

Forage Facts

Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

February 2019, Volume 14, Issue 169



A New Face at Peace Country Beef & Forage Association!

lor's degree scholarship at the University of Calgary majoring in Environmental Sciences and things have surprisingly changed ever since. It is very exciting to learn in depth about water quality, soil

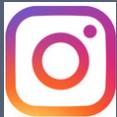
Follow Us!



@peacecountrybeef



@PCBFA



@peacecountrybeef



Peace Country Beef & Forage Association



peacecountrybeef.ca

Follow Us and Stay Up-To-Date With Everything PCBFA!

WORLD of COW
By Stik



By: Buthaina Al-Maqtari

New Year, New Faces! On January 7th, we were very pleased to welcome our new Environmental Program Intern Buthaina Al-Maqtari to the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association team! Let's get to know her!

"I am adventurous at heart, passionate for the environment and curious about the planet. These are just few reasons as to why I got involved in Environmental Sciences.

It all started with my grandmother who let my siblings and I maintain her garden and take care of her chicks and goats in our small village in Yemen. My mom had always made sure to use every inch of our small backyard to plant some mint, tomatoes and passion fruit, and my dad is a passionate environmental engineering expert. I have always been a tree hugger and animal lover who wants to tackle environmental problems, especially growing up in a developing country where cattle feed on waste and access to clean water is a struggle.

I worked so hard then to get a bache-



science and agriculture. I have been a member of the University of Calgary Garden Club trying with my partner to grow our own organic vegetables over the summer.

I am very happy to join PCBFA, I have learned lots already and I can't wait to get more involved!"

2019 Annual General Meeting

Friday, February 22nd

Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview

Doors Open 3:30pm, Business Meeting Starts 4:30pm

Presentations Include:

Do More Agriculture Foundation
2018 PCBFA Research Results
2019 Ag Tour Announcement

Cost Includes Supper & Membership

\$75/Single, \$100/Pair - 1 Year Membership
\$165/Single, \$190/Pair - 3 Year Membership
\$250/Single, \$275/Pair - 5 Year Membership

By: Katie McLachlan

We've all been there - checking for new calves only to find a lethargic calf, only a couple days old with that tell tale dehydrated weakness and wetness at his rear end.

Scours, the scourge of the beef producer's calving pen. Watery stools, often brown, gray or yellow in colour, sometimes accompanied by blood or mucus is the number one sign of scours. Other symptoms include a lack of nursing, weakness, depression, and a rapid loss of condition. Scours is caused by several different viruses, bacteria and organisms; rotavirus, salmonella, E. coli, and coccidian are some of the main culprits.



Scours attacks a calf's small and large intestines, compromising the intestine's ability to absorb fluids and nutrients, causing the runny, watery stools. Due to the loss of large amounts of bodily fluid, calves quickly become dehydrated, causing an electrolyte imbalance and depletes energy reserves. Depending on the severity of the infection and if left untreated, calves typically succumb to the illness within the first 24 hours. (www.canr.msu.edu)

According to the 2017 Western Canada Cow-Calf Survey (WCCCS) conducted

by the Western Beef Development Center, scours accounted for 25% of calf deaths on the prairies. Other industry research has found that calves treated for scours that survive, their performance had been compromised. This research found that weaning weights on these calves was up to 30lbs lighter than their herd mates that were not sick. Calculating this out on a 100 head herd, with a 20% incidence of scours results in an average \$40/head additional cost per cow in drugs, reduced weaning weights and animal losses. Totalling an additional total expense of \$4,000 in that year. (beefresearch.ca/blog/how-fresh-pens-and-pasture-prevent-calf-losses)

Immediate treatment is paramount to save sick calves and prevent an outbreak. Administration of fluids is essential, however the fluid cannot be absorbed in the calf's scoured state unless it contains electrolytes in proper proportions. Scouring calves should receive at least 10% of their body weight in fluids and electrolytes for a mild instance, more if it is severe. Do not mix electrolytes with milk as it will cause milk to curdle and therefore useless. Consult with your veterinarian on whether to treat with antibiotics or if more calves begin scouring. ([www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/faq8072](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/faq8072))



Thank You to the PCBFA Board of Directors

Jordan Barnfield
Preston Basnett
John Prinse
Nancy Van Herk
Faron Steffen
Thomas Claydon
Kirk Cowell
Robbie Hale
Allan McLachlan
Kelvin Krahn

Do You Have Project or Workshop Ideas?

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

PCBFA Member Perks:

- Two Free Feed Tests Per Year
- Ration Balancing Assistance
- CAP Application Assistance
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Scale & Tag Reader Available for Member Use
- Soil & Livestock Water Quality Testing

Thank You to Our Municipal Partners

MD of Fairview
MD of Peace
Clear Hills County
Saddle Hills County
MD of Spirit River
Birch Hills County
MD of Greenview
Big Lakes County
County of Grande Prairie
Northern Sunrise County

Healthy, Happy Calves



The scours pathogen is originally shed from mature cows in their manure. These pathogens are then picked up by newborn calves. While they may not fall sick, their guts serve as pathogen multipliers, shedding more and more of the pathogen onto the calving ground. Newborn calves afterwards then pick up enough of the pathogen to become sick. When newborn calves are co-mingled with older calves - especially if they are in a small area when conditions are cool and wet - the threat of scours is greatly increased.

The best way to deal with scours is to take preventative measures. Keeping a constant supply of clean, dry bedding, shelters or wind breaks to keep calves out of the elements, utilizing an anti-scour vaccine on your cows, and avoiding mud at all costs during calving are all tried and true methods.

The Sandhills Calving System, developed at the University of Nebraska was designed to protect calf health by providing separation between newborn and older calves. The Sandhills Calving System implements a series of pastures that the calving herd rotates through, minimizing the mul-

tiplier effect. To start, all cows are kept together. Two weeks after calving starts, all cows who are yet to calve are moved into a fresh pasture or paddock, while pairs remain in the first pasture. Then, the herd moves weekly, leaving calves born that week behind. This method keeps calves that are all born within a week of each other together. Co-mingling of calves begins when the youngest calf is 4 weeks old. By this age, calves are at a reduced risk of disease as they have developed an immunity.

While cows are the source of the pathogen, calves are the multipliers. Hence why scours rarely affects the oldest calves. By constantly moving the herd, the Sandhills Calving System is essentially eliminating the multiplier effect. This means that by the time that the scours pathogen has multiplied enough to infect a calf, they are old enough to have built up an immunity.

While this exact system may not work for everyone, there are many variations that may work for your operation! Check out the BCRC's recommendations for implementing this system: www.beefresearch.ca/blog/tag/sandhills-calving-sys-

WE ARE HIRING!

Summer Agriculture Research Technicians!

Must have a valid driver's licence. On-farm experience is an asset, as is experience pulling trailers and operating ATV's and other small machinery. Wage negotiable depending on experience. Start and end dates are flexible. Assistance with affordable housing options is available.

Application Deadline: February 28th, 2019.

If you are interested, please send a cover letter and resume to liisa@pcbfa.ca. Please visit peacecountrybeef.ca/careers for a full job description.



Upcoming Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Winter Watering Systems Tour	February 2nd 11:30 am Registration	Bonanza Hall
Planning Your 2019 Cocktail Cover Crop	February 5th 10:30 am Registration	Debolt Community Centre
Soil Health Forum + Microscope Lab	February 11th 10:30 am Registration	GPRC Fairview Campus, Watch for Signs
PCBFA Annual General Meeting	February 22nd Doors Open 3:30pm	Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview
Hemp Workshop	March 5th	Falher
Peace Country Classic Agri-Show	March 7th-9th	Evergreen Park, Grande Prairie
SARDA Agricultural Trade Show	March 14th-16th	Falher
Mental Health First Aid Course	March 19th-20st	Fairview
Peace Country Beef Cattle Day	March 26th 10:00 am Registration	Grimshaw Legion Hall
<p><i>For More Information or to Register for any of These Great Events, Visit peacecountrybeef.ca/upcoming-events Email info@pcbfa.ca Call 780-835-6799 ext. 3</i></p>		

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Nutrien
Ag Solutions™



ONE TIME FENCING LTD.



PCBFA receives funding from the Government of Alberta



Connect with Us!

Liisa Jeffrey
Manager
Fairview, AB
P: 780-835-6799
C: 780-523-0443
E: liisa@pcbfa.ca

Akim Omokanye
Research Coordinator
Fairview, AB
P: 780-835-6799
C: 780-835-1112
E: akim@pcbfa.ca

Katie McLachlan
Environmental & Communications Coordinator
Fairview, AB
P: 780-835-6799
C: 780-772-0277
E: katie@pcbfa.ca

Monika Benoit
Extension Coordinator
High Prairie, AB
P: 780-523-4033
E: monika@pcbfa.ca

Marianne Krahn
Admin Assistant
High Prairie, AB
P: 780-523-4033
E: marianne@pcbfa.ca