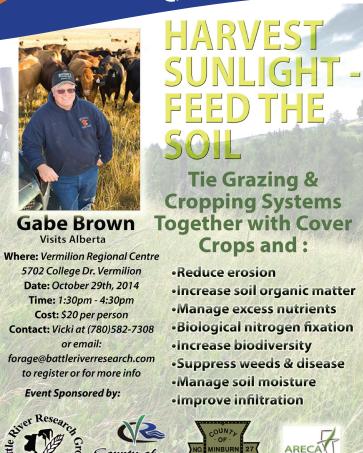
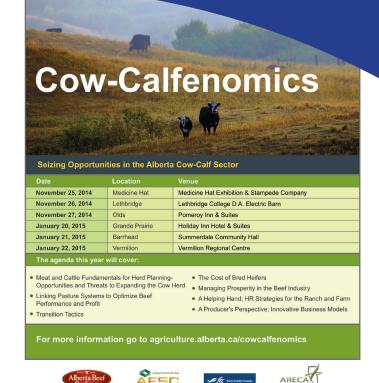
## UPCOMING EVENTS









iter holding capacity and infiltration, increase

Organic carbon is the basic building block for all life on and the earth. We cannot live without it. Neither can our soils. lding carbon-rich agricultural soils is the only real productive permanent solution to taking excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere



#### LDS COLLEGE ecture Theatre in Land Sciences Bldg. (Rm 1027 TUESDAY, NOV 4 2:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Canada

o register contact the Foothills orage & Grazing Association 🗉 03-657-4900 or email \$25/ per person

AGENDA:

\$40/ per farm unit

2:30 pm Coffee & Registration 3:00 pm Soil Carbon: Getting the basics right 4:00 pm ng Carbon, Nitrogei Water Cycles

5:00 pm - Supper 6:00 pm activating Soil Forming Processes

8:00 pm

hristine will also be presenting a RYCROFT AG CENTRE MONDAY, NOV 3 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

this location is more convenient for y . /80-836-3354/nora@npara.ca or PCBFA @ 780-523-4033/mbenoit@gprc.ab.ca



Battle River Research Group Box 339 Forestburg, AB T0B 1N0 PH: (780) 582-7308 or 1-866-828-6774 Email: admin@battleriverresearch.com





#### BREAK-EVEN REALITIES IN 2014

There is no doubt that the 2013 crop year phenomenal both in terms of price and production. It seemed that prices, production and profitability were at an all-time high. These factors have come back down to earth in 2014. The optimism of last year carried forward well into the spring of 2014. When discussing production estimates with producers this spring many were basing their estimates on the yields they received last year. The production function is an important aspect in determining things such as cash rent, break-evens, and credit requirements. This fall, the combination of more normal yields and reduced prices, could result in a perfect storm of reduced profitability.

current direct expenses of approximately \$290/ac in the black soil zone it will take 35 bushels at a market price of \$8.25/bushel just to break even. Fixed costs of an additional \$90/ac will bump up the breakeven yield to 46 bushels.

Prorward planning based on bump-L'er crop yields and peak prices can result in disappointment and possibly jeopardize the financial integrity of the farm business. A more reasonable approach is to use sensitivity analysis to give a more realistic picture of potential profitability. Sensitivity analysis uses a combination of worst case, best case and most likely case for both price and yield. Using a tool like Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's CropChoice\$ When planning ahead, it is will help you develop a sensitivity important that a farm manager uses analysis. CropChoice\$ uses a realistic numbers to determine Monte Carlo simulation to give you the break-even prices and yields. In a odds of achieving a break-even gross crop like canola, which typically has margin. A trick to using CropChoice\$ the highest cost of production, yield to develop break-evens for an individ-

estimates are especially critical. At ual crop is to duplicate a single crop's attributes in Field 2 of the input screen. This will give you a break-even for that individual crop. By using the same method for other crops one can develop break-evens for up to 8 different crops to give you a way of finding which crop has the greatest profit potential. A little bit of realistic forward planning can go a long way in taking out some of the surprises in farming.

> Tf you have any questions regarding I farm management, give us a call at the Ag-Info Centre. Our phone number is:

310-FARM (3276)

Ted Nibourg, B.Sc.Ag, M.Ed. Farm Business Management Specialist



Support for this publication is provided through generous sponsorship from the following:

Government of Alberta





# Battle River Research Group

www.battleriverresearch.com

"Producer Driven"

### MAKING HAY WHEN THE SUN DON'T SHINE

Cool and wet fall weath- ideal habitat for bacteria and circulation and at the front of the er is great for pas- mold growth, and it is the activity stack where they can be accessed and fed ture recovery and for easing of forages into dormancy, but not so central and northern areas of the province to be too cool and wet to allow the swath to get down to the ideal 15%-18% moisture. So, what do you do for hay? Well the short answer is to salvage what can be salvaged and feed it quick. The big advantage we have in Canada is the cool fall temperatures give us some grace to bale forage up tough and still come out okay. It's sort spoilage giving you a chance to get the Definitely not the ideal situation and forecast.

highly variable and unpredictable caution. Wet warm bales provide an wet bales out of doors for the best

the mold and bacteria that cause the bales to heat. Protein in good for drying hay. It is not un- bales that reach 50 degrees Celsius or common for fall conditions in the higher lose their value as the protein is converted to a form that is unavailable to livestock. The cool fall temperatures reduce the amount of heat produced in the bale by slowing down the activity of when your second cut is on the ground the bacteria and mold, as well as cooling and it is too dry to silage but too wet the bales faster and keeping them from reaching the critical 50 degrees Celsius.

• o use the assets that living in a northern Oclimate provide. Ken Ziegler suggests "only putting 900 lbs of feed into the space of a 1200 bale. When the bale of like storing your salad in the fridge is popped out of the baler, you will rather than on the counter. The cooler be able to slip your hand into the temperatures can slow down the rate of side of the bale quite far and quite forage fed while there is still value. bale. This allows the moisture to exit easier and the heat to dissipate." Line you the opportunity to feed it before it itishighly dependent on the weather, but bales up in north-south rows to minit is a useful strategy when snow is in the imize the exposure to the sun, and er so concentrate on the things you increase the surface area exposed to the can control and make the best of whatwesterly fall winds. Leave a 4-6 inch gap Porage baled between 18-35% is between bales within the row and space the rows far apart to increase so should be fed first and with circulation and enhance cooling. Keep

TATrapping bales can also be an op-50% range to ensure they ensile. Lower than 35% moisture and it is difficult to remove the oxygen and spoilage is common. Again the cool temperatures we have in the fall and winter slow down the rate of spoilage buying time to get the bales fed. Foragebeef.ca has several articles and fact sheets from across Canada that are excellent resources for learning the ins and outs of making quality bale silage. http://www1.foragebeef.ca/\$foragebeef/ frgebeef.nsf/all/frg67.

When dealing with forage put up underless than ideal moisture time is easily compared to a tightly made of the essence. Cool temperatures help to slow the rate of spoilage giving spoils. You cannot control the weathever situation Mother Nature sends

Linda Hunt P.Ag Forage Specialist Alberta Ag-Info Centre

Soon to be released...

"SPEAK UP FOR SAFER EQUIPMENT" Tool Now Available

**VV** tion. Ideally bales should be 35-

erence tool for new and experienced



PRODUCTION ON THE PRAIRIES"

vegetable growers of all scales of production. This 300 page, full colour manual covers all aspects of vegetable production, from the initial planning of an operation, to planting, harvesting and storing a crop, managing fertility and irrigation or managing business risks and issues. Detailed production and pest management information for a wide range of specific vegetables makes up the bulk of the manual, including many pictures of diseases and insect pests.

This new manual will be available **▲** from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Publications at 1-800-292-5697 (toll-free in Canada) or visit:

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/ publications for more information.

The price for this book has not yet been ■ determined but will be priced



production experience. Tn the coming weeks, a new resource I for vegetable producers will be available. Representing close to 5 years of work and the contributions of experts from across the Prairies, "Commercial Vegetable Production on the Prairies" is a comprehensive resource and ref-

"COMMERCIAL

There is a significant demand for fresh veg-

etables in Alberta and across the

gardeners and commercial vegetable

growers that work to meet that demand

each year. Each year, there are new

growers that enter the industry,

with a range of

**VEGETABLE** 

There are many market

vegetable

# CASA·ACSA **Canadian Agricultural Safety Association** Association canadienne de sécurité agricole

Canadian Safety Association (CASA)

### For Safer Equipment" tool is intended to The online form handles safety concerns universal issue, forward it to the Canadi- tween farmers, manufacturers and stand-

provide a way for farmers, manufacturfive years.

Agricultural "TATe decided to develop this on-**VV** line tool after routinely receivhas developed a new online tool that ing calls from producers who were frusgives farmers an opportunity to express trated that their concerns weren't being their concerns about possible hazards heard," says Glen Blahey, Agricultural with farm equipment. The "Speak Up Health and Safety Specialist for CASA.

issues related to financial transactions. farmers.

Oline form, CASA will review the

where farm equipment is being used an Standards Association (CSA). As well ers and standards organizations to talk for primary agricultural production. It as providing information to manufacturabout safety concerns with agricultural is not intended to handle cases where ers and the CSA, the "Speak Up for Safer equipment manufactured within the past legal proceedings are taking place, where Equipment" tool will give CASA data there are labour relations concerns or on potential safety-related trends affecting

> nce a farmer has filled out the on-**■** reputation of any manufactursafety concern and either will forward er or individual," Blahey says. "Speak the issue directly to the appropriate Up for Safer Equipment" will foster manufacturer or, if the concern is a better communication and education be-

ards organization and will ultimately reduce the potential for injuries."

The "Speak Up for Safer Equipment" ■ online tool will be available in August on CASA's website at:

http://casa-acsa.ca/speakup-for-safer-equipment Concerns can also be reported by phone at (877) 452-2272.

ation is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and safety of farmers, their families and agricultural workers. CASA is funded in part by Growing Forward 2, a federal, provincial & territorial initiative and receives additional support from the agricultural and corporate sectors including: Farm Credit Canada, the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, CHS and TransCanadaCorporation. information, visit: www.casa-acsa.ca, find us on Facebook or LinkedIn or follow us on Twitter @planfarmsafety

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Associ-

- August 25, 2014 -