



PCBFA Board of Directors

By Stacy Pritchard

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FOR
WARD
PEACE
COUNTRY
BEEF
AND
FORAGE

The 2015 PCBFA AGM was held on Feb 20 in Fairview. We had 85 producers and members of industry in attendance for a great evening. Everyone enjoyed presentations on PCBFA projects from the past year as well as a video on the Australia Study Tour. We had a market outlook presentation from Ryan Copithorne from Cows in Control and finished of the evening with live music and dancing! A big thank you to everyone who came out and to all of our door prize sponsors!



The 2015 PCBFA AGM saw 2 directors, Elton Kauffman and Steve Johnson leave our board after serving for a great 4 years. We are sad to see them go, and have greatly appreciated all of their input and everything they have done for our association. Steve and Elton, we will miss you!

We are pleased to introduce our 2 new directors who were elected at the AGM: Preston Basnett and Nancy VanHerk.

Preston Basnett – Clear Hills County

Can you tell us a bit about your operation?

We have a primarily cow/calf operation of 150 of our own pairs and about 100 that we manage as well. We keep 10-30 heifers back every year. We own/rent 13 quarters, and all the cultivated land is used for feed production for our own use and we don't use any community pastures.

What direction are you planning for your operation over the next 5 years?

It's hard to say, it all depends on land prices. Will likely increase our land base by renting rather than buying land.

Where do you hope to see the beef industry as whole go over the next 5 years?

I hope it stays where it is, but that all depends on the dollar. I think it will stay strong for a couple years at least.

What types of projects and events are you interested in participating in over the next few years as you become more involved with the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association?

Different forages, Gabe Brown and cover crops. Improved management options.

Why did you decide to become a PCBFA Director?

It was suggested by a couple cousins. Figured there was lots to learn. Broaden how a person can use forages and learn more about forages.

Nancy VanHerk – Clear Hills County

Can you tell us a bit about your operation?

Farm with my husband Pieter. We have a 150 head cow/calf operation.

What direction are you planning for your operation over the next 5 years?

Still farming, want to retire eventually, while we can still enjoy retirement.

Where do you hope to see the beef industry as whole go over the next 5 years?

Enjoy the prices for a few years before they slide again.

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What types of projects and events are you interested in participating in over the next few years as you become more involved with the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association?

Whatever the staff tells me to do! Interested in Riparian reclamation, forages and soil health.

Why did you decide to become a PCBFA Director?

Wanted something to do off the farm, have always been involved with the association and figured it was a good idea.

In the coming year we will see 3 more directors leave our board: Randi Kuriga, Gary These and Peter Tindall. We caught up with Randi and Peter to find out what their experience being a PCBFA director was like.

Randi Kuriga – MD of Fairview

Can you tell us a bit about your operation? What have you implemented on your operation that you learned from PCBFA?

We farm with my husband's dad on a small cattle operation with a breeding herd and grain to sustain the herd. We have learned to be more water and runoff conscious and also about soil health.

Why did you become a PCBFA Director?

I grew up in the forage association because my dad was a past president and I know the value of an association like this. To let Young Farmers know what is out there and that it's a viable industry.

What changes have you seen in the beef industry in the last 5 years?

People with smaller operations have left because its been tough and now there's interest in getting back in because of better prices, I'm hoping it continues

What was the best part of being a PCBFA Director?

Getting to see first-hand and having more involvement in projects and seeing differences along the way. I really enjoyed being on the board and have seen the impact and how successful PCBFA has been. Getting to see the excitement and enthusiasm about the projects and their impact and being a part of that excitement.

What would you say to our newest directors about your experience?

Don't be afraid to get involved. It might seem like there's a lot to get caught up on, but you'll catch up quickly. Pay attention – I got a lot out of being Secretary and the ARECA Representative because it gets you more involved. Farmers genuinely want to see you and the association succeed! It's great to be a part of.

How has PCBFA changed in the time you've been a director?

Younger people stepping onto the board. Changes in management, and even with the changes, everyone wants to be involved and the enthusiasm is building!

Keep Your Eyes Open between April 1st & 15th for Updates on Growing Forward 2 Programs!

Visit

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Peter Tindall – MD of Big Lakes

Can you tell us a bit about your operation? What have you implemented on your operation that you learned from PCBFA?

I have a cow/calf operation of 300 plus cows and I background to spring, maybe August before selling my calves. My plan is to cut back this fall. I've started using more off-site watering, using wet wells with solar panels for watering my animals.

Why did you become a PCBFA Director?

It was suggested by neighbours and former board members.

What changes have you seen in the beef industry in the last 5 years?

Its profitable now with the prices being good!

What was the best part of being a PCBFA Director?

Getting to meet people, different ideas and people who have implemented them. The information is more personal and direct. You put more effort into going to events when you're part of the association.

What would you say to our newest directors about your experience?

Beef production is a full time job! Talk to neighbours and ask what they would like to see, or if they have projects or ideas. Take small steps, don't try to change the world overnight.

How has PCBFA changed in the time you've been a director?

More staff, more projects and extension, and the addition of the cropping program. PCBFA has a broader base now than before, but is still focused on beef and forage.

We couldn't offer the depth of programs and projects without the support of a great group of Directors. Our Board is made up of 10 producers from across the Peace Country, with 4 from North of the Peace River and 4 from South of the Peace River as well as 2 Directors at Large. Terms are 2 years long and a director can serve up to 2 terms in a row (4 years).

Our board meets about once a month, sometimes more, sometimes less depending on the time of year and what's going on with the association. These meetings alternate between Rycroft and Falher to even up the driving! Our board members are always ready and willing to help, whether its vehicle shopping, looking for project ideas and sites, hosting field days or helping out with projects.

Our 2015 Board of Directors:

Peter Tindall – High Prairie

Randi Kuriga – Whitelaw

Thomas Claydon – Valleyview

Conrad Dolen – Silver Valley

Nancy VanHerk – Hines Creek

Gary These – Peace River

John Prinse – Enilda

Jordan Barnfield – Sexsmith

Stan Logan – Cleardale

Preston Basnett – Eureka River

We'd like to take this chance to thank our Board of Directors, especially Steve and Elton for all of their help over the years and we hope to continue to see you at our events!



Contact us for:

- Project Ideas

- Feed Testing

- Environmental Farm Plans

- Growing Forward 2 Assistance

- Ration Formulation Help

- Past Project Information

Upcoming Events!

**Thanks
to our
Sponsors!**



Soil Health 101

Learn about soil health & biology with Dr. Yamily Zavala, Crop and Soil Management Specialist with the Chinook Applied Research Association In Oyen AB

\$15/Member, \$25/Member
Pair,

\$20/Non-Member,
\$25/Non-Member
Pair

Sexsmith
April 23, 2015
Location TBA
1-3 pm

High Prairie
April 22, 2015
Ag Society
Hall 1-3 pm

For more
information &
to register, call
Kaitlin at
780-835-6799



Don't Forget to Renew Your PCFBA membership for 2015!!!

Mail your \$30 Membership fee to:

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
Box 2803
High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0

Include any contact information changes.

Peter Donovan Summer Tour

Soil Carbon Coalition

Join us to learn about the Soil Carbon Coalition, Carbon Sequestration and the relationship between carbon, water and soil!

June 15, 2015

Clear Hills County

More Details to Come

Controlled Traffic Farming Workshop

Join us, with Peter Gamache for a day of learning about the benefits of CTF and how you can get started!

Clear Hills County

Late June

More Details to Come!

Dr. Christine Jones Returns!

Join us for a Field Day this summer with Dr. Christine Jones
Late July

More Details to Come!

For more information or to register for PCFBA events please call Stacy or Kaitlin
780-835-6799!

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