



Agricultural Research and Extension
Council of Alberta

News Release

WESTERN CANADIAN GRAZING CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW WILL HELP PRODUCERS TURN GRASS INTO CASH

ALBERTA, September 2, 2008 – The Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) is once again pleased to present the Western Canadian Grazing Conference and Trade Show, the premier grazing event for producers, industry leaders and key stakeholders in western Canada. The event is slated to take place in Edmonton from **December 3 to 5, 2008** at the Mayfield Inn and Suites.

“Some of North America's foremost experts will be addressing a wide range of concerns and interests during this year's event,” said Grant Lastiwka, Forage Program Manager for ARECA and co-chair of the WCGC planning committee. “We've set up a program that will address the issues faced by forage producers and graziers of all levels, and the trade show will provide important information on products and techniques that can help create sustainable, profitable operations.”

Topics being addressed include: Managing Risk in Dynamic Times; Animal Grazing Behavior; Basic and Advanced Grazing; Backgrounding and Grazing Yearlings Profitably; Grazing Alfalfa; Grazing Alternative Species; and many others.

Featured speakers include Rob Leslie, a senior cattle market analyst with Canfax who will provide important market information and outlook; Dr. Roger Gates, an associate professor and extension range specialist from the West River Ag Centre in South Dakota, addressing strategic and scenario planning in ranching; and Sheldon Atwood, presenting topics from the Behavioral Education for Human, Animal, Vegetation and Ecosystem Management (BEHAVE) Network. Our banquet speaker is Gordon Colledge, a former teacher turned Change Navigator. Gordon will be talking about Positive Uncertainty: A Lifeline for Cattlemen and Farmers.

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In addition to the conference program and trade show, The Western Canadian Grazing Conference also provides an opportunity to recognize those demonstrating ingenuity in livestock and/or grazing management, by way of the “Innovator of the Year” awards. Entries are judged by conference delegates and the top three innovations will be formally recognized on the final day of the event. The deadline for nominations is November 14, 2008.

Those interested in attending the Western Canadian Grazing Conference are encouraged to register early to save money. Farmers who register by the early bird deadline of October 31, 2008 pay only \$190 (or \$365 for two representatives from the same farm), a savings of \$60. There are also special rates before October 31 for students, industry and government. Registration forms can either be filled in and submitted electronically or printed off and mailed in to the ARECA office in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

For additional program and speaker information, nomination information for the “Innovator of the Year” award, sponsorship and tradeshow opportunities, details about the venue and to register, please visit the ARECA website (www.areca.ab.ca) and click on the “**2008 Western Canadian Grazing Conference**” link.

For additional information, please contact:

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Western Canadian Grazing Conference Program

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Registration 4-10 p.m.</p> <p>Wine & Cheese Reception / Trade Show 6-10 p.m.</p>	<p>Registration 7:30 a.m. Welcome 8 a.m.</p> <p>Keynote Speaker 8:30 a.m. Rob Leslie - An Industry Perspective</p> <p>Keynote Speaker 9:30 a.m. Dr. Roger Gates - Strategic and Scenario Planning in Ranching: Managing Risk in Dynamic Times</p> <p>Coffee Break/Trade Show 11 a.m.</p> <p>Select-A-Session 11:30 a.m. a) Albert Kuipers - Grazing 101 b) Len Larsen - Sheep Grazing c) Dr. Bart Lardner and Blake Holtman - Backgrounding Mgmt d) Dr. Roger Gates and Jack Davis - Strategic and Scenario Planning in Ranching: Managing Risk in Dynamic Times (Part 2)</p> <p>Lunch/Trade Show 1 p.m.</p> <p>Select-A-Session 2 p.m. See listings above</p> <p>Coffee/Trade Show 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Keynote Speaker 4 p.m. David Kerr, Clinton Cavers and EG&S - Opportunities Panel</p> <p>Evening Break/Trade Show 5:30 pm</p> <p>Cocktails 6 p.m. Banquet 6:30 p.m. Evening Speaker/Entertainment 7:30 p.m. Gordon Colledge - Positive Uncertainty: A Lifeline for Cattlemen and Farmers</p> <p>Social Mixer 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Keynote Speaker 8:30 am Sheldon Atwood - BEHAVE network Topic 1</p> <p>Coffee/Trade Show 10 a.m.</p> <p>Select-A-Session 10:30 a.m. a) Brian Luce - Grazing 202 b) Sten Lundberg & Leon Specht - Yearling Grazing c) Doug Wray, Bruce Downey & Bill Wilson - Grazers' Perspective Panel d) Dr. Roger Gates and Jack Davis - Strategic and Scenario Planning in Ranching: Managing Risk in Dynamic Times (Part 2)</p> <p>Lunch/Trade Show 12:00 pm</p> <p>Select-A-Session 1 p.m. See listing above</p> <p>Coffee/Trade Show 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Keynote Speaker 3 p.m. Sheldon Atwood - BEHAVE network Topic 2</p> <p>Wrap-up 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Conference Ends 4:45 p.m.</p>