

GRO NEWS



SEEDING 2015

Rick was busy maintaining and preparing our plot equipment early May, and we were able to get into the field and seed some of our trials the week of May 11. It was windy, but this likely kept the bugs off us. A cereal demonstration, flax demonstration, pea and faba bean demonstration were all planted. Later in the month we seeded the regional silage trials and a sainfoin trial. This fall we will be busy seeding some cover crop demonstrations, these demonstrations will include species that are intended to improve soil structure and nutrients. We will also be seeding winter wheat in the fall.

We were fortunate in 2014 to receive some additional funding from the provincial government to upgrade our equipment, hire additional staff and add some diversity to our program. We are overwhelmed with joy at the arrival of our new tractor, our new DK 4510 was purchased from KNM Versatile. In addition we were able to purchase a GT 52 Husqvarna ride-on-mower, which will allow us to maintain our plots much more efficiently.



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Successful Forage Establishment

April 24, 2015 • Written by Joel Bagg

Find the full article at:

<http://fieldcropnews.com/2015/04/successful-forage-establishment/>

Successful forage establishment is a uniform, weed free stand that will grow quickly and vigorously to provide high yields during that first year, and for the life of the stand. The most critical factors include packing a firm seedbed and proper seed placement.

Seedbed Preparation

The goals of forage seedbed preparation are:

to produce a fine, firm, level seedbed that allows good control of uniform seeding depth,

to leave a well packed seedbed with good seed-to-soil contact,

to eliminate residue that may harm establishment, and

to produce a smooth surface for future harvesting operations.

Forage seed is very small, making good seed-to-soil contact essential for germination, particularly in dry conditions. A loose, lumpy seedbed dries out quickly, and lumps make the uniform emergence of young seedlings difficult. A firm, level, clod-free seedbed is very important for uniform seeding depth and good seed-to-soil contact. Avoid creating a soft, fluffy seedbed by deep tillage. Using a spike-tooth harrow before the drill loosens the soil rather than packs it. Soil should be firm enough at planting for a footprint to sink no deeper than 9 mm (3/8 in.). If necessary, pack before seeding in addition to packing after the drill. Ideally, forage seedlings should be able to emerge without a rainfall.

JUNE 11: VERIFIED BEEF PROGRAM & BODY CONDITION SCORING

June 11, 2015 Clyde, AB at North Central Livestock Exchange 10am – 3pm

To register call (780)349-4546

\$10/person, lunch provided, Register by June 5!



The Verified Beef Production workshop covers the five Standard Operating Procedures for the VBP program as well as a brief history and what's new with the program. At the conclusion of the workshop, producers will be considered trained or enrolled in the Verified Beef Production program - the



essential first step - and eligible to apply for the Growing Forward 2 Food Safety Systems Producer program. Most producers find that these are practices that they already employ in their day-to-day operations and may find some value in getting recognition for their commitment to producing safe and sustainable beef.

Enhance your visual beef assessment skills with Dr. Aaron Grant, Nutrition Service Associates, we will learn how to assess body condition and weight with live cattle examples.



JUNE 18: STOCKMANSHIP WITH CURT PATE

We are truly excited to announce that GRO in partnership with LARA will be having Curt Pate back to demonstrate and teach stockmanship concepts.

For more than a decade, Curt Pate has been conducting demonstrations and clinics on stockmanship, colt starting, horsemanship and safety. His stockmanship demonstrations and his effective communication abilities have made him a sought after clinician both on the national and international scene.



The clinic will offer a classroom session with Curt Pate focusing on animal behavior, sustainability, consumer satisfaction and Beef Quality Assurance practices, followed by a live cattle handling demonstration using 10 head of cattle. Topics covered in this portion will include gathering, sorting, treating and moving cattle in an effective manner on foot, processing and loading. For more information on Curt Pate please visit: www.curpatestockmanship.com

Where: Smoky Lake, AB

When: June 18th, 2015

Time: 10am to 3pm

Lunch Provided

Cost is \$30 for non members

\$25 for members

Pre Register by June 11

(780)826-7260



ANNE VAN LOON—SUMMER TECHNICIAN

Hello, my name is Anne Van Loon. I grew up on a small feedlot west of Barrhead. I graduated last year from Barrhead Composite High School, and I just finished my first year at Concordia University of Edmonton taking a degree in Environmental science. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with GRO this summer.

We are pleased to welcome Anne as our summer staff for 2015, she is already proving to be a resourceful and handy team member!



Leader Tours by

North Dakota Soil Health Tour

Featuring Brown's Ranch & Menoken Farm

August 16 - 20, 2015



Join us in the International Year of Soils for a private tour of Gabe Brown's unique operation and the Menoken Farm!

Tour topics will include soil health, multi-species cover crops, carbon sequestration, creating a healthy ecosystem, and eliminating the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides

Price (Land Only)
\$815 CAD/person (twin rate)
\$1002 CAD/person (single rate)

Price includes tours, coach bus, hotels, and most meals

Tour departs from Regina, SK. Attendees are responsible for their own travel to and from Regina

Deposit of \$250.00 per person required by June 29
Remainder of final payment due July 13

For more details and full itinerary, please contact: Lawrence Rowley or Sawyer Asmundson at (403) 270-7044 or sawyer@leadertours.ca Cassie Kirkpatrick at (403) 652-4900 or cassie@foothillsforage.com



Dr. Christine Jones—Soil Regeneration

Please Join us **July 31st 2015** as we host Dr. Christine Jones.

Dr. Jones works with land-owners to implement regenerative land management practises that enhance biodiversity, maximize photosynthesis, increase soil biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, improve water holding capacity and infiltration, increase productivity and create new topsoil.

PETER DONOVAN JUNE 25TH

When: June 25

Where: Athabasca, AB

Time: 10am-3pm

Cost: \$20/
members

\$25/non members



What: Learn how carbon sequestration can help not only mitigate our carbon footprint, but also increase soil organic matter for healthier, more fertile and productive soils.

The morning will be spent in a classroom setting, where we will discuss soil carbon.

Lunch Provided

The afternoon will be spent learning how to sample a site, what observations to make and how to measure soil carbon.

Pre Register by calling (780)349-4546

Texting (780)307-7157

Email: groforage@telus.net



WESTERN CANADA



Conference on Soil Health

December 8th, 9th & 10th, 2015

Radisson
HOTEL EDMONTON SOUTH



2015
International
Year of Soils