

Forage Facts

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Soil—
It's More
Important
Than
You Think.

—The Fresh Quotes—

I'll keep this brief.. Spotlight On Soil Biology!

Codie lee Yasieniuk

Soil is beginning to be regarded as a living thing, I need of amendments and 'food' to be healthy and productive. The chemical and physical aspects of soil are monitored regularly, but soil biology is finally stepping into the spotlight!

Biological components of soil include:

- Soil organic matter (SOM)
- Biological Respiration
- Active Carbon
- Microbial Activity
- Soil Protein
- Micro-Macro Fauna

Healthy soil is hungry soil. The biological components of your soil need to be fed, in order to thrive.

Soil biology can be difficult to monitor though. There are just so many variables to consider when looking at the health of your soil as a whole!

With that in mind— there has been a challenge created by the Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario, called the 'Soil Your Undies' Challenge.

What you'll need for the test:

- A white 100% cotton pair of briefs
- A shovel
- A site marker (flag, post etc.)
- A patch of soil you can leave undisturbed

Once you have all the supplies, here's how to complete the challenge:

- I. Dig a narrow trench and bury the underwear in the top six inches of soil
- II. Replace the disturbed soil, covering the underwear and mark with a flag
- III. Leave the briefs buried for about 2 months
- IV. CAREFULLY! Dig up the underwear and wash in a bucket of water to remove loose, excess soil



From left to right, cotton briefs dug up after 2 months of being buried in a) No-till corn-soybean-wheat+red clover rotation, b) no-till soybean, c) conventional till corn/soybean rotation and d) conventional till continuous soybean
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2015/22hrt15a2.htm>



The biology of soil is still widely misunderstood, but its time to change that. Soil your undies in the name of science!

<http://www.soilcc.ca/soilweek/2017/soilweek2017.php>



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AGM 2018 Was A Great Success!



The PCBFA 2018 Annual General Meeting went off without a hitch. We had 117 attendees, including staff, present from across the Peace Country. The night was filled with presentations, prizes and laughter!

The night started off with the board meeting, being carried out by PCBFAs Manager Liisa Vihvelin and Director At Large Jordan Barnfield. The below By-Law changes were voted on and approved by members.

By-law Section vii. Term of Office:

“No board member will serve more than two consecutive year terms” has been amended to “No board member will serve more than three consecutive two-year terms”.

By-law Section v. Membership Fee, Point 1:

“Membership fee in the Society shall be \$30.00 per annum or as determined at an annual meeting” has been changed to “Membership fee in the Society shall be \$50.00 per annum, \$140.00 for three years, \$225.00 for five years, or as determined at an annual meeting”.

We would like to thank our outgoing directors, Garry Gurtler and Joyleen Beamish, for the dedication and time they contributed to PCBFA over their years on the board.

Also, we'd like to welcome our new board members, Kelvin Krahn and Allan McLachlan. Welcome aboard!

The event included a presentation by Akim Omokanye, PCBFAs Research Coordinator, with the results from the 3 year ACIDF Pasture Rejuvenation Study.

The study examined how to improve soil quality and optimize forage production, without the need to break and reseed yearly. The most effective and practical methods found, that producers can implement themselves were: bale grazing, manure application and subsoiling, and high stock density grazing. If you have any questions or want to hear more, feel free to contact Akim.

Jordan Barnfield also presented pictures and details of the New Zealand Ag Tour that he, and many other PCBFA supporters attended in December. The participants had a great time, with lots of great story's to share!



Bruno Wiskel ended the night on a high note with his presentation 'The Joy of Farming'. Bruno had the crowd in stitches and made sure everyone left that night, grinning ear to ear.

All of us at PCBF would like to thank all our event attendees, supporters and followers from through out the year.



Upcoming Events

Peace Country Classic

March 8th to
10th

Evergreen Park,
Grande Prairie

EFP and Growing Forward 2 Open House Workshops

March 14th
March 16th

PCBFA Office, High Prairie
Municipal Library, Hines
Creek

Soil Health Series Part. 2: Livestock And Crop Integration

March 29th

St. Isidore Cultural Centre

ABP Pasture Rejuvenation Project Field Day

June (Date TBA)

Wanham PGR

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

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of our past events!



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