

FORAGE FACTS



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In This Issue

- Page 1**
2024 AGM
- Page 2**
Opportunities
- Page 3**
Injection Techniques
- Page 4 & 5**
Research Insert
- Pages 6**
Reminders & News
- Page 7**
Upcoming Events
- Page 8**
Member Information



DID YOU KNOW?

Cattle have a remarkable ability to regulate their metabolism in winter. As the temperature drops, their metabolism increases, allowing them to generate more body heat.

You're invited to our

Annual General Meeting



November 30th 2024

**Chateau Nova Hotel
Peace River**



Join us at our Annual General Meeting to shape our future together and share in the success of PCBFA!



**Networking at
3:30pm**



**Business Meeting & Awards
at 4:30pm**



**Supper at
5:30pm**

Join us for our Annual General Meeting, with doors opening at 3:30 PM. This event will include key updates, director elections, and recognition of our "Member of the Year" and "Grant Gaschnitz Sponsorship Award". Enjoy supper and networking at 5:30 PM, followed by research & extension updates. At 7:30 PM wrap up the evening with keynote speaker, Brett Gardiner. We look forward to seeing you!

Keynote Speaker

Brett Gardiner



A block of rooms is available at a discounted rate if booked before October 30th - Use Code 2411PeaceC

PRE-REGISTRY STRONGLY PREFERRED

780-834-7256

info@pcbfa.ca

www.peacecountrybeef.ca

Interested in becoming a PCBFA director?

PCBFA is a producer-led charity dedicated to moving forward the agriculture industry in the Peace – by enhancing its environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Our board of directors represent the voices of the producers from across the Peace Region and work together to develop long-term strategy, direction, and goals for the association.

Director Responsibilities

- Directors are expected to attend as many board meetings as possible. We meet monthly, with a target of 8 meetings per year occurring over Zoom and 4 meetings per year in person.
- Directors are expected to attend the Annual General Meeting.
- Directors are encouraged to host a PCBFA project or event on their farm.
- Directors are expected to represent PCBFA, and advocate for PCBFA when needed.

Director Perks

- Expense reimbursements for meeting costs (mileage, meals).
- Expense reimbursement for agriculture-related training and conferences.
- Ability to influence the direction of PCBFA – have a voice!

We would like to express our appreciation for your interest in serving as a director of our association. There are many exciting challenges ahead, and we are grateful that you are willing to accept the responsibility of being a member of the board.

We serve an important mission, and we believe that you will find serving on the board a rich and rewarding experience. Thank you for your interest in joining us!

If you are interested – please visit our website to determine which regions require representation on our board in 2025 and come to our AGM on November 30, 2024, and have someone ready to nominate you!

If you are unable to attend, please send a letter expressing your willingness to let your name stand for nomination, either with someone attending the meeting or email liisa@pcbfa.ca.

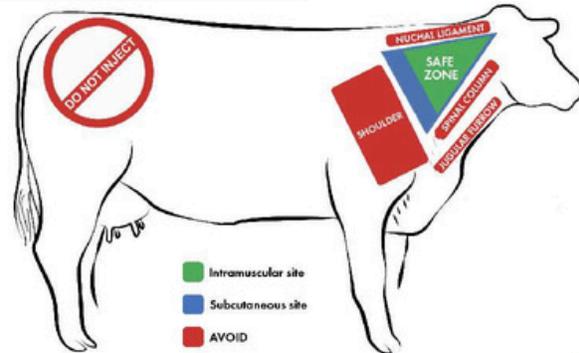
Injection Techniques Best Practices for Beef Cattle



RESTRAINT

- ✓ Ensure all animals being treated are safely **restrained in a chute** that allows the processor easy access to the neck and prevents unnecessary movement in the animal being treated.

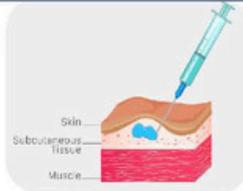
Cattle that are not properly restrained are at a higher risk for tissue trauma, needle breaks, improper injection technique and incorrect location.



ROUTES OF ADMINISTRATION (ROA)

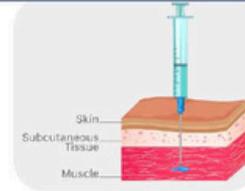
SUBCUTANEOUS (SUB Q)

Subcutaneous injections are placed **just under the skin** in the safe zone. The needle should be inserted at a 45-degree angle to the animal. Subcutaneous injections are generally less irritating and the preferred ROA, however, always follow label directions.



INTRAMUSCULAR (IM)

All intramuscular injections should be given in the neck muscle in the **safe injection zone**. The needle should enter at 90 degrees, or perpendicular to the animal, into the muscle tissue. Always follow label direction for ROA.



NEEDLE SIZE

- ✓ Choose an appropriate needle size to ensure the product can be delivered with minimal tissue disruption. Choose the **smallest gauge needle** that can still effectively deliver the **medication**.

Class of Cattle	Route of Injection	Gauge	Needle Length
Calves < 500 lbs	Intramuscular	20-18	1 inch
	Subcutaneous	20-18	1/2 - 5/8 inch
Cattle >500 lbs	Intramuscular	18-16	1 - 1.5 inch
	Subcutaneous	18-16	1/2 - 3/4 inch

VOLUME

- ✓ Recommended maximum volume per injection site is **10 ml (cc) per site**. Increasing volume of medication injected into one location impedes the ability to absorb and excrete medication.

HYGIENE

- ✓ Keep equipment clean and in good working order to prevent tissue trauma and abscesses. Use **quality disposable needles**, and change every 10-15 injections, when using a multidose vial or when needles are burred, bent or dull.
- ✓ Inject through **clean hide**, being careful not to introduce bacteria and debris into the tissue.

RECORD-KEEPING

Keep these records every time you inject an animal:

- What was treated?
- Reason for treatment?
- What drug and dose?
- What route?
- Withdrawal time?



SCAN ME

Scan for a short how-to video available at BeefResearch.ca/injection-techniques.

Credit: Beef Cattle Research Council

Boosting Bottom Lines and Ensuring Nutrition in Beef Production: *Feed Test to Know What is your Feed*

Written by Akim Omokanye, PhD, P.Ag

As the year progresses and feed sources are being stockpiled, it's essential to perform feed testing to ensure optimal cattle health and productivity. Feed testing helps producers analyze the nutritional composition of hay, silage, and other feed sources, ensuring cattle receive the proper balance of protein, energy, and minerals. This proactive strategy aids in formulating efficient rations, reducing waste, minimizing feed costs, and preventing nutrient imbalances that could impact animal welfare. PCBFA offers free feed testing services to its members and encourages all producers to take advantage of this opportunity to promote sustainable feeding practices.



Feed testing is especially crucial given that feed can account for up to 70% of cattle operation costs. It enables producers to adapt rations to meet the varying nutritional needs of cattle classes, from weanlings to lactating cows, and to respond to changes in feed quality caused by shifting weather conditions.

Climate variability can impact forage quality, making regular testing necessary to adjust for nutrient deficiencies or excesses. By testing alternative feed sources such as grass aftermath, crop residues or screenings, and balancing diets accordingly, producers can enhance herd performance and manage costs more effectively, particularly in challenging conditions.



Effective nutrition planning is key to sustaining and profiting from beef cattle operations, with feed testing playing a vital role. Nutritional needs vary by life physiological stage as shown in Table 1—mature cows need 7% crude protein in mid-pregnancy, 9% in late pregnancy, and 11% post-calving. Energy needs also increase, with Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) rising from 55% in mid-gestation and 60% in late-gestation to 65% after calving. A balanced diet supports immunity and reproduction, while regular feed testing helps meet mineral requirements and address deficiencies, ensuring optimal health and productivity.

Written by Akim Omokanye, PhD, P.Ag

Table 1. Suggested nutrient requirements for beef cows (NASEM, 2016)

Nutrient	Requirement		
	Growing & finishing calves	Dry gestating cows	Lactating cow
CP (%)	12-14	7-9*	11
Ca (%)	0.57	0.18	0.33
P (%)	0.30	0.16	0.26
Mg (%)	0.1	0.12	0.2
K (%)	0.6	0.6	0.7
Na (%)	0.06-0.08	0.06-0.08	0.1
S (%)	0.15	0.15	0.15
Cu (ppm)	10	10	10
Zn (ppm)	30	30	30
Fe (ppm)	50	50	50
Mn (ppm)	20	40	40
NEM (MCal kg ⁻¹)	1.08-2.29	0.97-1.10	1.19-1.28
NEG (MCal kg ⁻¹)	0.53-1.37	NAY	NA
TDN (%)	65-70W	55-60Z	65

*7% for mid pregnancy, 9% for late pregnancy.
 Z - 55% for middle trimester of pregnancy, 60% for late trimester of pregnancy.
 Y - NA, not available, W - for 6-10 month old growing bulls.

Producers often have concerns about nitrates in forage and the potential for nitrate poisoning in cattle. Nitrates commonly accumulate in annual forages, especially following drought or wet weather.

Excessive nitrate levels, above 0.5% (based on the nitrate (NO₃) method of analysis) on a dry matter basis, can lead to subclinical toxicity, resulting in reduced weight gain, decreased milk production, and higher susceptibility to infections. When nitrate levels exceed 1%, they pose a serious risk, potentially causing death or abortion, particularly in mature cows and replacement heifers. Before interpreting results for samples not sent through PCBFA, ensure you are aware of the analytical method employed by the lab. Common alternative methods used by labs include nitrate nitrogen (NO₃-N) and potassium nitrate (KNO₃). When in doubt, reach out to a team



member at Peace Country Beef & Forage to assist with better understanding your Feed Test results.

Reminders & News



REMINDER

**Annual Memberships expire on
November 30th, 2024!**

Make sure to renew your membership
by visiting
www.peacecountrybeef.ca/membership

**Unsure if that includes you?
Contact us!**

780-834-7256



info@pcbfa.ca



November 11

OUR OFFICE IS CLOSED



Welcome to our new
team member "Sprout"!

L-R: Alaina Archibald, Cameron Bilodeau, Alex Jolicoeur

Event	Date & Time	Location
Winter Grazing Tour	November 13, 2024 2:00-3:30	Garth Shaw's Farm MD of Fairview
Succession Planning with Annessa Good	November 16, 2024 9:30 - 4:00	Paradise Inn & Suites Valleyview, AB
Winter Watering Tour	November 20, 2024 2:00 - 3:30	'The Homestead' Goodfare, AB
Annual General Meeting	November 30, 2024 3:30 - 9:00 PM	Chateau Nova Peace River, 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!



Member Information



Follow Us



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.

2023-24 Board of Directors

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Jordan Barnfield

Vice Chairman:
Corey Beck

Treasurer:
Michael Strebchuk

Secretary:
Kasity Bilous

Directors:
Andrew Hale
Andrew Miller
Bonnie Wanchuk
Clay Hanson
Garth Shaw

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