

Forage Facts

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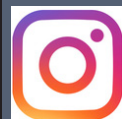
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Peace Country Beef & Forage Association



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DID YOU KNOW?

There is approximately **7 million agricultural acres** in the Peace Country.

A Word from Our Chair

By: Jordan Barnfield,
Chairman of Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

We have really had a great board this 2019-2020 year, we shared a lot of laughs and farming talk while trying to take care of tasks at hand. It was an active and engaged group that helped out in any way that they could.

This year our board took more steps towards getting our charitable status and worked on revising the bylaws again. Our board also took part in a mental health and suicide awareness evening in Grande Prairie. We were also pleased to see some of our staff take mental health and suicide prevention training. It is definitely something that is of high importance in the agriculture industry. This year the board also decided to proceed with leasing some more land from the MD of Fairview. It was a big step that was taken with the plans of becoming a bit more self sustainable and less dependent on year to year unknown government funding. It will be exciting to see the farm develop over the coming years. The board saw education as a priority again this year. From education for us producers

to help improve our operations and be more successful, to educating our youth and a new generation of consumers on agriculture. The PCBFA board is proud and excited to be putting up their per diems again this year to give out another \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving Ag student from the Peace Country.

In 2020-2021 we will see at least three new board members. This is the sixth and final year for Thomas Claydon, John Prinse and for myself on the board. It has been an outstanding experience for myself and I strongly recommend becoming a board member. I have learned a lot and am very proud to have been a part of this board and association.

I look forward to staying involved and helping out where I can in the future. PCBFA covers a very large area and it has something to offer for all types of producers within the region. Our world class organization is an amazing asset to all of us in agriculture and it has a very strong future in front of it. I would like to thank all of the staff that we have worked with over the years and thank you to everyone that has volunteered their time to help out at events and a final thank you to those of the producers that have been on the board.

Save the Date!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY FEB 22, 2020

peacecountrybeef.ca

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 3 NEW DIRECTORS TO SIT ON OUR BOARD!

Positions Needing Filled:

- One in the South West
- One in the South East
- One At Large (Anywhere)

Positions Up for Re-Election

- Two in the North
- One in the South East

Questions about being a Board Member?
Please contact Jordan Barnfield at 780-832-7148





Annual General Meeting Keynote Highlight

Dr. Akim Omokanye, Peace Country Beef & Forage Assoc.

Akim is currently the Research Coordinator at PCBFA. He joined PCBFA as a program coordinator in August 2009.

As a trained systems research agronomist with interdisciplinary background, Akim loves talking to producers about crop and livestock production practices, production issues and future research project ideas. Producers drive Akim's research activities and are a fantastic resource in generating research ideas here in the Peace Country River region and for collaborative research overseas.

Akim is a member of several professional organizations in Canada and overseas. Akim loves writing and his research findings have appeared in several agricultural journals in Canada, USA, Australia, UK and Nigeria, and is an Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Science since 2012. Akim is an adjunct professor at the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta.

Andrea Stroeve-Sawa, Shipwheel Cattle Feeders Ltd.

Andrea Stroeve-Sawa is a fourth generation farmer/rancher now managing family owned Shipwheel Cattle Feeders Ltd near Taber. Currently, this operation includes a yearling grazing program, 5500 head feedlot, some cropland, a few bee hives and compost producing facility.

Since birth Andrea has been immersed in using the principles of Holistic Management in operating this family farm/ranch. As Manager, she now faces the unique challenge of staying true to her operation's holistic goals in the present complex changing agricultural industry.

Andrea is passionate about: using the principles of holistic management; increasing the storage of carbon in her soil; using proper stock handling to heal and maintain healthy animals; including her family in all things agricultural; being a hands on mom; and helping to respect and appreciate the presence of women in Agriculture.



Thank You to the PCBFA Board of Directors

- Jordan Barnfield
- Preston Basnett
- John Prinse
- Faron Steffen
- Thomas Claydon
- Robbie Hale
- Allan McLachlan
- Kelvin Krahn
- Clay Armstrong
- Michael Gross

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

Notice of Special Resolution to be Proposed at Our Annual General Meeting on February 22nd, 2020.

Our Board of Directors will be putting forward a motion to repeal and replace the Bylaws of Peace Country Beef & Forage Association. All PCBFA members should have received written notice, along with a copy of the proposed changes in the mail. A copy of the proposed changes can also be found on our website at peacecountrybeef.ca/bylaw-changes

We ask that you please review the proposed changes, and send all thoughts, concerns, suggestions, or questions to our Interim General Manager, Chelsey Hostettler at 780-523-0443 or email chelsey@pcbfa.ca

Calving Series Part 2: Dystocia



By Johanna Murray

What is Dystocia

Dystocia is a general term for a difficult birth which can be caused by anything from calf size to nutritional deficiency, to a late-term.

On average dystocia, rates are 10-15% on first-calf heifers and 3-5% on mature cows. If you can track dystocia in your herd, you may be able to detect red flags of nutritional deficiency, or which bulls are throwing big calves.

In tough years like this, cattle nutrition is on everyone's minds. Despite the conventional wisdom that says you should limit or underfeed your third-trimester animals, to encourage lower birth weights. Studies have shown, that while you may decrease birthweights by a little, cows that are fed less than their requirements will have more difficult births, take longer to breed back, and are more likely to have trouble in the future. Skinny animals will have fewer energy reserves for the calving process, and though the calf may not be too big, they will run out of steam before the calf is delivered. On the other hand, fat animals may have trouble delivering calves because of fat deposits along the birth canal. (<http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/bch/FirstCalfHeifer-Mgt.pdf> & <https://www.beefmagazine.com/nutrition/breed-back-first-calf-heifers-starts-nutrition>)

Assisting

When you notice a cow or heifer that is taking a long time to calve, timely intervention is better for both the cow and the calf. This is especially important for first-calf heifers who should calve within the first hour of active labour.

Many cattlemen have learned to assist cows themselves and pull calves with a calf jack. However, it's important to remember that just because you can use the calf jack doesn't mean you should. Improper use of a calf jack can cause permanent damage to the Cow's uterine tract, and injure the calf in the process. It's also essential to learn to judge calf size before you get too far along.

For very large calves, sometimes a C-section is the better solution. While no one likes to call the vet out,

cows usually recover well from C sections, and you'll likely end up with a lively calf at the end of the process instead of spending hours trying to get a too big calf out only to end up with an injured cow and a lethargic calf.

Calf Recovery Position

Once you have the calf out, the next challenge is whether or not it's breathing. If a calf isn't breathing, but is conscious and moving, try tickling the inside of its nostrils with a piece of hay or straw. If the calf isn't conscious, check for a heartbeat. If a calf has a heartbeat, your chances of getting him breathing are pretty good. Without a heartbeat, though, chances of revival are slim. Methods to stimulate breathing include rubbing the animal's chest vigorously, rubbing its nose or chest with snow, or, if the calf is inside or well-bedded, dumping a bucket of cool/cold water over the calf to shock it into gasping.

Once you know the calf is breathing, it's best to set it up in what is known as the Calf Recovery Position, to allow the lungs as much space as possible. Setting the calf up on its sternum with its front legs either tucked at its side or extended sphinx style, and back legs extended forward at its side.



*Example of proper Calf Recovery Position.
From: Cody Creelman, Cow Vet*

If the calf isn't flailing its head around yet, you can extend that forward too.

As related to last month's article on colostrum, remember to monitor the calf to see if it gets up and nurses. Calves that spent a long time in the birth canal or that had to be pulled, may not jump up and nurse, so you might need to administer some colostrum to give them that first shot of energy they need to perform as they grow!



Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location
Peace Country Beef Cattle Day	February 12th 9:30am Registration 10:00am Start	Legion Hall, Grimshaw
PCBFA Annual General Meeting	February 22nd 3:30pm Doors Open 4:30pm Business Meeting	Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview
Soil Health Mini Conference	February 24th 9:30am Registration 10:00am Start	Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview
Environmental Farm Plan Workshop	February 26th 1pm- 3:30pm	Saddle Hills County Office
Planning Your 2020 Cocktail Cover Crop	March 5th 10:30am Registration 11:00am Start	St. Isidore
Soil Health & Organic Production Workshop	March 18th	Dave Shaw Memorial Complex, Hines Creek

**For More Information or to Register for any of these Events,
Visit peacecountrybeef.ca/upcoming-events
Email info@pcbfa.ca or Call 780-835-6799 ext. 3**



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Connect with Us!

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