



Agri-News

November 2, 2009

Rejuvenating Stressed Pastures and Hayfields

Pastures and hay fields have been very stressed this year. Moisture between now and spring will be a crucial factor for forage production in 2010. How these stressed forages were managed in 2009 will also be a key factor in forage stand responses next year. Low vigor stands versus moderate vigor stands have shown almost twice as long a recovery period. This means that grazers need to plan conservatively for forage production in 2010.

To help rejuvenate pastures and hayfields and make them more productive:

- plan to start grazing later
- find more pasture land to use
- fertilize what you have
- start looking at various options for reducing next year's winter feed period

For pastures, planning to start the grazing season a month later is the most cost effective rejuvenation plan. This means feeding for one month longer and, for many, that isn't affordable. Winter annuals seeded this fall, stockpiled forage or swath grazing held back for spring use may need to be considered.

"Looking for pasture elsewhere does provide some good opportunities," says Grant Lastivka, grazing/forage/beef specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

"Most community pastures will have openings. Trucking costs limit this option, but if you own your own truck, can get into a close enough pasture, or find a back haul, this may work. If renting pasture from someone who has sold their cows, these pastures often are overgrazed and will need rejuvenation. Before agreeing to a rental price, discuss a mutually agreed on grazing plan. Lower stocking rates, rotational grazing, and sacrificing areas that are most resilient are extremely important pasture management practices."

The drop in fertilizer prices currently being experienced makes fertilization of hayland or pasture this fall a sound economic consideration. It is recommended to do a soil test to ensure that you are making the best use of your fertilizer dollar. However, unless you are planning to fertilize in early spring, it is too late to get an analysis back in time to fertilize this fall.

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“If you decide to fertilize this fall, use some nitrogen, phosphorus and possibly sulphur,” says Lastiwka. “When some phosphorus is added in with nitrogen on grass pastures, there is a shift to higher yielding and more drought tolerant grass species, for example, more smooth brome and less bluegrass. Sulphur needs are especially great on Gray Wooded soils, but it is now often found that sulphur is needed on black soils as well.”

Grazing is half the price of winter feeding, so it's prudent to plan for grazing alternatives as a way to address next year's winter feed bill. Stockpiled forages on excess pasture, swath grazing, annuals for fall or spring, crop aftermath grazing, bale grazing, are ideas to look into.

“Winter feeding has to be done, but only when necessary,” says Lastiwka. “Start planning now for next year's forages. Options need to be considered and decisions made if producers want to get their forage stand healthy again. Fertility should not be forgotten as returns from an investment in forages need to be fully considered. Since grazing is half the cost of winter feeding, planned grazing is a key.”

Contact: *Grant Lastiwka*
403-556-4248

Alberta Horse Industry Distinguished Service Award

The Horse Industry Association of Alberta is proud to present an annual award to an outstanding individual who has provided a significant contribution toward the continued development of the horse industry in the province. The **Alberta Horse Industry Distinguished Service Award** was first presented at the 2000 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference to Bill Collins. Since then the outstanding recipients have included:

- 2001 – Marg and Ron Southern
- 2002 – Hans Hansma
- 2003 – Joe Selinger
- 2004 – Bruce Roy
- 2005 – Dave Robson
- 2006 – Dr. David Reid
- 2007 – John Scott
- 2008 – Doug Milligan
- 2009 – Eldon Bienert and Peggy McDonald

The award will be presented to the nominee who has had the greatest impact on the growth and development of the horse industry in Alberta in one or more of the following areas: breeding, manufacturing, facilities, organization, education, auction sales, export sales, training people and horses, or

communication.

Deadline for nominations is **November 15, 2009**. Anyone can provide a nomination, which must include:

- nominee's name, mailing address, email address and phone number(s)
- background information
- contributions to the industry in the areas of entrepreneurship, leadership, education or other
- description of how the Alberta industry has benefited from the nominee's contributions
- knowledge of the nominee throughout the industry
- outline of the time-frame of the nominee's influence on the industry, including future potential
- three letters of reference addressing the four areas of evaluation: significance of accomplishments (40 per cent), public benefit (30 per cent), industry credibility (20 per cent), potential for continued contributions (10 per cent)

The 2010 recipient will be recognized at the 28th Annual Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference being held in Red Deer on January 16th, 2010.

All nominations should be sent to:

Horse Industry Association of Alberta
97 East Lake Ramp NE
Airdrie AB T4A 0C3
Attn: Teresa van Bryce

or e-mailed to tvanbryce@albertahorseindustry.ca

For further information, please contact the Horse Industry Association of Alberta at 403-420-5949.

Contact: *Teresa van Bryce*
403-420-5949

Workshops Help Rural Water Plants Tap into Improvements

Rural water treatment facilities will benefit from upcoming workshops on operational best practices and emergency response planning.

The Alberta Federation of Rural Water Co-operatives recently completed a best practices manual on enhanced operational guidelines. A \$100,000 grant from the Government of Alberta will be used to establish workshops to discuss and develop customized emergency response plans and operational procedures for each unique facility.

“Water is a critical resource, and through this support we're helping rural water operators continue to deliver safe and clean drinking water,” said Environment Minister Rob Renner. “The federation made a commitment to continuous improvement in their operations, and it is important to support that

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commitment.”

The Alberta Federation of Rural Water Co-operatives represents 77 rural water co-ops in Alberta addressing the diverse needs of Alberta’s rural residents and ensuring safe, secure water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses.

Alberta’s treatment facilities are required to regularly improve their operation and management, upgrade to meet evolving standards and ensure long-term operational capacity. This project supports the goals and direction of Alberta’s Water for Life strategy, a comprehensive water strategy for the province. For more information on Alberta’s Water for Life strategy, visit www.environment.alberta.ca

Contact: *Natasha McKenzie*
Communications, Alberta Environment
780-427-6267

Saskatoon Berry Marketing Strategy Meetings

There is currently sufficient acreage planted to Saskatoon berries to meet supply demand in western Canada. For those involved in the industry, it may be time to invest in marketing activities that will bring this fruit to the Canadian marketplace and to develop selected international marketing efforts. These markets would see current and future production flow into profitable and continuous channels of consumption.

“This spring, several Saskatoon Berry growers came together to start an organization called the Saskatoon Berry Council of Canada (SBCC),” says Nadine Stielow, SBCC Alberta director. “The SBCC mandate is to develop a membership of those interested in the advancement of the Saskatoon berry industry to support a generic marketing effort.”

Currently, some research work has already been completed to form the basis of the marketing effort. The SBCC is now in a position to present growers and industry suppliers with a concrete proposal of what will be done, the timelines for it and the proposed steps necessary to maintain this initiative. To accomplish this, a series of meetings are being held in the next few weeks in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, bringing together the directors of the SBCC, berry producers and industry stakeholders. The intent is to ensure that the most effective marketing and promotion campaign benefiting all involved will be implemented, and to generate enthusiasm and interest to keep growers producing a marketable crop. Participation in the SBCC is encouraged, and membership can be paid in advance or at the meetings.

Meetings will be held:

November 7, 2009	Regina
November 8, 2009	Saskatoon
November 12, 2009	Medicine Hat
November 13, 2009	Red Deer

November 14, 2009 Edmonton

For more information and to confirm attendance, contact Nadine Stielow, the SBCC Alberta director at 780-998-0481, or e-mail abcountry@albertacom.com

“We look forward to grower participation during the process of creating and sustaining an effective marketing campaign for Saskatoon Berries in Canada,” says Stielow. “As directors we believe that this is essential to the industry and we are very excited about the possibilities of really being able to grow the industry in this way.”

Growers are asked to call their Saskatoon berry industry contacts and encourage them to get involved as well.

Contact: *Nadine Stielow*
Fort Saskatchewan, AB
780-998-0481
E-mail: abcountry@albertacom.com

Emergency Response and Livestock Video

Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC) recently released a video especially for people involved in emergency response. This 10-minute video, developed by the AFAC, is an overview of the highly successful Livestock Emergency Response Course.

“Thousands of transporters hauling livestock are on the roads every day in North America. As with any form of transportation, motor vehicle incidents involving livestock are inevitable and not just limited to rural areas. We have to have the right training and tools to help these animals and keep the people who are working with them safe,” says Corporal Dave Heaslip RCMP, livestock investigator.

This video, available to view online at www.afac.ab.ca, provides a general overview of what is required to ensure a safe and humane response to incidents involving livestock in transport. It outlines what participants will learn in the training session including livestock behaviour and handling, responding to motor vehicle accidents involving livestock, livestock rescue, barn fires, euthanasia, laws, liability and scene security. It is vital that first responders, police, veterinarians and haulers be prepared for these incidents.

The Livestock Emergency Response Course was developed by livestock handling specialist Jennifer Woods in collaboration with AFAC in 1998. Since then Woods has delivered the program across North America. She estimates over 5,000 emergency response personnel, fire fighters, RCMP and others have attended the training.

Anyone involved in livestock transport and emergency response is encouraged to view the video or order a copy of the DVD from AFAC by calling 403-932-8050 or emailing

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mikki@afac.ab.ca

Training sessions can be booked through Jennifer Woods at 403-684-3008, livestockhandling@mac.com

The humane handling and well being of livestock are priorities. Know how to handle emergencies involving livestock before incidents or disasters happen.

Sponsors for this video included Alberta Beef Producers, Hartford Insurance and the farm animal council groups of Canada.

Contact: Mikki Shatosky

403-932-8050

E-mail mikki@afac.ab.ca

Alberta Farm Animal Care - AFAC Projects

403-932-8050

www.afac.ab.ca

Agriculture and the Economy

Open conversation on commodity markets, energy markets and the strong Canadian dollar will be the theme at the upcoming sessions being held in Alberta and B.C. in November. The sessions will give participants some insight as guest speaker Professor Jean-Philippe Gervais will give his outlook on Canada's economy and will present strategies that can be used to stay competitive in this volatile environment.

Gervais is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University. Prior to this appointment, he held the Canada Research Chair in Agri-industries and International Trade at Laval University, Canada. He obtained his PhD in economics in 1999 from Iowa State University, and has published numerous research articles centered on the linkages between domestic support and trade policies in agriculture as well as the determinants of competitiveness in agri-food markets.

Tour locations and dates:

Wembley	November 23, 2009	Saskatoon Lake Hall
Taylor, BC	November 23, 2009	Taylor Community Hall
Fairview	November 24, 2009	Dunvegan Inn
Hawk Hills	November 25, 2009	Hawk Hills Community Centre
Falher	November 25, 2009	Knights of Columbus

These sessions are free and are open to all producers; however, seating is limited so early registration is recommended. For more information or to register, visit www.fcc.ca/learning or call 1-800-387-3232.

Contact: Farm Credit Canada

1-800-387-3232

Agri-News Briefs

Getting Started with Horses at Farmfair

In partnership with Northlands, the Horse Industry Association of Alberta will be presenting the **Getting Started with Horses** seminar during Farmfair International. The seminar will be held Saturday morning, November 7, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Salon 5 of the AgriCom. This seminar is geared to those who are new to horses, those wanting to get involved or people with horses who may have some questions about care and management. For more information, visit the Horse Industry Association of Alberta's website at www.albertahorseindustry.ca

Working Well Workshop

The Working Well program and the Red Deer County are presenting a **Working Well** workshop in Red on the evening of November 30, 2009. For the over 450,000 Albertans who use well water for household purposes, knowing how to maintain that safe and secure supply of water is critical. Having an understanding of proper water well siting, construction, maintenance and plugging is essential to ensure that well water yields are sustainable over many years. This free water well management workshop will cover:

- groundwater – how it works
- water quality and quantity testing
- well protection – protecting your well from contamination
- basic well maintenance
- water sampling – how to do it

For more information or to pre-register for this workshop, contact Sylvia Bolkow at the Red Deer County office at 403-350-2158.

Safe Communities Joins Facebook

The new **Alberta Safe Communities** Facebook page is an interactive environment for ideas, conversations and best practices. If you'd like to join the conversation, please find our online community on Facebook. There is no easy answer to reducing crime and preserving the safety of Alberta's neighbourhoods. There are countless projects underway across the province showing real results in addressing issues such as youth at-risk, family violence, gang intervention and substance abuse. Facebook is an easily accessible forum to bring these valuable partners together in a common meeting place. The goal is to learn from each other, and share our challenges, as well as our successes. Visit the site and join in the chat on **Alberta Safe Communities** at www.facebook.com/AlbertaSafeCommunities

Clubroot Information Meeting

Leduc County will host a Clubroot Information Meeting at the Glen Park Hall, Leduc, on November 6, 2009. Speakers include spokesmen from Alberta Agriculture and the three major canola seed companies. Their topics will cover the advances that have been made in clubroot research as well as the future of canola in the Leduc county. For more information, contact Aaron Van Beers, one of the agricultural foremen at Leduc County, at 780-955-4540.