



# Agri-News

November 23, 2009

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## Utilizing Annual Cereals for Livestock Feed

As well as experiencing feed shortages following the dry growing season, producers may find it necessary to feed more animals. The additional feed requirements may partially be met by the harvesting of annual crops to supplement current hay production and carryover stocks.

“There are several points to consider when using annual cereals as forages for livestock,” says Barry Yaremcio, forage specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. “Feed test forages, grains and straw prior to the start of the feeding period. Develop balanced rations to prevent production and reproduction problems, optimize the use of feeds available and to minimize costs. If help is required to balance rations, talk to a qualified nutritionist. Remember that young animals are fed to grow and development while mature stock is fed to maintain condition over winter and to provide a live calf next spring. The winter feeding program can dramatically affect reproductive efficiency for the next year’s calf crop.”

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development have produced a new fact sheet, **Utilizing Annual Cereals for Livestock Feed** (Agdex 420/63 -1) that provides information and advice on:

- feeding cereal forage, and the differing nutrient levels
- avoiding the problems that can arise when feeding rough-awned barley and foxtail barley
- testing for possible higher than usual levels of nitrate in annual crops
- how to adjust feeding practices according to feed quality and herd needs
- what to look for and how to minimize cows’ conception problems that can occur
- how producers can avoid Atypical Interstitial Pneumonia
- how to make silage or greenfeed with forages when quality can be reduced dry growing conditions

“The nutrition topics addressed above can be evaluated by using a ration balancing program,” says Yaremcio. “Producers can develop their own rations at home. A useful computer program is the **Cowbytes** ration balancing program available from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.”

For a free demo version of **Cowbytes** go online to [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/) and search **Cowbytes**.

Contact: Barry Yaremcio  
310-FARM (3276)

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## This Week

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Utilizing Annual Cereals for Livestock Feed</b>                             | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Agronomy Update 2010</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Dutch Elm Disease Bio-vaccine for Elm Trees</b>                             | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Lindsay Grice Speaking at the 2010 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference</b> | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Horse Owners Need to Prepare for Colder Temperatures</b>                    | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Books, DVDs and CD-ROMs for Christmas</b>                                   | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Agri-News Briefs</b>  | <b>5</b> |

## **Agronomy Update 2010**

The Agronomy Update 2010 is one of the major events in the province for producers, researchers, extension professionals and industry personnel to interact, talk and find out the latest in agronomic information and what research is current and pertinent. The event is being held in Stettler on January 19 and 20, 2010.

“This is the first time that this event is being held in a location other than Lethbridge or Red Deer,” says Harry Brook, with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. “There will be two full days of speakers, a lot of agronomic information and discussion and highlights on the effects of the weather that was experienced during 2009.”

The agenda includes presentations on agronomy, fertility, crop protection, crop rotation, soil moisture conditions, new products and new science, and a review of both insect and disease pests. Following last year’s dry growing season, water will be a big topic on the agenda with presentations dealing with water use, limited moisture, moisture outlook, weather prediction tools and herbicide carryover.

Early bird registration for Agronomy Update 2010 is \$95 (includes GST) if received before December 31, 2009.

Registration after the December 31 date is \$110. Student rate is \$60 and must be received before the December 31 early bird deadline.

For further information or to register, call toll-free 1-800-387-6030 or send your registration information and a cheque made payable to BRRG Agronomy Update to

BRRG Agronomy Update  
Bag 600  
Stettler, AB T0C 2L0

Contact: *Harry Brook*  
*310-FARM (3276)*

## **Dutch Elm Disease Bio-vaccine for Elm Trees**

A bio-vaccine that is 99 per cent effective in the prevention of Dutch elm disease is now approved for use in Canada for the first time. Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has completed an extensive review and approved full registration for the bio-vaccine Dutch Trig® as of October 19, 2009.

Dutch Trig® is unique because it is a biological solution that is chemical free. It is a pure suspension of conidiospores of *Verticillium* isolate WCS850 in distilled water. Once injected, the vaccine induces a response from the immune system of the tree and stimulates its natural defence mechanisms.

“It’s like getting a flu shot for your elm,” says Philip van Wassenaer, president and chief consulting arbourist of Urban Forest Innovative Solutions, a Mississauga, Ontario company that is distributing the product. “With these defence mechanisms up and running, the elm is able to successfully defend itself from Dutch elm disease throughout the growing season. Canadians can now protect their elm trees from Dutch elm disease with an effective, low cost and completely safe biological treatment.”

While significantly reduced by Dutch elm disease for the past 60 years, elm trees are still found in many of Canada’s urban forests. Across the prairies, provincial and municipal governments spend millions of dollars annually to protect their precious elm populations.

Dutch Trig® was originally created at the University of Amsterdam. It has been used effectively in Europe since 1992 and the United States since 1995. Urban Forest Innovative Solutions is the only distributor of Dutch Trig® in Canada. Dutch Trig® is available for use by municipalities and tree care companies to protect both private and publicly owned elm trees.

For more information, visit [www.ufis.ca](http://www.ufis.ca) and [www.dutchtrig.com](http://www.dutchtrig.com). Further information is also available by calling Mike Thibeault, corporate communications, Urban Forest Innovative Solutions, at 905-274-1022, e-mail: [info@ufis.ca](mailto:info@ufis.ca)

Contact: *Janet Feddes-Calpas*  
*Alberta STOPDED (Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease)*  
*1-877-837-ELMS (new toll-free hotline number)*  
*[www.stopded.org](http://www.stopded.org)*

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## **Lindsay Grice Speaking at the 2010 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference**

The Horse Industry Association of Alberta has confirmed that Lindsay Grice will be one of the presenters at the **2010 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference**, being held in Red Deer on January 15 to 17, 2010. Grice is a coach, equine advice columnist and judge. She trains horses and riders for both English and Western events. In over 20 years as a professional coach, her students have won, and continue to win at AQHA shows in the United States and Canada. As a competitor, Grice is frequently in the winner's circle.

"Lindsay's popular riding clinics take her throughout Canada and into the United States, creating thinking horsemen of her students by teaching the "hows" and "whys" of training and showing," says Teresa van Bryce, manager, Horse Industry Association of Alberta. "We are thrilled that she will be joining us at the next conference, being held in Red Deer in January."

Grice, a certified Equine Canada and NCCP (multi event) coach who draws on sports psychology principles when training, will be making two presentations at the conference, *Out of the Round Pen and Into the Show Ring* and *Stepping Up to the Next Level How do I Know We're Ready?*

When asked what she loves about her job, she says, "I love putting complex principles of riding into a language that riders can understand." Grice is also an Equine Canada judge and AQHA judge for novice shows. She is a regular guest lecturer for the University of Guelph's equine programs.

The Horse Breeders and Owners Conference (HBOC) annually invites a number of equine experts to speak on issues, current topics and subjects that are of specific interest to Albertans who breed or own horses, work in the equine industry in some capacity, or are simply horse enthusiasts.

In addition to the educational aspect of the conference, event sponsors will be on-hand for the weekend to exhibit and talk about their equine products and services. Saturday night features the awarding of the prestigious Alberta Horse Industry Distinguished Service Award.

"Grice is one of 15 international presenters on the agenda at the 28th annual HBOC," says Les Burwash, manager of horse programs, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. "This conference is a unique opportunity for Alberta's horse enthusiasts to listen to and learn from a full slate of world renowned horsemen and horsewomen."

Conference pre-registration is \$95 per person and cost for additional individuals registered at the same time from the same farm is \$80. Registration at the door will be \$95 per person. Registration includes a copy of the conference proceedings.

For more information about the 2010 conference, contact van Bryce at 403-420-5949 or Burwash at 403-420-5949.

Conference information is also available on the association's website at [www.albertahorseindustry.ca](http://www.albertahorseindustry.ca) or by calling the association at 403-948-8521.

Contact: Teresa van Bryce  
403-420-5949  
Les Burwash  
403-948-8541

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## **Horse Owners Need to Prepare for Colder Temperatures**

The onset of winter means horse owners need to ensure their animals have adequate water, feed and shelter. "Our Alberta winters from north to south have a great deal of variance, but there is one thing that is common: Our livestock need to be fed," says Bill desBarres, chairman of the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada and member of the Alberta Equestrian Federation - the Alberta Equine Welfare Group and the Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC).

desBarres emphasizes that snow is not a replacement for water. Domestic horses need a good, clean supply of potable water. Wild horses grew up eating snow but they also know where to find the creeks and are able to locate these even better than man can.

"We need to have good, wholesome feed," adds desBarres.

"I recommend that if you have any questions about your feed, take it to your local fertilizer dealer and ask that it be analyzed for protein and ask your veterinarian what supplements you might use."

Shelter is also a necessity, and desBarres suggests bushes are acceptable. Slab fencing is also adequate but in the event of blizzards and very bad weather, accessibility to buildings so the horses can get behind them is highly recommended. The colder it gets, the more important it is to have good water, good feed and good shelter.

AFAC maintains the ALERT LINE at 1-800-506-2273, and any cases of animals in distress can be reported to that toll-free number.

Contact: AFAC  
1-800-506-2273

## Books, DVDs and CD-ROMs for Christmas

Are you wondering what to buy for the person who has everything? Books and videos make wonderful gifts and stocking stuffers for the gardening enthusiast, farmer, rancher or 4-H member on your list.

Alberta Agriculture's Publications Office has dozens of agriculture publications ranging from \$3 to \$30, as well as DVDs and CD-ROMs that make terrific gifts and stocking-stuffers. For example:

- **Alberta Yards and Gardens** (\$15 plus GST) – gives a fresh, unbiased look at what grows best in Alberta. It's packed with information about selecting ornamental trees and shrubs, lawns, small fruits and berries, flowers, vegetables, herbs and even water plants. Homeowners, hobby gardeners, serious horticulturists and landscape artists will find this book invaluable. It also gives tips and techniques for pruning, wintering roses, container gardening and attracting birds and butterflies.
- **Pruning in Alberta** (\$3 plus GST) – this great stocking-stuffer takes the mystery out of pruning. This book shows how to control and maintain trees and shrubs without distorting their natural form and beauty. Also included are tips for increasing fruit harvest and improving flowering.
- **Nutrition and Feeding Management for Horse Owners** (\$20, plus GST) – provides information on horse nutrition and nutritional content of feeds, hay quality and making good choices when selecting hay, and feeding management tips for winter feeding and feeding older horses. This 112-page manual also covers basic digestive physiology and the horse's requirements for different nutrients.
- **Horse Health** (\$15 plus GST) – horse owners will love this book. It presents important information along with photographs and illustrations that give a thorough understanding of parasites, pests, infectious diseases, lameness and other common medical problems that can affect a horse's health. It shows how to prevent problems before they begin, how to treat problems and when to call the veterinarian.
- **Alberta Forage Manual** (\$30 plus GST) – this 350-page book contains extensive descriptions of forage species and their growth habits to help in planning forage management programs. This new and expanded 2nd edition offers producers comprehensive information on a range of forage topics: adaptation, legumes and grasses, annuals, mixtures, establishment, fertility, pasture management, harvesting and rejuvenation. In addition, sections on forage pest insects and diseases present detailed discussion of these problems in forage crops, helping producers diagnose

damage. Fully illustrated with over 350 colour images, plus line drawings, tables, charts and graphs, this forage reference work provides a wealth of information.

- **The Beef Cow-Calf Manual** (\$30 plus GST) – this 282-page manual contains up-to-date information for cow-calf producers. The manual includes sections on genetics, economics, calf management, nutrition and feeding, animal health, pests, handling facilities and fencing and herd management. It also includes a listing of additional online resources.
- **Growing Native Plants of Western Canada: Common Grasses and Wildflowers** - (\$30 plus GST) - with over 100 pages of text and photographs, this book looks at 48 species of native plants that have shown promise for ecological repair. It will help anyone interested in collecting, growing and commercially producing native plants.
- **Weeds of the Prairies** (\$20 plus GST) - full colour photos and illustrations detailing 112 weeds makes this the most complete work of its kind on the Canadian prairies. Weeds are colour-coded by flower colour for easy reference, and the full index makes it easy to find the species by common, scientific or family name. Charts on life cycle and habitat provide valuable information, and maps show how widespread particular weeds are. This 266-page book will make planning a weed control program easier and more effective. It can also help youngsters learn how to identify weeds.
- **Beekeeping in Western Canada** (\$25 plus GST) – for experienced beekeepers and those just considering beekeeping, this book gives the information needed to manage honey bees successfully. Learn about the spring management of bees, winter feeding, honey extraction, honey bee health and marketing beeswax, pollen and honey crops. The provincial apiculturists in Canada's four western provinces packed this publication full of the best possible information on beekeeping in the west.
- **Silage Manual** (\$15 plus GST) – for those concerned about winter feed for livestock, this manual can help producers develop nutritious, cost-effective feed supplies. Examining all aspects of silage making will help producers balance costs against benefits. This 84-page manual covers key topics such as the ensiling process, crops for silage, silage additives, harvesting, silos, silage quality, feeding value and costs of production.

And, for people who like getting their information in front of a computer:

- **Firm Steps: Identifying Lameness in Dairy Cattle** (\$20 plus GST) – this two-disk package will help producers detect lameness in dairy cattle at an early stage. Early diagnosis can help producers reduce the severity and cost of lameness and improve the welfare of the herd.

Cont'd on page 5

A full list of books and DVDs available from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development is available on the website at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/publications](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/publications)

Any of these books, DVDs and CD-ROMs can be ordered online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/publications](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/publications) or by calling the Publications Office toll-free at 1-800-292-5697, or 780-427-0391 in Edmonton.

Contact: *Publications Office*  
780-427-0391  
1-800-292-5697

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## **Agri-News Briefs**

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### **Winter Grazing Tour**

Gateway Research Organization is holding a winter grazing tour to discuss and demonstrate economic alternatives to extend the grazing season. The tour is being held in Clyde on December 3, 2009. The tour will focus on the follow feeding systems:

- straw chaff bunch grazing
- bale grazing
- swath grazing - variety demo (millet, triticale, Everleaf oats, Sundre barley)

The tour will visit several producers who utilize alternative winter grazing techniques. Participants will have an opportunity to see the practical applications and results experienced. Tour registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Clyde Community Hall and the tour will commence at 10:00 a.m. and wrap up at approximately 2:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$10 for members and \$30 for non-members, lunch and refreshments will be provided. Producers planning to attend are asked to RSVP by calling 780-349-4546 by December 1, 2009.

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### **Peace Country Beef Congress**

The 12th Annual Peace Country Beef Congress is being held in High Prairie on January 8 and 9, 2010. The event will include a cattle show, trade show and 4-H events. All are welcome to attend this free agriculture experience in the Peace. For further information or exhibitor inquiries, contact Jaime Borduzak-Semple, program coordinator, Peace Country Beef Congress 2010, at 780-523-4033, or e-mail [beefcongress@hotmail.com](mailto:beefcongress@hotmail.com)