



New Extension Coordinator & AESA Technician

Volume 7
Issue 77
June 2011

FORAGE

I would like to introduce myself, Morgan Hobin, as the new Extension Coordinator and AESA Technician for the PCBFA.

I am originally from a small property near Tisdale, Saskatchewan, where we raised a few beef cattle, but mainly registered quarter horses. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with a major in animal science, from the University of Saskatchewan in 2004. I then participated in the International Agricultural Exchange Association (Agriventure) program where I was placed on a dairy operation in Meningie, South Australia for 11 months.



Following my time in Australia, I ventured home once again to the University of Saskatchewan to begin a Master of Science in dairy nutrition, which I completed in July 2009. During the last 18 months of my graduate studies, I was employed by New-Life Feeds in Saskatoon as a ruminant nutritionist and sales representative. My main focus was on dairy, however I did have the opportunity to work with a few beef operations as well.

Once my studies were completed, the travel bug was back and I gained employment with the Department of Primary Industries in the state of Victoria in Australia as a Dairy Extension Officer. I was based in Mount Gambier, South Australia where I had the opportunity to work with dairy farming operations of all size, farmers of all ages and service providers in all fields. I very much enjoyed organizing workshops, field days, writing topical articles for the newsletter and facilitating dairy discussion groups across the state. As funding for the position wrapped up, I started looking for opportunities back in Canada, and I have found myself continuing my career here, in Fairview, Alberta.

I am very much looking forward to working with the PCBFA members and all others that are affiliated with the beef and forage industry in western Canada. I appreciate this opportunity to be involved with the association and I am excited to broaden my knowledge by working with you!

Forage Plot Tour, Solar Watering System Demo, Pasture Walk & BBQ

Date: Tuesday June 21, 2011

Place: High Prairie Airport

Time: 10:00 am

**Cost: \$20 for members
\$25 for non-members**

Agenda Topics:

- 17 grass varieties, 15 alfalfa varieties
- GSR Calcium topic
- Portable Solar Water System Solutions
- Pasture Management Principles

**To register contact: Jaime 780-523-4033
Morgan 780-835-6799**

EVENTS

June 30 - 9:00 am
Weed and Brush
Control with Goats
@ Muskseepi Park
Pavilion, Grand Prai-
rie. Contact:
Helene Adolphson
780-524-2902 or
Conrad Lindblom
780-354-2096

**Peace Country Beef
School**— Coming this
June watch you local
papers for more info

Environmental Farm Plan

If you are interested
in completing your
plan please call so
we can set up work-
shop dates and loca-
tions.

Growing Forward Assistance

There are still dollars
to be found
under the **Grazing
Winter Feeding
Program** as well as
the **Manure Man-
agement Program**
and the **Long Term
Water Management
Program** for new or
refurbished dugouts.

Are you
interested in receiving
our newsletter electroni-
cally. Please send your
email address to
jborduzak@gprc.ab.ca

The Do's & Don'ts of Hay Making

The season for making hay is just around the corner. Although it may seem pretty straight forward, it is important to remember a few key critical points that will help you to produce the best quality forage for your beef operation.

The maturity of the stand is crucial. The ideal time to first cut grass pasture, is when the plant is anywhere in the boot stage to the early head stage. The second cut will usually be timed anywhere from 4-6 weeks afterwards. Late boot stage can be described as seeing the seed head first pop out of the sheath and early head stage can be described as finding that the plant has grown approximately another foot.

It is important not to cut too early, as the hay will not cure as easily due to its higher moisture content. In this case, extra moisture can lead to mold growth and the development of mycotoxins and possibly cause the bale or hay stack to spontaneously combust. Cutting too early will also produce a lower yield per acre compared to grass that was cut when it was longer and more mature.

However, cutting too late can also be detrimental. Late cut forages generally yield high, but the quality is less than desirable, with low energy and protein levels and high fiber contents. Also, the aftermath yield tends to decrease as well. Feeding poor quality hay can also be expensive to you as a producer, due to the likelihood that an energy or protein supplement may be required in order to ensure that animals are meeting their nutrient requirements.

In the end, practicality always wins and it is not always possible to cut everything during the proper stage. But it is important to get done what you can, so that you can use it as high quality feed for those cows calving in the spring that do not necessarily have quality pasture readily available. It can also be tricky to time hay making around the weather, but it is best to do so after a few dry days that are preferably accompanied by warmer temperatures. This is not always easy, but if it looks like there will be at least three days of good weather, be prepared to hit the land. It is also a good idea to examine all of your hay cutting and baling equipment now, rather than waiting until it is the day that you are heading out to the field!

Dylan Biggs - Cattle Handling Clinics

Topics Covered:

- moving herds with control
- putting cattle through gates
- moving cow/calf pairs
- sorting calves at weaning
- walking cattle into a corral
- loading cattle onto a truck
- separating from a herd
- pasture loading without facilities
 - tagging and handling new-borns
- working with dogs and horses

2 - Day Clinics @ 2 Locations

Grimshaw - July 7 & 8

@ Michael Scott's Ranch

Valleyview - July 9 & 10

@ Faye & Roland Cailliau's Farm

Cost: \$150 hands-on participant

\$75 observer (lunches included)

Registration Deadline: June 27, 2011

Jaime @ 780-523-4033 Nora @ 780-836-3354

Akim Omokanye
Research Coordinator
Fairview, AB
780-835-6799
780-835-1112

Jaime Borduzak-Semple
Manager
High Prairie, AB
780-523-4033
780-835-0381

Morgan Hobin
Extension Coordinator / AESA Technician
Fairview, AB
780-835-6799