

# Newsletter

## Special AGM Issue



This year we again held our AGM in conjunction with our Summer Meeting. This decision was made early in the year when we feared the health restrictions would prevent many from attending.

The AGM and Summer Meeting was held by Valleyview this year on August 20 and 21. We would like to thank our wonderful hosts Bill and Jeanne Hanson (pictured here) along with their son Clay and his partner Leia.



## New executive and resolutions from the 2022 AGM

Our AGM is where we announce new elected directors and executive, if the term of the previous executive is up. This year happened to be one of those years and we have a whole new executive. Graham Overguard from Sundre was elected as the new WSGA president; his opening comments are below. Brendyn Elliot from Innisfail was elected as 1st vice president and Jason Wilson from Nanton was elected as 2nd vice president. Callum Sears will stay on the executive and serve as the past president.

Perhaps the most important role of the Annual General Meeting is to touch base with our membership, discuss issues they are seeing in the industry and table resolutions to help guide the work WSGA does for their members. We had two resolutions passed at our 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.

### Resolution 2022-2

WHEREAS feral horses in Alberta cause damage to the natural ecosystems of vegetation and wildlife habitat

WHEREAS the damage caused by feral horses represents a cost to landowners and land managers that they are unable to recoup

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Western Stock Growers' Association lobby the Alberta Government to implement a management solution for feral horses living in Alberta.

## Message from Incoming President

It is an incredibly humbling honour to have been elected President of such an important, influential and historic organization as the Western Stock Growers. An organization which represents so many incredible producers, and advocates for their best interests and the best interests of the industry. I have been left very big shoes to fill, however I am excited for the new challenge, and look forward to making a positive impact however I can.

I would like to thank our outgoing President Callum Sears. His leadership, intelligence, speaking ability, and above all his passion are much needed virtues for our industry. I am lucky to call him a friend. I will be asking for his advice, as well as advice from all the other past Presidents and board members.



The beef business is not easy to understand, nor is it easy to navigate. Constantly we are dealing with new policies, new laws, new governments, new regulations. We are at the mercy of fluctuating commodities, diseases new and old, the forever changing environment, and highly educated intellectual idiots who feel they know how to raise cattle better than folks who have been doing it their entire lives, and for generations. "Adapt and change" is something all of us have become good at. However, while we "adapt and change" where it is necessary and beneficial, it is also important that we hold on tightly to those steadfast strategies that we have always used and have made us successful. As always, our industry is under attack. A very real, very well-funded, highly political, and highly ignorant threat is pushing hard under the guise of "climate change" to forever alter the way, we as beef producers make a living and feed our families. Our property rights are forever under threat from a growing population of politicians, and more urban minded taxpayers, who seem to believe Karl Marx was on the right track with his ideas of collectivised farming, and commodity price manipulation. Just as we always have in the past, Western Stock Growers is and will continue to push back, and fight for what we all know is most important. We will always advocate for a free-market approach to the production and marketing of livestock, and for the protection of property rights.

Currently we are in our 126<sup>th</sup> year as an agricultural organization. There are other so-called "advocacy groups" out there. However, none have lasted even close to as long as we have. I believe that is because we have never forgotten who we were or where we came from. We will continue to lobby and to advocate for what is best for us as producers, and our industry. If we succeed, the industry succeeds, which in turn helps the economy succeed.

If you agree with what I have written here, please allow me to challenge you. We need more members. Tell your neighbours and friends about the good work we are doing, and suggest they purchase a membership. They really will have an opportunity to have a say, and to affect change in a positive way. Once again, thank you so much for the vote of confidence. Please feel free to reach out to me or your zone director with any industry related issues. My one goal is to leave this industry in a little bit better shape than it was when I found it. At times it seems like a monumental task, but together we can make a difference.

-Graham Overguard-

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## Valuing wildlife damage - WSGA's wildlife invoice project

Ranchers, as custodians of the land, manage landscapes in a manner that works with nature and improves the production and quality of the forages. This landscape provides a safe and highly nutrient dense environment for wildlife, thus attracting an abundance of many species of wildlife. But this comes at a cost to the rancher.

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 the Ministry of Agriculture.

Use the button below to access the Wildlife Damage Invoice Form. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Lindsye at the office - 403-250-9121 or [office@wsga.ca](mailto:office@wsga.ca).

**CLICK HERE for the Wildlife Damage Invoice**



## FBC finding more ways to serve farmers

FBC, known as Canada's farm and small business tax specialist, are expanding their portfolio of business services to offer customized solutions to clients.

FBC works with their members to develop a personalized tax plan in order to maximize their tax savings today and over the long run. FBC Tax Consultants come to your home or place of business to plan and prepare your tax return, at a time convenient for you. They offer propriety programs designed specifically for farmers, combined with knowledge of income tax laws and CRA practices allowing them to run hundreds of different tax scenarios, ensuring their members returns are accurate, comprehensive,

and optimized for their personal and business situation.

An FBC Tax Member can access year-round support of a team of tax experts at no extra cost. They also provide audit representation on any challenges to your returns for income tax or GST/HST.

FBC is introducing bookkeeping, payroll, and minute book services for both members and non-members. While good bookkeeping leads to better tax returns, you can access the support of their experienced team for bookkeeping or payroll even without being a Tax Member.

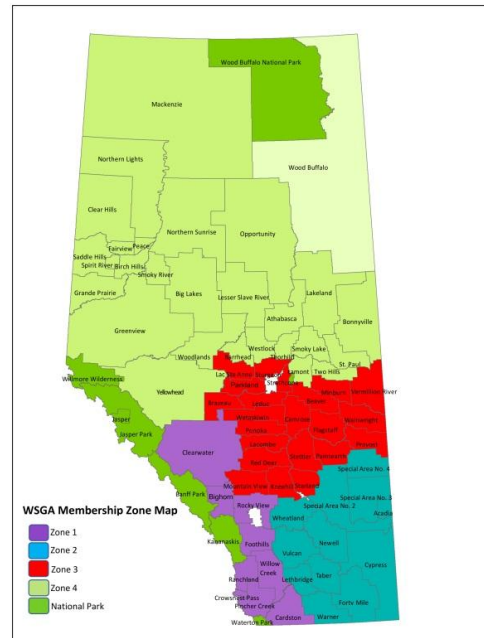
More information can be found online at **FBC.ca**.

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## NEW - Four zones for membership

For many years the WSGA has split its membership into 11 zones. Recognizing that a modernization of the membership zones might be needed, a committee was struck to work on possible solutions. The committee reviewed six zone, five zone and four zone options. These options were presented at the 2021 AGM for discussion. From that discussion, the board tabled the resolution to be voted on by the membership at the recent AGM and the change was passed.

The size of the board remains the same with two directorships in each zone and the other directors serving in at large positions. A listing of the board is found below. Please take note of who your board member is. There is a vacancy in Zone 3 so if you know a good person (maybe it's you) to fill that directorship, let us know.



Zone	Name	Town	Phone	Email
1	Dana Fitzpatrick	Twin Butte	403-627-8706	drfitz@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@wsga.ca
at large	Jason Wilson	Nanton	403-601-0639	rileyranchltd@gmail.com
at large	Callum Sears	Stavely	403-603-0172	callum.sears@icloud.com
at large	Aaron Brower	Aden	403-344-2424	brower@explornet.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	neilnward@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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