

# Forage Facts

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## WE'RE HIRING!

We are currently seeking candidates for an **Environmental & Communications Coordinator**

To apply or for more information, visit [www.peacecountrybeef.ca](http://www.peacecountrybeef.ca)



## You're Invited!

By: Jen Allen

You definitely don't want to miss this year's Field Day—there will be fun for the whole family!

PCBFA's Annual Field Day at the Research Farm is taking place on Wednesday, July 19th at the Fairview Research Farm. The day will start at 10:00am and end around 4:00pm.

As always, we will be having plot tours lead by PCBFA's Research Coordinator, Dr. Akim Omokanye. This year we seeded 899 plots including cocktail cover crops, sainfoin, corn intercrop systems, wheat variety trials, cereal demonstrations, and much more! We will also be joined by several guest speakers for special



Snap shots from our 2016 Field Day





## Field Day at the Research Farm

Wednesday, July 19th, 2017

10:00am-4:00pm

**Fairview Research Farm**  
2 Miles West of Fairview on 64A & 1 Mile North on RR 35

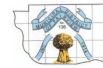
**FREE to attend!**  
BBQ Lunch provided

To register or for more information visit [www.peacecountrybeef.ca](http://www.peacecountrybeef.ca) or call 780-835-6799

**Fun for the Whole Family!**  
Bring your friends & family out to the Fairview Research Farm for Peace Country Beef & Forage Association's Annual Field Day at the Research Farm!

<b>Plot Tours!</b> 899 Plots including Cocktail Cover Crops, Sainfoin, Corn Intercrop Systems, Wheat Variety Trials, Cereal Demos & much more!	<b>Door Prizes!</b> Special Presentations on <b>Beekeeping, Farm Safety &amp; Crop Pests</b>	<b>Wagon Rides!</b>	<b>Kids Zone!</b> Farm Safety, Games, Crafts, Petting Zoo, Jumping Castle, & Face Painting!
<b>Equipment Demos!</b>			

Learn from the experts! Engage with other producers & guests!



In Collaboration With:



presentations on Beekeeping, Farm Safety, and Crop Pests. On top of all of that, there will be door prizes, wagon rides, equipment demonstrations, and a Kids Zone! Within the Kids Zone, there will be games, crafts, a petting zoo, bouncy castle, and face painting!

There will be a delicious BBQ lunch served as well, with opportunity to network with other producers and agronomists throughout the entire day!

The Field Day is free to attend, but we do ask that you please pre-register on our website or by calling our Fairview office.

We hope to see you there!

By: Jen Allen



Approximately 1 in every 3 bites of food that humans consume is a result of pollination by animals, with the majority of that pollination being from bees. Over the last decade, bees have been threatened by diseases, pesticides, and lack of food for forage. As bees are such an important piece of the ecosystem, saving native, wild and honey bee colonies and helping to keep the colonies healthy is becoming more and more popular. Pollinator Week was celebrated just last month (June 19th-25th), leaving great incentive to educate yourself on what you can do to support wild pollinator populations on your farm. Like most animals, bees need food, water, and shelter in order to thrive. Therefore, if you would like to attract bees on your farm, you will need to provide forage (i.e. a variety of flowering plants high in nectar with overlapping blooming durations), nesting sites and materials (i.e. untilled and partially bare ground, trees, shrubs, mud, water, south-facing slopes), hibernation and overwintering sites (i.e. shaded, untilled areas with perennial vegetation cover), and a landscape free of harmful substance use (i.e. pes-

ticides, herbicides, diseases). According to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, there are 3 general steps that anyone can implement in order to protect pollinators on their land: (1) save what you've got, (2) create new habitat, and (3) manage to benefit pollinators.

**Save what you've got:** Here you will need to identify pollinator habitat(s) that are already present, and then work to protect and preserve that area. Areas such as field margins (shelterbelts, remnant treed areas, and grassed ditches), roadsides, areas around buildings or corrals, hay and pasture lands, forested areas, habitat along streams and around wetlands, unused or remote areas, and gardens are all examples of spaces that may already exist as a potential pollinator habitat on your farm. You can keep watch to see if bees, or other pollinators such as butterflies, utilize these areas or favour a certain area over another. One key point to remember is that it is best to have flowering plant species with different blooming durations so that there is forage available throughout spring, summer, and fall. Next you will need to ensure that your identified area has nesting, hibernation and overwintering sites as well. Once all the bee survival boxes are checked (food, water, and shelter), you can work to preserve the area to keep the bees happy.

**Create new habitat:** If you do not have any or enough existing pollinator habitats, then you may consider creating new habitats. There are 3 steps to

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## Have Project or Workshop Ideas?

We are always looking for ideas! Give us a call!

## PCBFA Member Perks

- Two Free Feed Tests/Year
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- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Scale & Tag Reader available for member use
- Soil & Livestock Water Quality Testing

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Northern Sunrise County



follow for creating a habitat: site selection, habitat design, and planting and establishment. If you have fields with crops that are pollinator-dependent, then it is best to establish the habitat close to those fields. Areas where bees are already active or have existing resources for bee survival are also ideal for creating habitats.

For habitat design, you will want to have different flowering plant species ranging from open to shallow to deep, different colours and heights, a good resource of pollen and nectar, and have overlapping bloom periods to provide forage from April to October. Studies have shown that a plant species diversity of at least 10 carefully selected species can provide sufficient habitat and forage. For planting an establishment, you will want to prepare the area to allow for a quick establishment (i.e. soil should be residue free, with no soil clumps, weeds, or large rocks and stones). Plastic mulch for linear row plantings can also assist with weed suppression and maintain soil moisture.

**Manage to benefit pollinators:** Once you have a design-

nated pollinator habitat, the flower and nesting resources within the habitat will need to be maintained without harming the pollinators. Try not to use pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides in fields near the pollinator habitat, as the chemical can drift. If you do need to use chemical, you can limit the risk to the pollinators by spraying early in the morning or late at night when winds are low. It is also suggested not to use herbicides around native flowering plants, especially when they are in bloom. Grazing intensity and management can also play a role in managing pollinator habitats. It is ideal to manage grazing so that the invasive plant species are controlled and the flowering native species thrive.

This was just a brief overview of some guidelines you could consider to attract beneficial pollinators and insects to your land, fulfilling the ecosystem functionality on your farm. For more information on attracting beneficial pollinators, visit our website's 'Resources' page! (AAFC, 2014; Pollinator Partnership Canada, 2017)

## Operation Pollinator

Did you know about the Operation Pollinator project that PCBFA is collaborating on? Operation Pollinator is a program focused on promoting the health and well-being of bees and other pollinators given their essential role in agriculture and nature. ARECA member associations have been allocated 33 Operation Pollinator sites in Alberta province-wide, and 4 of these sites are located in the Peace Region. More information can be found on our website's 'Projects' page.



**Operation Pollinator**  
Multifunctional Landscapes

**syngenta.**



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CONSEIL CANADIEN DE CONSERVATION DES SOLS

*The face and voice of soil conservation in Canada  
Le visage et la voix de la conservation des sols au Canada*



# Upcoming Events

**Field Day at the Research Farm**

July 19th

Fairview Research  
Farm

**Bermed-Dugout Field Day**

July 2017  
*Details TBA*

Peace River

**ACIDF Pasture Rejuvenation  
Field Days**

August 23rd

Rycroft

August 24th

Grovedale

**Cows, Crops, Culverts & Fish  
Projects Tour**

Heart River Watershed Restoration Plan Update

August 2017  
*Details TBA*

Northern Sunrise  
County

**Stockmanship School  
with Dylan Biggs**

September 16th  
8:00am-5:00pm

Gordondale Hall

**New Zealand Ag Study Tour**

Nov 23rd-Dec 12th  
*Final payment due Aug. 1st*

New Zealand

**Western Canada Conference on  
Soil Health & Grazing**

December 5th-7th  
[www.absoilgrazing.com](http://www.absoilgrazing.com)

Radisson Hotel  
Edmonton

For more information or to register for any of these great events, please visit our website or call the Fairview office at 780-835-6799 or email [info@pcbfa.ca](mailto:info@pcbfa.ca)

## Contact Us

Liisa Vihvelin  
Manager  
Fairview, AB  
780-835-6799  
780-523-0443  
[liisa@pcbfa.ca](mailto:liisa@pcbfa.ca)

Akim Omokanye  
Research Coordinator  
Fairview, AB  
780-835-6799  
780-835-1112  
[akim@pcbfa.ca](mailto:akim@pcbfa.ca)

Jen Allen  
Agri-Environmental Coordinator  
Fairview, AB  
780-835-6799  
780-772-0277  
[jen@pcbfa.ca](mailto:jen@pcbfa.ca)

Lekshmi Sreekumar  
Research Technician  
Fairview, AB  
780-835-6799  
780-536-7373  
[lekshmi@pcbfa.ca](mailto:lekshmi@pcbfa.ca)

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