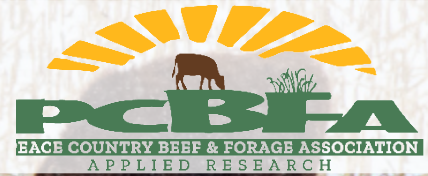


Forage Facts



Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

January 2022, Volume 17, Issue 204

In This Issue:

pg. 1 - **Introducing New Animals to the Herd**

pg. 4 - **Upcoming Events**

pg. 6 - **Grazing Conference Highlights**

pg. 7 - **Weed Free Forage Program**

pg. 8 - **Member Information**

DID YOU KNOW?

PCBFA has over 12 years of local feed test data!

Keep your eyes open for tools in the future to help determine Peace Country feed quality!

Introducing New Animals to the Herd

By Johanna Murray

2021 was a year for the books with record heat and a drought we have not seen since the early 2000's. This year made for a number of hard decisions on herd reductions and feed sourcing. However, the snow keeps falling, and there is optimism in the

futures markets - leading some folks to look at replacing some animals culled this past year, or bringing on grass cattle come summertime.

Talk about introducing new cattle to the herd for long enough and someone's bound to bring up isolation. Keeping new animals quarantined for a period of time before introducing them to the herd is a basic tenet of farm biosecurity.

Buying new animals on a cow/calf operation can improve genetics, slaughter traits, or weaning



2021 Producer Cocktail Mixture from Grovedale. Left: Bill Smith poses with a tillage radish. Right: Cocktail stand for forage - blend recommended by PCBFA - Photos submitted by Derrick Smith

weights, while in stocker and feeding operations it means more to sell at the end of the season. However, bringing in new animals also carries the inherent risk of disease. Purchased bulls, heifers, stockers and breeding cows can bring new diseases to your operation. Some of which can be costly, or impossible to get rid of again.

Quarantining New Cattle

In order to prevent introducing new diseases from purchased animals, most experts recommend quarantining new animals for 30 to 45 days. While keeping new animals entirely separate from the main herd for a month or more may seem like a lot, especially when it means you're feeding a separate group of animals, allowing ample time for animals stressed from travel to ramp up their immune systems and overcome any viruses they've picked up is one way is the best way to reduce the risk of having to treat the whole herd for something picked up in transit.

It also allows for a full round of vaccines and booster shots to be administered to the new animals. This is especially important if introducing animals from a closed herd into an open herd or vice-versa. If you've chatted with your vet and decided to test incoming cattle for things like BVD as well - the 45-day quarantine will give plenty of time for the results of your tests to get back. (<https://www.progressivecattle.com/topics/herd-health/a-look-at-what-defines-a-closed-herd>)

Another opportunity while feeding the new animals separately is to make up for any nutritional changes. Animals can be supplemented vitamins or minerals and adjust to your feeding methods without having to compete with the rest of the herd.

Isolation and quarantine might not catch everything. Cattle often carry bacteria and viruses internally that their immune systems have learned to keep in check, however, Isolation does greatly reduce the risk and gives you the opportunity to



Gear Up With AgExpert

You could win a 2022 Polaris RANGER 1000 Premium

Enter now at AgExpert.ca/GearUp

Manage your farm business with [AgExpert Field](#) and [AgExpert Accounting](#).

Early Bird \$7,500 Tech Package Prize Deadline: Feb. 15, 2022

POLARIS

AgExpert 

observe your new cattle before they integrate into the larger herd.

Introducing New Stock

After the quarantine period is the trickiest part of introducing new animals, the introduction itself. After the quarantine period, many producers will simply turn the new stock out into the herd and let them sort themselves out. This method is generally effective if the stock are all similar weight, age, and body condition as it reduces the likelihood weaker animals getting singled out.

While stockers, dry cows, and older pairs may be alright if you simply turn them out into a field with the other herd, extra caution is necessary when introducing bred cows, heifers, and bulls. Bulls

Introducing New Animals to the Herd



While all of the above can be extremely helpful when integrating new livestock. The most important step is to have a plan in place before the animals get off the truck. Building a plan of action with your vet in terms of vaccines and treatments, and getting a vaccination record of the animals you're bringing in can reduce the risk of outbreaks in your herd. And if an outbreak does occur, having a plan in place, or at least having chatted with your vet about prevention measures - you'll be able to respond faster and perhaps even identify where the disease slipped in.

fighting to establish the new pecking order can injure each other, easily, making an expensive purchase an even more expensive recovery. And cows may lose calves if they hit each other in the stomach or may bully some animals off feed and lose condition which can cause other issues at calving time. (<https://www.northernag.net/have-feed-heres-how-to-introduce-new-cows/>)

As with all other big events on the farm or ranch, introducing new animals to the herd goes smoothest with a plan in place.

If you have some solid fences, fenceline introductions can be an easy way to get new livestock accustomed to the idea of each other to decrease the amount of time they spend fighting once they're turned out together. Another trick is to put out about half the usual feed, turning the new girls out into the herd, and then put out the rest of the feed in a new spot away from the first. In addition to making sure the most aggressive girls have already picked their favourite spot to eat, the distance between the two feeding spots provides an opportunity for the more timid cows to eat. Ensuring that the new girls aren't getting pushed off feed is especially important for first-calf heifers who have significantly higher requirements. (<https://www.grainews.ca/cattlemans-corner/tips-on-easing-new-cattle-into-the-herd/>)

RELEASE THE HERD.

The list of tasks to do is long. The equipment you use to run down that list is critical. Run with mowers, compact utility tractors and utility vehicles from John Deere. And never stop running.

The image shows a variety of green John Deere farm equipment, including a tractor, several utility vehicles, and a mower, parked in a grassy field. The text 'RELEASE THE HERD.' is overlaid in large, white, bold letters at the top of the image.

JOHN DEERE

PRAIRIECOAST
equipment

1-877-553-3373 • www.prairiecoastequipment.com

GRANDE PRAIRIE 780-532-8402 | FAIRVIEW 780-835-4440

LA CRETE 780-928-3337 | DAWSON CREEK 250-782-4141

The Key to Success



Upcoming Events

Event	Date & Time	Location & Cost
Virtual Grazing Conference: Grazing to Improve Soil Health with Dr Kris Nichols	Friday, January 7th 7pm	Online via Zoom Free
Virtual Grazing Conference: Implementing Adaptive Grazing with Dr. Allen Williams	Friday, January 14th 7pm	Online via Zoom Free
Peace Agronomy Update	Tuesday, January 18th 10am-4pm	Dunvegan Inn & Sutes, Fairview \$25/Member
Virtual Grazing Conference: Organic Grazing with Dr. Martin Entz	Friday, January 21st 7pm	Online via Zoom Free
Virtual Grazing Conference: Year-Round Grazing with Jim Gerrish	Friday, February 4th 7pm	Online via Zoom Free
Virtual Grazing Conference: Economic Leverage of Grazing Management with Dallas Mount	Friday, February 11th 7pm	Online via Zoom Free
Peace Beef Cattle Day	Tuesday, February 15th 9:30am-3:30pm	Fredenstal Hall, Fairview \$25/Member

**For More Information or to Register for Any of Our Upcoming Events,
Please Visit:**

peacecountrybeef.ca | info@pcbfa.ca | 780-523-4033

All In-Person Events will be Following Current Health Guidelines



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VIRTUAL GRAZING CONFERENCE

Every Friday from
January 7th - February 11th



PCBFA
PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASSOCIATION
APPLIED RESEARCH

Coffee, Cows & Crops Podcast

with host
Johanna Murray

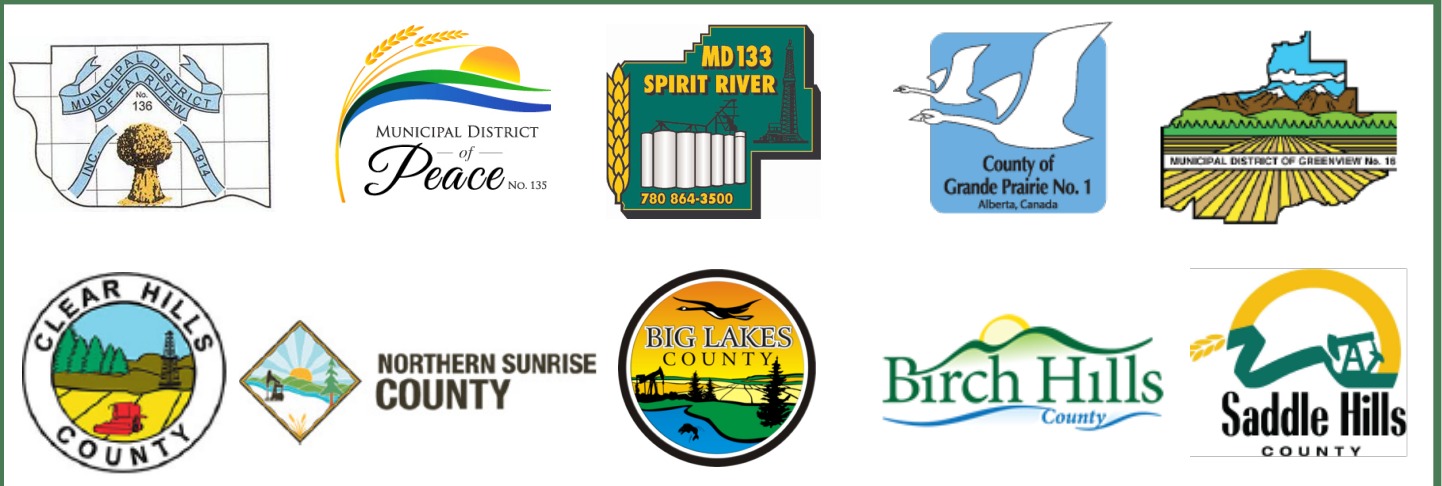


produced by the
Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

Listen into our podcast - Coffee, Cows & Crops! Our Extension Coordinator, Johanna Murray hosts special guests and chat about various aspects of beef production, business management, and delving into Alberta-based research.

Listen to our catalogue of episodes at peacecountrybeef.ca/podcast, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you stream your podcasts

Thank You to Our Municipal Partners!





Dr. Kris Nichols is a leader in the movement to regenerate soils for healthy crops, food, people and a planet. She has done extensive work focused on mycorrhizal fungi and the investigation of glomalin – a substance produced by AM (arbuscular mycorrhizal) fungi. Previously, Dr. Nichols was the Chief Scientist at Rodale Institute and a Research (Soil) Microbiologist with the USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS).



Dr. Allen Williams and his colleagues specialize in whole-farm & ranch planning based on the concept of regenerative agriculture. Their approach creates significant “value add” and prepares landowners for multiple enterprise/revenue stream opportunities that stack enterprises and acres. This approach allows for enhanced profitability and investment value.



Dr. Martin Entz is professor of Cropping Systems & Natural Systems Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. He leads the Glenlea Long-Term Rotation Study – Canada’s oldest organic vs conventional farming systems experiment. He is also founder of the U of M’s Natural Systems Agriculture program, studying systems based on processes found in nature — specifically the natural grassland ecosystem of the Canadian Prairies.

Jim Gerrish, is an independent grazing lands consultant providing services to farmers and ranchers



KEDDIE'S
TACK & WESTERN WEAR
Serving the Feed Industry for 50 years!

WE OFFER:

- Feed analysis and feeding programs
- Locally made custom mineral and feed blends
- Liquid supplements and range pellets

Custom Blends: Our nutritionists can design a feed program that will work specifically for you and your needs!

We are the *only* mineral manufacturing plant in the Peace Country

780-532-4888 • keddies.com
9808 132 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB

on both private and public lands across five continents. He currently resides in the Pahsimeroi Valley of Idaho.

Dallas Mount has sat at hundreds of kitchen tables and delivered workshops to thousands of ranchers across the US, Canada, and Australia to help them improve the profitability and overall health of their businesses. He has hands-on experience working in cow-calf, yearling, feedlot and hay enterprises. Dallas currently serves as CEO of RMC leading the Ranching For Profit School, creating profitable businesses, with healthy land and happy families.



Weed Free Forage Program



QUICK FACTS WEED FREE FORAGE



WEED FREE FORAGE QUICK FACTS:

- Use of Certified Weed Free Forage is a best management practice, benefiting both private and public land managers. Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is one of the most effective ways to manage them.
- There is a growing demand for forage that has been inspected and certified as 'weed-free', especially for use in protected areas and parks. The Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage program offers producers a way to certify their product is weed-free and to provide a premium product.
- Certified Weed Free Forage is any forage product that was grown in fields that were inspected and found to be free of any viable seed or reproductive plant parts of any species identified in the North American Invasive Species Management Association's Weed Free Forage Minimum Certification Standards and the Alberta Weed Control Act.
- Certified Weed Free Forage can be beneficial to purchase and/or produce as it can be a preferred product choice, bring a premium when sold, prevent invasive species from spreading and becoming established in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Participating municipalities and counties offer weed-free forage inspection and certification to producers. Participation is voluntary. If you produce in an area that is not participating in the program, please contact your local Agricultural Fieldman or the AISC.
- Inspections are conducted by Certified Weed Free Forage Inspectors who walk throughout the field and forage storage area, identifying all plant species present. Forage stands must be inspected a maximum of 10 days prior to cutting. If a crop is not cut within 10 days, a new inspection must be completed. Inspections are conducted on a field-by-field basis.
- Some invasive species can be present, provided there are no plant propagules (e.g., flowers, seed heads, root fragments) present that would enter the baled product.
- Producers must purchase specialized twine for marking the bales as certified. The baled product must be stored and transported separately from non-certified forage in order for the product to maintain weed-free status.
- A list of contact information for producers with an inventory of Certified Weed Free Forage will be publicly available online on the AISC's website. Please contact the AISC if you would like to be added to that list.



Invasive species, such as terrestrial plants, can degrade natural areas, decrease biodiversity, and reduce habitat for wildlife. They cost Alberta an estimated \$1 billion per year. Contaminated hay is one means by which invasive species are spread. Through the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage program, producers can have their forage inspected and certified as weed-free.

CERTIFIED WEED FREE FORAGE

This program is designed to limit the spread of invasive plant species through contaminated forage and to provide assurance to all participants that forage certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard. Here's how you can participate:

1. **Become a Certified Weed Free Forage producer!** Have your fields certified as 'weed-free' and sell your product to buyers. Contact your local Agricultural Fieldman or the Alberta Invasive Species Council for details.
2. **Spread the word, not the plant!** Help us protect Alberta from the harmful impacts of invasive species by asking for and purchasing Certified Weed Free Forage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ABINVASIVES.CA





Member Information

Follow Us



[/peacecountrybeef](https://www.facebook.com/peacecountrybeef)



[@PCBFA](https://twitter.com/PCBFA)



[@peacecountrybeef](https://www.instagram.com/peacecountrybeef)



[Peace Country Beef & Forage Association](https://www.youtube.com/PeaceCountryBeef&ForageAssociation)



[peacecountrybeef.ca](https://www.peacecountrybeef.ca)

Member Feed Testing Service

PCBFA Members receive 2 free feed tests with their membership.

All feed tests are sent to Central Testing Labs in Winnipeg. Nutrients and minerals are tested by wet chemistry.

Nitrate, Mould, and Mycotoxin tests can be completed and will be invoiced at lab cost.

Feed Test Pricing:

Feed Tests for Members (after 2 free) - \$45/sample

Feed Tests for Non-Members - Billed at Lab Cost

Nitrate Testing - \$15/sample

Rush Shipping - \$50

Hay Probe Deposit for Non-Members - \$100

Feed Test Drop Off Sites:

Fairview Research Farm, County of Grande Prairie's Clairmont Office, MD of Greenview's Valleyview Office, Saddle Hills County Office, and the Lesser Slave Watershed Council Office in High Prairie

2021-22 Board of Directors

Chairman:

Allan McLachlan

Vice Chairman:

Michael Strebchuk

Treasurer:

Clay Armstrong

Secretary:

MacKay Ross

Directors:

Faron Steffen

Michael Gross

Kelvin Krahn

Dan Martin

Andrew Hale

Clint Ostrem

Get in Touch with Our Staff

Liisa Jeffrey

Executive Director

C: 780-394-7419

E: liisa@pcbfa.ca

Katie McLachlan

Interim Operations Manager

C: 780-772-0277

E: katie@pcbfa.ca

Johanna Murray

Extension Coordinator

C: 780-523-4033

E: johanna@pcbfa.ca

Dr. Akim Omokanye

Research Program Manager

C: 780-835-1112

E: akim@pcbfa.ca

Dr. Blasius Azuhnwi

Research Associate

P: 780-835-6799

E: blasius@pcbfa.ca

Buthaina Al-Maqtari

Research Technician Lead

C: 403-667-2219

E: buthaina@pcbfa.ca

PCBFA is a
Proud Member of

FarmRite



AFIN
ALBERTA FORAGE
INDUSTRY NETWORK