



Newsletter

June 2022



ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGM

WSGA Annual General Meeting
August 9, 2022 from 10:00 to 12:00
Valleyview, Alberta
Hosted by Bill and Jeanne Hanson

This year, we are again hosting our AGM in conjunction with our General Summer Meeting. Please join us!

Registration can be done through Eventbrite or contact Lindsye at 403-250-9121 or office@wsga.ca to register.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

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

Email: office@wsga.ca

Mail: Box 179

#14 – 900 Village Lane

Okotoks, AB. T1S 1Z6

Phone: 403-250-9121

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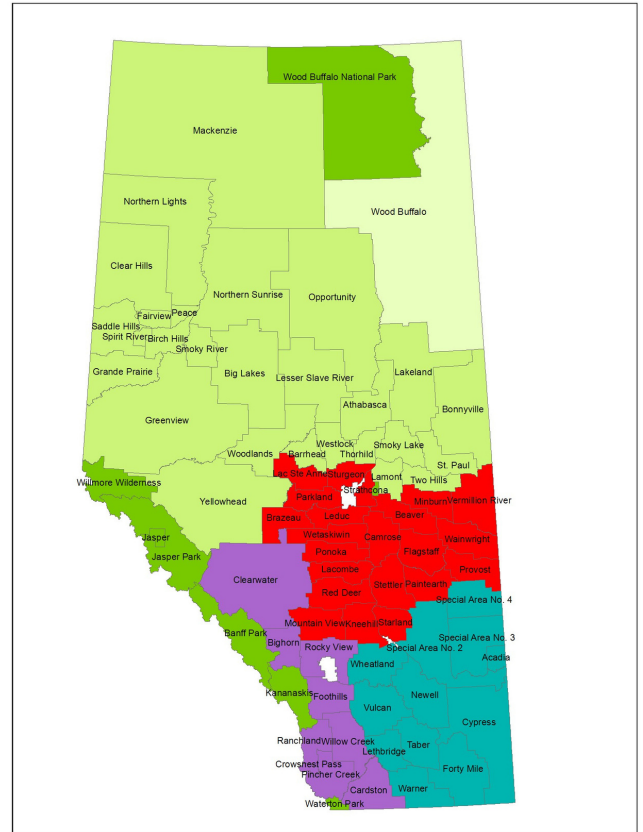
Membership rezoning resolution

The following resolution has been tabled for discussion and for vote by the membership at the AGM.

Resolution 2022-1

"WHEREAS Western Stock Growers' Association zones have not been revised in several decades THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Western Stock Growers' Association revise the Constitution to reflect a change in the number of zones from the current 11 to four, and the total number of directors remain the same as up to 22, which includes the Past President as one, two directors per zone, and remaining directors serving as Directors at Large with up to 3 Directors at Large being from outside the Province of Alberta."

Behind this resolution is the hard-work and debate of the WSGA board zoning committee, which was struck to look at the membership zones. The decision to cut the zones down to four was based on the need for modernization while supporting the need to continue to be accountable to our membership.



CLAS continues to upgrade services

Canadian Land Access Service (CLAS) is one of the options out there to make scheduling recreational access on your land easier. We touched base with Mark at CLAS for some of the features they offer.

With the price of everything from gas to grapes soaring in price, it still costs nothing at all to take total control of access to your property online. In just a few minutes, the simple CLAS sign-up process (on the new and improved sign up page that is even more user-friendly) will create a profile of your property and let you decide who to allow onto your land and tell them what they can do when they're there. CLAS landowners get privacy and protection for free.

When you register, CLAS will put a free fence around the perimeter of your property. The new CLAS Geo Fencing enables virtual access and monitoring with additional signage as an option. The Geo Fencing uses GPS to recognize the user so there is no need to scan in on a sign. Landowner sign-up includes one free sign to identify you as a CLAS landowner.

CLAS lets you specify what parts of your property are off limits and what activities are allowed on different parts you allow access to. CLAS goes deep into the details to describe your land, your way. Manage your land around-the-clock on your phone. Weed out trespassers and identify guests by licence plate, name and number. Stay safe and prevent damage and miss-use of your property.

This is provided for information purposes only. This does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of WSGA or it's directors.

ATTENTION GRAZING LEASEHOLDERS: Action Requested

In January 2022 a random sample of grazing leaseholders received a package in the mail regarding a grazing lease cost survey. Unfortunately, there has been very poor survey response. As this survey is being done to benefit disposition holders we need some help meeting the numbers necessary to provide significant cost reporting. The cost survey is an industry priority to accurately track the costs of managing a grazing lease in Alberta. It is important to emphasize that the information collected by Serecon will be kept private and confidential.

In 2015, the beef grazing industry groups lobbied the government to change the grazing lease rental rate formula so that it would reflect the true costs of holding a grazing lease. The result of our collaborative effort was that in 2015 and again in 2022, AEP is conducting a grazing lease cost survey. Beef industry groups were very involved in developing the questions for the cost survey in 2015 and 2022. This was to ensure the right questions were asked of grazing leaseholders. In turn, the rental rate formula and corresponding rental rates would reflect industry cost of doing business.

Operating costs have changed substantially over the years and it is crucial to have accurate and up to date data of leaseholder costs which is then reflected in the rental rate formula. For example, as the number of recreational and industrial users increase, so have the demands and costs on leaseholders to manage and mitigate these uses.

This grazing lease cost survey is important to grazing leaseholders and we strongly encourage leaseholders who have received a survey in the mail to complete the survey. Our efforts to work with AEP to have a rental rate formula based on actual industry costs will be futile if not enough grazing leaseholders complete and return the survey.

If you received a grazing lease cost survey, we ask that you please complete it. Leaseholders have reported that the online survey is not as torturous to fill out as you might think.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact AGLA chairman Kyle Forbes at 403-548-3183.

OUTTAGRASS CATTLE COMPANY by Jan Swan Wood c 2017



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My love letter to the WSGA on our 10th Anniversary

This month marks my 10th anniversary with WSGA. Geez – time really flies when you are having fun. There have been ups and downs for sure. Advocacy is not for the faint of heart, let me tell you. One constant through the years has been the steady mentorship and support of the WSGA directors, governors and membership. So many times I have nearly lost hope but the strength and resolve of our incredible board members has given me the strength to push on.



We run a lean operation; partly by need and partly by choice to keep us as accountable to our membership as we can be. One of the results of this is that our directors and governors are heavily involved in the advocacy activities.

This is one of the exceptional strengths of our organization. We are genuinely grassroots and truly producers advocating for producers.

I am proud to be part of this organization and honoured to represent our membership. WSGA has an incredible history as the longest running agricultural organization in Alberta. We are a straight-shooting principled bunch in our approach to policy, which might have led to us being labelled 'radical fringe'. That label always brings to my mind a quote from brilliant computer engineer Steve Jobs: *"Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes... the ones who see things differently – they're not fond of rules... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things... they push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do."*

Ten years ago, I was the unknown underdog applicant so this is my deeply heartfelt thank-you to those philosophical and principled straight-shooting beef producers who took a chance on me. You have made my life richer and have become the family I choose – complete with the 'crazy uncle' and the family members we try to keep hidden under the stairs. I will leave you guessing who those might be. 😊 You all will forever be, in my opinion, some of the best people I will ever have the good fortune to know.

Look for us July 27-30 at the Medicine Hat Stampede

Drop by and say 'hi', stop for a chat.

We are going to be part of the Medicine Hat Stampede's Country in the City tradeshow from 12-8 each day July 27 - 30. If you are in the area, swing by the booth. We will be sharing booth space with Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association and the James Hargrave Legacy Foundation.



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