER AT WWW.WSGA.CA TICKETS - \$60.00
CALL 403-250-9121 FOR MORE
EMAIL ADMIN@WSGA.CA INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.WSGA.CA

SUMMER MEETING 2021