

FORAGE FACTS



Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

September 2024, Volume 26, Issue 230

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Member Information

Grant Gaschnitz Memorial Ag Knowledge Sponsorship

Grant Gaschnitz was a prominent figure across the Peace Region, and had a significant impact on the agriculture community. He was a champion of strengthening Peace Country farms and ranches, ensuring the region got the attention it deserved, and was especially dedicated to encouraging and supporting young people in becoming successful and thriving farmers and ranchers.



Grant Gaschnitz being awarded our first Lifetime Member award

Application Criteria:

- Must be a resident of the Alberta Peace Region
- Must be an agricultural producer
- Applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 40
- Application must ask for support in pursuing further education in an agriculture related area
 - This education could be a producer course or conference OR post-secondary program (degree or diploma) that will further their knowledge and management skills related to farming or ranching in the Peace Country
 - Open to anyone interested in furthering agriculture knowledge; applicants do not have to be enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

DID YOU KNOW?

Farmers add \$134.9 Billion to Canada's Economy each year.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Succeed with your operation & further your education & management skills

- Must be a resident of Alberta Peace Region and an agricultural producer.
- Ages 17-40.
- Application should request support for agricultural education, including courses, conferences, or post-secondary programs.
- Open to all interested in advancing agriculture; post-secondary enrollment not required.

DEADLINE
October 6, 2024

APPLY NOW Visit Our Website www.peacecountrybeef.ca/memorial-scholarship

Grant Gaschnitz Memorial Ag Knowledge Sponsorship

HUBFA

Written by: Alex Jolicoeur

A FIRST-TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE

FIELD DAY 2024



Rain or Shine

On July 25, 2024, I attended my very first Field Day at the PCBFA Research Farm, and despite the rainy weather, the event was an absolute success! From 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM, over 100 brave attendees made their way to the PCBFA Research Farm to experience a day filled with vendors, demonstrations, and agricultural plots.

The rain didn't dampen spirits; rather, it added to the camaraderie and resilience of the community. The 4-H kids did a fantastic job selling hot chocolate and hot dogs, keeping everyone warm and energized throughout the day.

Hourly guided tours to the PCBFA plots offered producers an overview of small plot projects, crop progress, and data collection. Participants enjoyed the ride on Trevor Skoyen's trusty wagon team.

One of the biggest attractions was Spicer's Fish Farm, drawing a significant crowd. Other notable participants included A & I Canada Laboratories, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, Northwestern Polytechnic, Country Junction Feeds, Peace Region Living Labs, Covers & Co, and Fora Seeds. Their displays and demos offered valuable insights into various aspects of agriculture and sustainability.

A highlight of the day was the Jr. Agrarian's final public speaking event. These young participants took the stage with confidence, delivering impressive speeches in front of a large audience. Their bravery and eloquence was truly inspiring.



The petting zoo brought smiles to many faces, providing a delightful break from the educational aspects of the day. Children and adults alike enjoyed interacting with the animals, making for a heartwarming experience.

Overall, my first Field Day was a fantastic experience. The combination of educational opportunities, community spirit, and fun activities made it a memorable event. I look forward to attending again next year!

We're Hiring!



Agriculture Research Technician Internship

Full Time, 4-6 months

Wage: \$22-\$24/hour

Location: Fairview, AB

The Peace Country Beef & Forage Association is a non-profit, producer-led group that strives to provide leading-edge, credible, and locally viable information to Peace Country producers, through our applied research and extension programs. We inspire and empower innovation in agriculture, and move forward the agriculture industry in the Peace, by enhancing its environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

We are looking for an ambitious and hard-working **Agriculture Research Technician Intern** to be part of our PCBFA team. Someone who has a genuine interest in the agriculture industry, and even better – ag research!

As the Agriculture Research Technician Intern, you will work closely with our Lead Research Technician. You will gain hands-on experience in all aspects of the applied research process – from field design and planning, set up and implementation of research projects, to collecting, compiling and analyzing data.

If you enjoy time outdoors, a fast-paced work environment, and doing something different every day, you will appreciate the fieldwork associated with ag research! Some of your duties would include assisting with sorting and weighing seeds and samples, plot layout, seeding, mowing, spraying, harvesting, plot maintenance, soil sampling, data collection, and taking field notes and observations. These duties will be carried out in variable weather conditions.

You will also provide support in the planning, coordination and implementation of tours, workshops, and field days put on by PCBFA for local farmers and agronomists, and get to listen to some great speakers!

Qualifications: Must have valid driver's license, strong communication and teamwork skills, detail orientated, and ability to work extended hours as required. Any experience related to farming operations is an asset. Please indicate if you have practice or knowledge with any of the following – load/haul trailers, operate a tractor, combine, ATV or any other machinery.

Start and end dates are flexible.

If you're interested in joining our dynamic team, please send a resume to manager@pcbfa.ca, along with a short description (350 words or less) of why you think you would be a good fit for the role.



Testing Corn Hybrids with Lower Heat Unit Requirements

Testing Corn Hybrids with Lower Heat Unit Requirements for Forage Yield & Quality

Research Program Manager: Dr. Akim Omokanye

From: Peace Country Beef & Forage Association 2018 Annual Report

We get a lot of questions regarding growing Corn in the Peace and while we don't currently have any Corn Trials going on within our organization, we have done plenty of research on this topic in the past! Enjoy this article pulled from the vault for this month's Research Insert!

Corn is a high energy feed with protein levels that will normally match the nutritional needs of a dry cow in mid and late pregnancy. Corn has an advantage as a winter grazing crop because it stands above the snow, and it stands up in windy conditions (with minimal leaf loss), as well as providing a windbreak for cattle grazing it. Matching a particular area's available corn heat units (CHU) to the CHU requirements of corn hybrids or varieties in the market will go a long way in maximizing the potential of using corn to extend the grazing season. Grazing corn should be at 30-50% milk line at first killing frost. Several new corn hybrids that require lower heat units are now available in the market. The objective of this trial was to test some of the corn hybrids that require less heat units, for forage quality and suitability for grazing and silage.

Methods The study site was at the Fairview Research Farm (NW5-82-3W6) on RR #35, MD of Fairview. Soil tests from 0- 6" depth showed an organic matter of 6.4%, a pH of 6.8, and an electrical conductivity of 0.39 dS/m. The site was lightly harrowed before seeding.

The following 6 DuPont Pioneer corn hybrids were tested:

1. P7202AM™ (2050 heat units)
2. P7005AM™ (2000 heat units)
3. P6909R (1950 heat units)
4. P7213R (2050 heat units)
5. 39F44 (2000 heat units)
6. P7211HR (2050 heat units)

Randomized complete block design was used, with 4 replications.

Seeding rate was 32,000 kernels/acre. Seeding was done on May 28 with a plot drill at 27" row spacing. Fertilizer was applied during seeding, at the rate of 111 lbs N/acre + 37 lbs P/acre + 49 lbs K/acre + 21 lbs S/acre. Roundup at 0.67 L/acre was used for pre-emergent and in-crop weed control.

Harvesting for forage dry matter (DM) yield determination and quality analysis was done on September 24. Two composite forage samples were sent to A & L laboratory in Ontario for quality determination. T

The data for forage yield and quality were analyzed with ARM statistical software.

Results

The corn forage DM yield, crude protein (CP), total digestible energy (TDN), and measured minerals were all statistically similar for the corn hybrids tested.

The forage DM yield varied from about 7 - 9 tons/acre (Figure 1)

The forage CP value varied from 9.89-11.1% (Figure 2). Going by the rule of thumb for beef cattle, which says that a dry gestating beef cow requires 7% CP in mid-pregnancy and 9% CP in late-pregnancy, the tested hybrids all had enough CP for a dry gestating beef cow. However, for a lactating beef cow, which requires 11% CP, only P7202AM™ and P6909R met this.

The forage TDN was generally above 70% for the corn hybrids tested (Figure 3). This shows that all corn hybrids surpassed the required %TDN for both young (65-70% TDN) and mature (55-65% TDN) beef cattle.

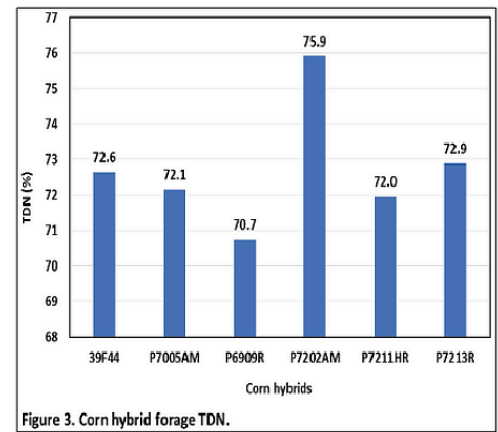
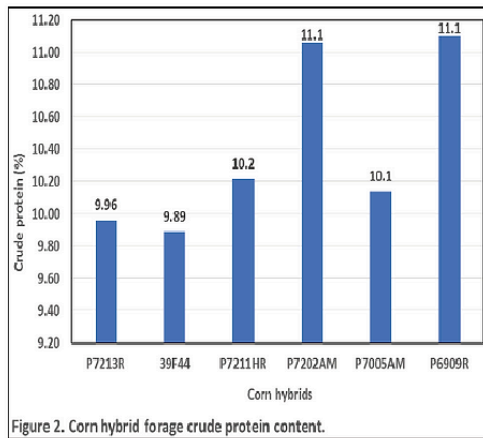
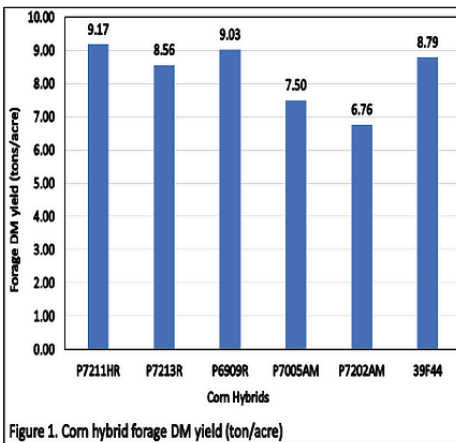


Table 1 shows both the macro and trace minerals measured here. The forage Ca and P have only been able to meet the requirements of a dry gestating beef cow (0.18 % Ca and 0.16% P), but not a lactating beef cow (0.58 Ca and 0.26% P). None of the hybrids had sufficient Na for beef cattle. Only 3 of the 6 corn hybrids had adequate S for both young and mature beef cattle.

The forage Cu value obtained for all corn hybrids fell far short of the 10 ppm that is needed by both young and mature beef cattle. However, all hybrids had adequate K and Mg for both young and mature beef cattle. Because of the inability of the tested corn hybrids to meet the required amount of some minerals, mineral supplementation would be necessary when grazing any of these corn hybrids.

Table 1. Forage minerals of tested corn hybrids.

Corn hybrids	Macro-minerals (%)					Trace-minerals (%)				
	Ca	P	K	Mg	Na	S	Cu	Fe	Zn	Mn
P7202AM	0.32	0.18	1.48	0.45	0.02	0.14	4.93	206	51.8	59.3
P6909R	0.35	0.18	1.40	0.48	0.02	0.15	5.17	139	42.7	64.6
39F44	0.30	0.17	1.10	0.55	0.02	0.15	5.10	132	50.4	60.6
P7005AM	0.30	0.17	1.34	0.41	0.03	0.13	5.02	131	48.1	56.9
P7213R	0.29	0.17	1.11	0.59	0.03	0.15	4.97	130	54.5	61.2
P7211HR	0.32	0.17	1.16	0.5	0.02	0.13	4.65	132	52.7	55.5
Mean	0.31	0.17	1.27	0.50	0.02	0.14	4.97	145	50.0	59.7
LSD _{0.05}	0.07	0.06	0.52	0.13	0.02	0.04	1.21	104	16.7	13.8
CV, %	8.45	14.4	16.1	9.89	30.9	10.2	9.45	27.8	13.0	8.97
F-Prob (P<0.05)	0.39	0.99	0.39	0.09	0.37	0.6	0.89	0.45	0.58	0.63

Conclusion

In terms of forage DM yield, both P7211HR and P6909R seemed to have some advantage over other corn hybrids. All corn hybrids exceeded the %TDN needed by all categories of beef cattle. Mineral analysis demonstrated that supplementation would be necessary during grazing for all corn hybrids to meet animal requirements.

Event	Date & Time	Location
Cattle Market Evening	September 6, 2024 4:00 - 8:00 PM	Rycroft Ag Society Hall Rycroft, AB
Low-Stress Livestock Handling	September 13, 2024 10:00 - 4:00	Teepee Creek Arena Teepee Creek, AB
East Peace Beef Cattle Day	October 11, 2024	Location TBA High Prairie, AB

Want to know more about any of these upcoming events?
Contact us at info@pcbfa.ca, or give us a call at **780-834-7256!**

Thank You to Our Municipal Partners!



Upcoming Events



The Annual Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
CATTLE MARKET EVENING

Are you passionate about cattle farming? Whether you're new to the field or a seasoned pro, our Annual Cattle Market Evening is the perfect opportunity to learn the market trends and maximize your profits.



with Keynote Speaker
Brenna Grant

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024
RYCROFT AG SOCIETY HALL
DOORS OPEN @ 4:30 - SUPPER @ 6:00
CASH BAR ON SITE

Tickets Available Online or through a PCBFA Representative
Pre Registration Strongly Preferred
info@pcbfa.ca | 780-835-7256 | peacecountrybeef.com

Brenna Grant serves as the Executive Director of Canfax, a role she has held since 2007. Raised in southwestern Saskatchewan on a cow/calf and yearling grasser operation, her family continues to run the farm. Brenna earned a BA in Agricultural Economics from the University of Saskatchewan and completed her Masters in Applied Economics at Montana State University.




Low-Stress LIVESTOCK HANDLING
Workshop with
Kobe Fehr
of RCK COWDOGS

Join the Peace Country Beef & Forage for an informative day with Kobe Fehr of RCK Cowdogs to discuss & learn about Low-Stress Livestock Handling in a hands-on workshop. Kobe is a former BC Peace Region resident, now living with his family as a working cowboy in southern Alberta. Kobe enjoys training and competing in working cowdog competitions when he isn't working on feedlots and pastures and is gaining a Tiktok and Social Media following.

This full day event will begin with a classroom presentation followed by a demonstration with live animals before we break for lunch. Following lunch, willing participants will have the opportunity to work animals on on foot as well as with their own dogs or horses if they would like, while others observe.

Limited space available - Pre-Registry is required.

 **Teepee Creek Ag Events Centre**

 **September 13, 2024**
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

www.peacecountrybeef.ca

Tickets Available online or through a PCBFA Representative.

Already Half Full!



Member Information



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Peace Country Beef & Forage Association



peacecountrybeef.ca

Member Feed Testing Service

PCBFA Members receive **2 free basic 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, Mold, and Mycotoxin tests can be added and will be invoiced at lab cost.

Feed Test Pricing:
Feed Tests for Members (after 2 free)
OR Non-Members Billed at Lab Cost

Rush Shipping \$50

Hay Probe Deposit \$200

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, Big Lakes County Office.

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