

FORAGE FACTS



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Save The Date!

2024 Annual General Meeting

November 30th, 2024 | Peace River, AB

Keynote Speaker,



Brett Gardiner is the most-awarded announcer in Western sports history. Having been named the Canadian Pro Rodeo Announcer of the Year for the past thirteen consecutive seasons, Brett can be found behind the microphone at many of the industry's most celebrated events, including the Canadian Finals Rodeo and the Calgary Stampede. But more than just an award-winning wordsmith, Brett strongly advocates for mental health and wellness having become one of the

most sought-after speakers and consultants in mental performance and motivation. Brett holds a master's degree in counselling psychology and is a doctoral candidate in the sports and performance psychology program at the University of Western States. As a mental performance coach, Brett has worked with Stanley Cup champions, world-champion Western sports athletes, provincial and national championship teams as well as some of Canada's top companies and organizations.. Brett often speaks candidly about his own mental health journey, and through his own experiences, he works to inspire and educate others to help them live their very best life. When not travelling across North America, Brett can be found in his hometown of Sylvan Lake, AB. Gardiner, his wife, and his three children also operate the Chase the Good movement. This charitable organization encourages humankind to chase what is good in the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rapeseed was genetically bred in Canada to remove undesirable properties, resulting in what we now know as Canola!

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.





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.



Grant Gaschnitz
Memorial Ag
Knowledge
Sponsorship

APPLY NOW



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

DEADLINE

October 6, 2024

Low-Stress Handling Workshop



On September 13th we had the privilege of hosting Kobe Fehr from RCK Cowdogs in the Peace Region for a Low-Stress Handling Workshop. Given the limited space available, we ensured that all participants could maximize their experience while minimizing stress on the cattle provided for the event. Many participants were given the opportunity to bring their own horse or dog, or work the cattle on-foot under the guidance of Kobe, and we had a full house eager to learn at the Teepee Creek Arena.



Kobe and his family, originally from British Columbia's Peace region, now reside in Coronation, Alberta, where he works as a full-time cowboy. He utilizes low-stress handling methods on a large feedlot. Before assuming his current role, Kobe gained valuable experience working on a large ranch in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, which allowed him to observe cattle management across diverse terrains and settings.

In his daily operations, Kobe relies on his 17-year-old ranch horse and two Border Collie dogs, Lorri and Rip, to effectively maneuver cattle. He believes that animals can read each other better than humans, and by leveraging this understanding, he fosters a calmer and happier environment for the cattle. This approach not only enhances their safety but also contributes to consistent average daily gains (ADG).

We began the day with a classroom-style presentation highlighting the advantages of Low-Stress Handling techniques. Following this, Kobe conducted a live demonstration using his horse and dogs, effectively moving the cattle around the arena and into a holding pen. He expertly sorted and separated specific cows while ensuring they remained calm and content.

After the demonstration, we enjoyed a delightful catered lunch from Lefty's Catering. The afternoon was dedicated to one-on-one sessions with participants, while the rest of the group observed the interactions.



Comparing Common Oat & Barley Against Soft White Wheat for Silage

Summarized by Alaina Archibald from the 2017 Research Trial

In 2017, the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) evaluated various barley and oat varieties commonly grown in the Peace Region for greenfeed and silage, comparing them against four soft white wheat varieties and bunker triticale.

Winter feed expenses typically represent the largest portion of costs in cow/calf operations. In the Peace region, oats and barley are the predominant cool-season cereals utilized in beef cattle production. These crops are grown for greenfeed, swath grazing, pastures, and silage, and have recently been incorporated into cocktail mixtures. In central and southern Alberta, the adoption of soft white wheat for silage has notably increased due to its superior stress tolerance and better standing capability in comparison to barley. However, a limitation is that soft white wheat is harvested later than traditional barley silage and can be more challenging to source. Nevertheless, producers in these regions have reported yields that are 25-50% higher when using soft white wheat for silage.



The common varieties of oats and barley cultivated in the Peace region were assessed alongside newly registered varieties, demonstrating comparable forage yield and quality. Notably, newly registered oats and barley exhibited slightly superior forage quality indicators. For example, CDC Haymaker oats showed higher crude protein (CP) levels compared to other oat varieties. Additionally, Bunker triticale outperformed both oats and barley in terms of forage dry matter (DM) yield.

Overall, the soft white wheat varieties evaluated yielded between 660 and 3,410 lbs DM per acre more than the oat varieties. Furthermore, the difference in forage DM yield between soft white wheat varieties and barley ranged from 885 to 3,301 lbs DM per acre, favouring the soft white wheat. The forage DM yield of Bunker triticale, expressed as a percentage of oats and barley, was between 112% and 140%, and 115% to 138%, respectively.

For further details regarding this trial, please visit our website at:

<https://www.peacecountrybeef.ca/post/peace-common-oat-barley-varieties-versus-soft-white-wheat-varieties-for-silage>

With the majority of Cattle Feed having now been harvested in the Peace, it's essential to test your feed for nutrient quality. While visual inspections can help distinguish between high-quality and low-quality feed, they won't accurately determine energy and nutrient levels. Only a feed test can provide precise information!

Benefits to Feed Testing:

- Formulate suitable rations that cater to the nutritional requirements of various classes of beef cattle and their production stages.
- Detect nutritional deficiencies that may need supplementation, particularly trace minerals like copper and selenium, which are commonly lacking in cattle across Canada.
- Prevent or identify severe issues caused by toxicity from mycotoxins, nitrates, sulphates, or other minerals and nutrients.
- Mitigate production challenges, such as low conception rates or inadequate weight gain, stemming from mineral or nutrient deficiencies or excesses.
- Optimize feeding practices and explore options for incorporating diverse ingredients, such as fruit and vegetable waste.

PCBFA is pleased to collaborate with several municipalities to facilitate the process by offering convenient drop-off and shipment centers. We understand that producers lead busy lives, and our aim is to alleviate your stress and involvement, allowing you to dedicate more time to your farm or family.

Feed samples can be submitted at the following locations: the PCBFA Research Farm, Saddle Hills County Office, County of Grande Prairie Office, Big Lakes County Office, and the Municipal District of Greenview Office.

FEED TESTING PROGRAM

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FEEDING THIS WINTER!

We believe knowing what you're feeding is vital to a successful livestock operation. Utilize our Feed Testing Program to ensure peace of mind this winter and increase your chances of a healthy, happy herd!

Members receive TWO free feed tests per year. Additional tests, and tests for non-members, are billed at lab cost.



Event	Date & Time	Location
Fall Grazing Tour & Farm Management Seminar	October 4, 2024 10:00 - 4:00	Saddle Hills County
East Peace Beef Cattle Day	October 11, 2024 1:00 - 6:00	Triangle Hall High Prairie, AB
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	MD of Greenview Location TBA
Winter Watering Tour	November 20, 2024 2:00 - 3:30	The Homestead County of GP No. 1

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!



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**



October Events



FALL GRAZING TOUR

& FARM MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

October 4, 2024
10:00 - 4:00 PM

PCBFA
PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASSOCIATION
APPLIED RESEARCH

Keynote Speaker, Kelly Sidoryk

Join the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association for a **Fall Grazing Tour** at a *Peace Region Living Lab* site near Baytree, Alberta before traveling to the Bonanza Hall for a catered lunch and afternoon of learning! Topics include **Farm Management** practices with emphasis on working with nature to regenerate your land, mitigating negative economical and environmental impacts and planning for the future of your farm.



Pre-Registry Strongly Preferred

www.peacecountrybeef.ca

info@pcbfa.ca

Want to know more or register?

Contact us today!

info@pcbfa.ca

EAST PEACE BEEF CATTLE DAY

OCTOBER 11, 2024
TRIANGLE HALL
HIGH PRAIRIE, AB
1:00 - 6:00

Join the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association in the Big Lakes County for our **East Peace Beef Cattle Day**.

Enjoy an educational day as we discuss **Perennial Forages in the Peace Region** including research results of on-going trials and **managing predation** on your ranch with Joe Engelhart. Learn vital information about **protecting your herds health** with Dr. Josee Marcoux and wrap up the day discussing **Cattle Nutrition** with Barry Yaremicio.

Supper is provided.
Pre-Registry is strongly preferred.

TOPICS

- ✓ Perennial Forages with PCBFA
- ✓ Predation Concerns with Joe Engelhart
- ✓ Herd Health with Dr. Josee Marcoux
- ✓ Cattle Nutrition with Barry Yaremicio

Call Us 780-834-7256
Visit Our Website peacecountrybeef.ca
E-Mail Us info@pcbfa.ca

Member Information



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Peace Country Beef
& Forage Association



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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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