



Newsletter

December 2022



ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGM

Traditionally, the WSGA AGM is held in conjunction with the Alberta Beef Industry Conference (ABIC), which never disappoints as the premier beef event in Alberta. The Conference is, hands down, the best opportunity for beef producers to network with industry stakeholders, elected officials and other producers. Despite this, the past couple of years, we have held our AGM in conjunction with our General Summer Meeting. This came about as a result of health restrictions resulting in a virtual conference one year and then restrictions imposed at the ABIC venue the following year. We have had success in attendance at the AGM as a result of holding it in conjunction with our Summer Meeting and Tour.

The 2023 WSGA AGM will again be held as part of the Summer Meeting and Tour. We have not set dates yet so please keep a watch out for our announcement of details. Hopefully we will see you there!

The board has indicated that the AGM will most likely return to be part of ABIC in 2024. Alberta Cattle Feeders Association and Alberta Beef Producers are expected to hold their AGMs at the same time so it represents an efficiency whereby cattle producers can hit up all the AGMs in one trip and find out all that is going on in their industry.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Here we are once again. Headed into another winter of fuel conditioner, frozen twine, frozen stock waterers, snow drifts, extension cords, heat lamps, block heaters, and optimism. Why are we optimistic? I do not believe we know another way.... We will slide, slip, trip, trudge, and drag our way towards that inevitable dream of spring. Of sunlight shining on the slick hides of healthy calves, bucking, running and frolicking up and down rolling pastures. As a cow/calf producer, is there a better feeling? I have not found one. It is in these few brief moments, where

we are able to put our concerns aside and truly enjoy this wonderful and challenging lifestyle, which we have chosen for ourselves and our families.

Following our 125th year as Alberta's oldest agricultural advocacy organization, we have not forgotten our mission to form positive policies, focused on free markets and environmental protection of responsible range management. We continue to be outspoken, always with the best interest of the cow/calf producer as our number one priority. Touching on the highlights of the past year, our activities included, but were not limited to:

- Representing cow/calf producers at the Real Property Rights Committee in person public meetings
- Wildlife Damage Invoicing - seeking compensation for time, material, and property loss incurred from wildlife.
- Grasslands Capital X Project, which has recently evolved into another pilot project called Carbon Plus Exchange - seeking a free market approach to marketing carbon and other environmental services.
- Summer Meeting and AGM held at Bill and Jeanne Hansen's near Valleyview Alberta
 - AGM Resolutions:
 - Changing the number of WSGA membership zones from 11 to 4.
 - Lobby the Provincial Government to implement a management solution for feral horses in Alberta.
- Working jointly with AGLA and ABP towards resolving the access and liability issues regarding undeveloped road allowances. Together our three organizations met with representatives from RMA. We also have begun meeting with local Ag Service Boards, and Municipalities, seeking resolutions for clarification on liabilities and responsibilities surrounding undeveloped road allowances.
- Vocalizing our concerns and opinions at the Grazing Timber Integration Consultation and we are looking forward to continued involvement in that.
- Participated in preliminary meetings with ACFA and ABP regarding Truck Driver Insurance Issues.
- Collaborating with our friends at AGLA explaining our concerns and priorities, identifying common issues we have, and where we can work together.

Recently a few of us from WSGA and AGLA travelled to the Alberta Legislature and met with Premier Danielle Smith, Minister of Forestry Parks and Tourism Todd Loewen, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Nate Horner, and MLA from Cypress – Medicine Hat, Drew Barnes. The reception was warm, the discussion was excellent. We just now need to stay engaged so the seeds we sowed will bear fruit.

While we were at the Legislature, we were invited to watch Question Period. As I sat watching, I thought of all the important decisions made and debated by great men and women, in great rooms and halls just like that one. I thought of how those decisions directly affected taxpayers, entrepreneurs, farmers, and ranchers just like you and myself. It dawned upon me, that before these people can make these important decisions, the first thing they need to do is eat... WSGA intends to continue to remind them of that fact.

Wishing you all the best this holiday season!
Graham Overguard
WSGA President

Valuing wildlife damage - WSGA's wildlife invoice project

Many ranchers suffer losses at the hands of populations of ungulates or migratory birds. Others suffer from wolf or cougar or grizzly bear predation. These are both a result of the Crown failing to manage their wildlife property in a balanced manner.

These are not new issues. WSGA has discussed the Crown's gross mismanagement of wildlife with every Environment Minister since the inception of the department. In addition, we have discussed potential solutions with those Ministers and their bureaucracy. Surely if it is in the public interest to have the current levels of wildlife populations then it is the Crown's responsibility as the agent of the public to compensate for the damages those populations cause to private property.

Unfortunately, compensation programs are limited, restrictive, and largely ineffective. For example, predator losses must be found while still sufficiently intact to determine predation as the cause of death; perennial crops such as pasture are not eligible for compensation even though wildlife cause production losses, and stored feed losses are ineligible unless the feed is located in a fenced enclosure. This severely limits certain management options that may be more cost effective. Furthermore, scientific studies have revealed the bio-security concerns resulting from the co-mingling of domestic livestock and wildlife.

WSGA has developed an online wildlife damage invoice to record the financial burden that wildlife owned by the Crown incur upon private citizens. The invoice, available to WSGA members only, allows ranchers to record damage, repairs, and upload photos. Invoices are submitted to the WSGA office where they will be sent in batches to the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Please contact Lindsye at the office to get your unique link to the WSGA Wildlife Damage Invoice Form.
- 403-250-9121 or office@wsga.ca.

FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2023
FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS

MEAT US IN THE ROCKIES

For Alberta's Premier Beef Industry Event



A Fireside Chat on The Future of Canada's West



Honourable Brad Wall
14th Premier of
Saskatchewan from 2007-2018
Senior Advisor at Osler Calgary



Honourable Christy Clark
35th Premier of
British Columbia from 2011-2017



Honourable Doug Black
Former Canadian Senator 2013-2021
Senior Counsel at Dentons Canada LLP

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Early bird rates end in January!

20TH ANNIVERSARY
BEEFTalks

Alberta Beef Industry Conference **2023**

**GO TO ABICONFERENCE.CA
TO REGISTER AND SEE THE
REST OF THIS FANTASTIC
SPEAKER LINE UP!**

On-Farm Climate Action Funding (OFCAF) Update

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) is a cost-share funding program that supports farmers in adopting best management practices (BMPs) that reduce greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions and store carbon, specifically for in-field nitrogen management, expanding cover cropping, and implementing rotational grazing practices.

This program helps producers adopt different practices by offsetting 85% of the cost. Alberta farmers and ranchers can apply for up to \$75,000 in funding to implement practices related to nitrogen management, rotational grazing, and cover cropping. The money can be used to cover multiple projects to a combined maximum of \$75,000.

There are two application windows in this program. The first window closed on November 7, 2022. The next round of OFCAF funding will open on February 13, 2023. For guidance on how to prepare and submit your application visit rdar.ca/ofcaf.

There are still plenty of OFCAF funds available after receiving over 1,000 applications to date. If you have questions, please reach out to ofcaf.bmp@rdar.ca or call 1-877-503-5955.

Carbon + Exchange Pilot making progress

The Carbon + Exchange is the next generation of EGS market pilot project undertaken by WSGA; following our Grassland Capital X pilot. We have been talking about and supporting initiatives in and around a market for ecosystem services for decades. Undertaking these pilot projects has been a big commitment by WSGA but we have seen progress, which is heartening. The latest pilot, the Carbon + Exchange, is funded by RDAR and has presented it's fair share of barriers that we have needed to address. But that is to be expected when you are forging new roads.

For the pilot, we have gathered eight WSGA member volunteers with a total of approximately 40,000 hectares of grassland to enter a Carbon Plus market. The pilot looks at testing the grassland index metrics and processes outlined in our first pilot and also at adding value to an existing carbon exchange process. We have been working on building relationships between buyers and sellers in an exchange and are very close to initiating contracts. In this pilot we have also looked at whether a rangeland health

assessment can be used to ground-truth and verify the biological indicators in the Grassland Capital X index.

The procedure we are testing involves engaging an aggregator that works with ranchers who are capturing carbon and delivers the carbon credits to buyers the aggregator has contracts with. The land is evaluated to determine potential carbon gains and if thresholds for profit are met, they enter into an agreement with the rancher. From there, a soil sampling plan is developed and baseline soil data is collected. Ranchers are paid for carbon gains (measured every five years) based on the market value of carbon. The land entered into the contract must remain as grasslands for a minimum of 15 years, with a rolling contract option.

The pilot runs until March 31, 2023 after which time we can fully present our findings and progress in this exciting field. Stay tuned...



JULY 5-6TH, 2023
COTTONWOOD RANCH, NEAR MEDICINE HAT, AB

ALBERTA
RANGE
STEWARDSHIP
COURSE

SAVE THE DATE – July 5-6th, 2023

Topic Areas:

- Hands on Learning of Range Management Principles
- Outdoor Classroom Setting
- AUM and Stocking Rate Calculations
- Native Plant Identification
- Range Health Assessments
- Riparian Management Discussions
- Species at Risk
- Rancher Perspectives
- Plus More!

For more information contact: sasha@albertapcf.org

WSGA Governor recognized by the Alberta Angus Association

Congratulations to WSGA Governor Dr. Bill Newton for being inducted into the Alberta Angus Association Hall of Fame as an angus commercial breeder. Bill and his family were recognized before the British Connection Bull Sale at Balog Auction on December 3.



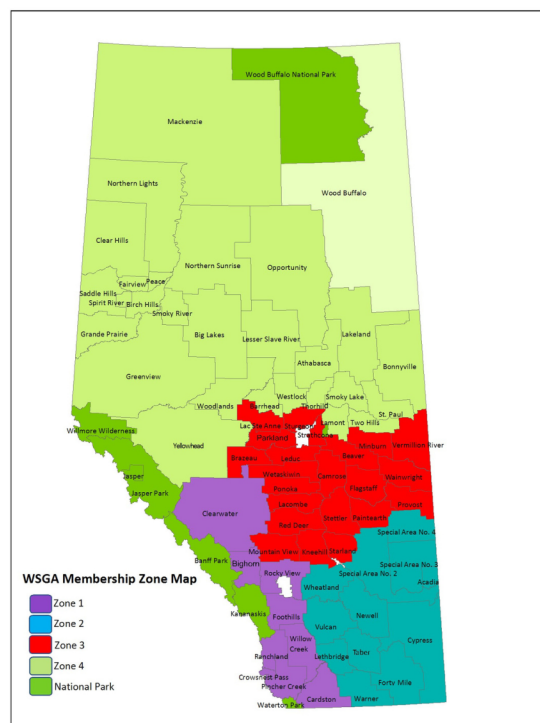
New WSGA Membership Zones

At this year's AGM, a constitutional change was ratified to change the number of membership zones from 11 to 4. The map here reflects the new membership zones.

The total number of directors on the board remains the same including up to three directors at large from outside the province of Alberta.

The listing of directors and their respective zones is below.

| Zone | Name | Town | Phone | Email |
|----------|------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Dana Fitzpatrick | Twin Butte | 403-627-8706 | drfritz@hotmail.com |
| 1 | Ryan Copithorne | Cochrane | 403-932-2966 | ryan@CLranches.com |
| 2 | Duane Hale | Bassano | 403-501-4723 | dlhale@telus.net |
| 2 | Richard Williams | Wardlow | 403-566-2280 | rickbon@netago.com |
| 3 | Brendyn Elliot | Innisfail | 250-449-5071 | 3ecattle@gmail.com |
| 3 | VACANT | | | |
| 4 | Chris Sloan | Mallaig | 780-646-0727 | chrs.sloan@gmail.com |
| 4 | Bill Hanson | Valleyview | 780-524-4414 | wagranch@iwantwireless.ca |
| at large | Graham Overguard | Sundre | 403-628-9459 | president@wsqa.ca |
| at large | Jason Wilson | Nanton | 403-601-0639 | rileybranchltd@gmail.com |
| at large | Callum Sears | Stavely | 403-603-0172 | callum.sears@icloud.com |
| at large | Aaron Brower | Aden | 403-344-2424 | brower@xplornet.com |
| at large | Ronda Reesor | Irvine | 403-937-2221 | rondakr8@gmail.com |
| at large | Valinda Ivanics | Medicine Hat | 403-666-2140 | ivanics@me.com |
| at large | Neil Ward | Fort St John | 403-512-0518 | neilward@outlook.com |
| at large | Cody Cronkhite | Warner | 403-733-2273 | cjc82@hotmail.com |
| at large | James Jenkins | Okotoks | 403-813-4490 | jjranches2010@hotmail.com |
| at large | Chancey Guichon | Wheatland County | 403-901-9713 | chancey.guichon@hotmail.com |
| at large | Joe Gardner | Douglas Lake | 250-350-3341 | info@douglaslake.com |



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