

Forage Facts

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Event Highlight: 2-Day Grazing School with Dr. Allen Williams



We are very pleased to be welcoming Dr. Allen Williams to the Peace this July! Photo: understandingag.com/dr-allen-williams

Fed Beef, LLC, and Grass Fed Insights, LLC, as well as a partner in Joyce Farms, Inc. and a member of the Soil Health Academy Team. Allen offers a very well-rounded perspective, from that of both producer and teacher, and loves to share his knowledge and experiences.

Adaptive Grazing

Allen practices what he calls adaptive grazing. If you've attended any of our Jim Gerrish Grazing Schools in the past, you are familiar with the ideas of frequently moving cattle, using rest periods, proper stock density, and the extensive use of temporary electric fencing. Allen builds on the same principles, with added flexibility and adaptability.

By: Marianne Krahn

PCBFA will have the distinct privilege of hosting Dr. Allen Williams for a 2-Day Grazing School on July 22nd & 23rd at Lac Cardinal Hall, near Grimshaw. We want to make sure you know all about this event in order for you to confidently mark these dates on your calendar as a must attend! First we'll introduce you to Dr. Allen Williams, then the type of grazing he advocates and finally, a few words about the school itself.

About Dr. Allen Williams

A sixth generation family farmer, Allen is internationally recognized as a leading expert in regenerative agriculture and grazing methodology. Champion of the grass-fed beef industry, he pioneered many of the original grass-fed protocols and technologies now adopted by the grass-fed sector. Allen has consulted with over 4,000 ranchers and farmers all over North and South America on operations of all sizes. He has authored more than 400 scientific and popular press articles, and is frequently an invited speaker at regional, national, and international conferences. Allen holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Animal Science from Clemson University, and a Ph.D. in Genetics & Reproductive Physiology from Louisiana State University. He is the founding partner of Grass

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DID YOU KNOW?

Cattle have accents. This is partly why cows from one herd will stick together when mingling with others, even long after being introduced.

Adaptive grazing is primarily a goal oriented system. It's called adaptive because it allows the practitioner to address multiple goals simultaneously and adjust to changing conditions. For instance, you can target animal performance, forage production, and soil health all at the same time.

If you want to be successful at adaptive grazing there are three principles to live by: the Principle of Compounding Effects, the Principle of Three and finally the Principle of Disruption. Let's check them out.

1. The Principle of Compounding or Cascading Effects says that everything we do in farming (and in life, mind you) has a host of compounding and exponential effects, which can be either positive or negative. Allen uses the example of spraying an herbicide to get rid of a weed. First, you don't actually get rid of the weed, you just set it back for a while. While doing this, you are also setting back all the soil life below ground that thrives around that weed. You are losing root mass and the water infiltration capacity associated with it. All these compounding effects are detrimental to soil health.

2. The Principle of Three builds on the Principle of Compounding Effects and says that you want at least three classes of forage on your pasture: grasses, legumes and forbs. For each class, it is best to have at least three species. This is because plant species diversity is critical to building positive compounding effects. Different forage classes attract different microbes, fungi, and bacteria, which stimulate soil microbial activity. They attract different bugs, pollinators, and birds, most of which are beneficial to your operation. Diversity of plant species allows for extended grazing. With a rich array of plant species, peak periods of production are spread out over an extended period.

3. The Principle of Disruption. While as human beings we often like to settle into a neat routine, nature works differently. In fact, nature and biology thrive on diversity and complexity. Adopt a grazing method, do it over and over again the same every year, and you set yourself up for many challenges. You want to be flexible and adjust

SAVE THE DATE

Grazing School with Dr. Allen Williams

**Adaptive Grazing Principles & Benefits
3 Grazing Principles You Need to Know**

Join us for 1 or 2 days
Supper with Dr. Williams on Day 1
Camping available

**MONDAY & TUESDAY
JULY 22 & 23, 2019**

**LAC CARDINAL HALL & GROUNDS
REGISTRATION 9:30, STARTS 10AM**

Cost:
Day 1: \$100/Member - \$120/Non-Member
Includes Lunch & Supper
Day 1&2: \$150/Member - \$200/Non-Member
Includes 2 Lunches & 1 Supper

For more information or to register:
peacecountrybeef.ca | info@pcbfa.ca | 780-835-6799 ext. 3
Or Nora at NPARA
nora@npara.ca | 780-836-3354

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

PCBFA Member Perks:

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- Soil & Livestock Water Quality Testing

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to changing conditions. You want to give nature the complexity and diversity it needs to truly thrive. How do you do that? By being disruptive! Alternating stock densities, changing rotation patterns through your farm, or altering rest periods (never less than full recovery, but try a longer rest period for a paddock, for instance) are a few things you can do to stimulate soil biology. The disruptions must be planned and the effects assessed based on keen observation, experience and intuition.

The Perks

We've designed this grazing school in such a way that you can attend either Day 1 only, or both Days 1 & 2. Day 1 will cover the basic principles of adaptive grazing, while Day 2 will go much more in depth on the details and allow lots of time for

discussion with Allen and other producers.

Now what if I tell you we are getting lunch AND supper on Day 1? Which means you will have the unique opportunity to spend extra time with Dr. Allen Williams and network with fellow producers over a great supper.

To make this experience not only educational but also enjoyable and super convenient for you, we are holding this school at Lac Cardinal hall at the Lac Cardinal Pioneer Museum, and just steps away from the Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park campground! Come with your RV and stay overnight for Day 2!

Ready to register? Call Katie today at 780-835-6799 ext. 3 or hop over to our website www.peace-countrybeef.ca/grazing-school. See you there!

High Prairie Office Changes

By: Liisa Jeffrey

As many of you know, our phenomenal Extension Coordinator, Monika Benoit, and her husband Mike are expecting their second child! Monika will be heading out on maternity leave in early June. She will be sorely missed around here, but we are very excited to see their family grow!

We are currently recruiting for an Extension Coordinator to work from the High Prairie office. The full job ad can be found on our website and Facebook page, please feel free to share them and spread the word!

In the meantime, our wonderful Admin Assistant, Marianne Krahn, will be stepping up to ensure a smooth transition. Since switching to official employee status a year and a half ago, Marianne has grown immensely in her role. She is now a trained EFP technician, is available to assist you with your CAP applications and livestock ration balancing, and can help you find the resources you need to answer all of your questions! Marianne is also available for farm visits, and is more than happy to chat with you about how we can help meet your needs.

The office will continue to be open Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Marianne can be reached at the office, 780-523-4033, or by email at marianne@pcbfa.ca



Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location
Solstice Collaborative Forage Tour	June 20th	Beaverlodge Research Station Bussing Available from Manning & Rycroft, call for more details
Grazing School with Dr. Allen Williams	One Day School July 22nd Two Day School July 22nd & 23rd	Lac Cardinal Hall Grimshaw
5th Annual Field Day at the Research Farm	August 1st	Fairview Research Farm
WheatStalk	August 8th	Teepee Creek
For More Information or to Register for any of These Great Events, Visit peacecountrybeef.ca/upcoming-events Email info@pcbfa.ca or Call 780-835-6799 ext. 3		

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PCBFA receives funding from the Government of Alberta



Thursday, August 1st 2019
Field Day at the Research Farm

Fairview Research Farm

Connect with Us!

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