



The Story of the Ranchers in our Watershed

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Outline

- PCBFA Introduction
- Impact of agriculture on the watershed
 - Impact of livestock on the watershed
- Best Management Practices
- Environmental Farm Plans & Growing Forward Projects
- High Prairie Riparian Action Team
- Heart River Restoration Project
- Whole Farm Nutrient Management Systems
- Whole Farm Water Planning Program
 - Projects
 - Workshops
- Questions

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

- The area we cover stretches from Kinuso to the B.C. Border and from Dixonville to Valleyview and covers over 1.9 million acres of pasture land, and 120,000 breeding cows.

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association, formally known as North Peace Forage Association, was founded in 1982 by livestock producers in the Fairview and Hines Creek area for the purpose of demonstrating new forage varieties and technology in the Peace Country.



Mission

The Peace Country Beef & Forage Association is a producer group with the goal of improving the profitability and sustainability of the forage/beef industry in the Peace Region through the transfer of leading edge forage and beef technology through innovative extension activities, demonstrations, and applied research projects.



What We Do

- Pasture walks/Grazing school/Project Field Days
- Monthly newsletter to membership
- Forage Country Magazine – 2/year, 5000 copies
- Feed/soil/water testing and analysis
- Ration balancing – CowBytes
- Age verification
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Growing Forward 2 & LTWMP assistance
- Portable scale & tag reader use
- Memberships available to any producer in the Peace



Agriculture & The Watershed

- Nutrients
 - Manure and fertilizers leeching into our water sources and water bodies
- Riparian areas
- Water Cycle
 - Wetlands
 - Flooding
- Wildlife Habitat



Environmental Farm Plans

- Sustaining production, managing risks, providing a healthy landscape for the next generation, and maintaining market access
- The EFO process helps producers identify and address environmental risks and opportunities in their operations
- Over 12,000 Alberta producers have completed an EFP



Growing Forward 2 Projects

- Incentive for producers to implement Best Management Practices
 - It's the right thing to do and will provide a long-term benefit, but especially following tough times such as BSE, there is no extra cash available for extra purchases
- Projects such as fencing off riparian areas, off-site watering systems, shelterbelt establishment, windbreak fence, upgrades to fuel tanks, improvement of drainage systems and holding ponds, manure management

Riparian Action Teams

- High Prairie Riparian Action Team
 - work with landowners to establish best management & good stewardship practices through education & on the ground projects for conserving the riparian areas near local streams, rivers and lakes.
 - Current project to evaluate the success of previously implemented projects

- North Peace Riparian Action Team
 - In developmental stages

North Heart River Restoration Project

- A multi-partner project that is striving to restore fish habitat in the Heart River Watershed and will develop a restoration plan to pursue this goal
- PCBFA will aid in contacting and working with landowners, mainly cattlemen who are operating in this watershed



Whole Farm Nutrient Management Systems

- Three year project to gather on-farm data with the goal of understanding nutrient movement under specific management systems
- 7 farms across the Peace
- Comparison of the systems at the end of the 3 years
- Aid in implementing Best Management Practices



Whole Farm Nutrient Management

- ❖ 6 farms, 5 acres, 3-yr program
- ❖ Soil nutrients, leaching, water infiltration, soil moisture content, soil compaction, forage yield & quality, Brix, field mapping, water quality
- ❖ Workshops/Field Days will be coming summer 2015 to show the results of this project

Whole Farm Water Planning

- Encourage BMPs in land & water management to better utilize the land and water resources through whole farm water planning
- Workshops, demonstrations, on-farm projects



Best Management Practices

- Beneficial Management Practices
- Any management practice that reduces or eliminates an environmental risk
- Resources: Beneficial Management Practices: Environmental Manual for Alberta Farmsteads



Best Management Practices

- Off-Site Watering Systems
- Fencing off Riparian Areas
- Controlled grazing management
- Management of water pathways to minimize erosion

Best Management Practices- Off-Site Watering Systems



Best Management Practices- Off-Site Watering Systems



Best Management Practices- Energy Free Watering Systems



Best Management Practices- Fencing Off Riparian Areas



Best Management Practices- Fencing Off Riparian Areas



Best Management Practices- Controlled Grazing Management



Ranchers in the Watershed- A Good News Story



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Questions?

- **For More Information:**

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